



Annual Report About Work of the Safe House for Women and Children Victims of Domestic Violence in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

February – December 2007

United Women Banja Luka

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I. Introductory Analysis

Safe House for Women and Children Victims of Domestic Violence in region of Banja Luka was founded on the initiative of NGO "United Women" Banja Luka, and was opened for the first beneficiaries on 12 February 2007, when all working conditions were met, and initial financing of the Safe House was secured.

On 14 March 2007, Safe House Banja Luka received Decision of Department for Social Affairs of City Administration Banja Luka that confirmed fulfillment of conditions related to premises, equipment and professional staff for opening and work of the Safe House, with written approval of the Ministry of Health and Social Care of Republika Srpska.

In accordance with this Decision, Safe House in Banja Luka became the first object of this type and purpose that received working approval. Additionally, on 7 March 2007, Ministry of Health and Social Care of Republika Srpska issued approval on House Rules and Regulations of the Safe House, in accordance with the Article 14, Paragraph 2 of Rule Book about Methodology and Place of Securing Protection of a Victim of Domestic Violence (Official Gazette of Republika Srpska, No. 97/06).

First two weeks of work in the Safe House focused on introducing professional staff with issue of domestic violence, and approach to work with a victim in moment of arrival in the Safe House. Working plan for professional staff and program for stay of victims of violence in the Safe House was developed.

During this period, there were obstacles to normal functioning of the Safe House in relation to legislation, security of the premises, and way of financing.

Obstacles Related to Legislation

In the period of opening the Safe House in Banja Luka, the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence of Republika Srpska was in the phase of changes and amendments because of view of the authorized official institutions (minor offence courts, prosecutor's office, ministry of Interior Affairs of RS, centers for social work) that this Law is not possible to implement in the practice. According to this Law, decision about sheltering of a victim in Safe House as protection measure should be issued by Minor Offence Court. Since 1 September 2006, and minor offence court's reform as well as with adoption of the new Law on Minor Offences of Republika Srpska, court decision was based on voluntary consent of abuser, or voluntary consent of abuser that victim of violence should be placed in Safe House.

Furthermore, view of centers for social work, namely the Center for Social Work in Banja Luka is that they are only institution authorized to make decision about providing shelter for a victim in Safe House, since they are covering financial costs of daily stay for each beneficiary (or they should cover these costs, since until that period we did not have any beneficiary sheltered based on decision of the Center) in amount of 25.00 BAM per day.

Obstacles Related to Providing Security for Premises of the Safe House

According to the Rule Book about Methodology and Place of Securing Protection for Victims of Violence (Official Gazette of RS, No. 97/2006), 24 hours security for premises of the Safe House should be provided by police authorities. However, Ministry of Interior Affairs of Republika Srpska is not authorized to ensure security for objects of this type, while significant financial resources are needed for engaging private security agencies for this purpose, which we are not able to cover. Ministry of Interior Affairs of RS made proposal for changes and amendments of the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation with which this institution obliged to, in accordance with its authorities, monitor the Safe House within 24 hours through police patrols and conduct emergency interventions upon receiving call from the Safe House.

Obstacles Related to Way of Financing the Safe House

During 2007, financing of the work of Safe House in Banja Luka was provided from two sources – City Administration of Banja Luka and local centers for social work. City Administration Banja Luka allocated 40% of total annual budget, while 60% of financing was provided from authorized centers for social work in places of permanent residence of women and children beneficiaries.

Authorized centers for social work are covering daily costs in amount of 25.00 BAM per beneficiary of the Safe House.

Beside women beneficiaries from the territory of Banja Luka, Safe House Banja Luka provided shelter for women with permanent residence in Laktaši, Kneževo, Bratunac, Prijedor, Gradiška, East Sarajevo, Ugljevik, Kotor Varoš and Gacko. Centers for Social Work Laktaši, East Sarajevo, Bratunac, Kneževo, Kotor Varoš and Prijedor did not cover the daily costs for beneficiaries from their area, justifying it with lack of contract which would oblige them to cover these costs, and the fact they did not participate in placement of victims of violence. We are using the opportunity to emphasize that these municipalities do not have possibilities to offer this type of service to victims of violence, although persons were suffering from continuous violence for many years. In several of these cases, there was proposal for taking marriage counseling, although they were related to acute violence with severe consequences for women victims. A female beneficiary from the area of Gacko find shelter in the Safe House in Banja Luka due to lack of good quality service of shelter for victims of violence, and covered the costs from her own budget.

II. Structure of Employees - Personnel of the Safe House Banja Luka

Employees:

1. Coordinator of the Safe House – full time
2. Social Worker – full time
3. Four nurses – full time
4. Housekeeper – full time
5. Lawyer – engaged per need – Lawyer of United Women Banja Luka
6. Clinical Psychologist – engaged per need on contract basis – Clinical Psychologist of United Women Banja Luka
7. Bookkeeper – bookkeeping bureau paid per services

Coordinator, social worker and housekeeper are employed on basis of eight hour period, every working day from 07:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Four nurses are working on the principle of four working shifts in order to enable women and children beneficiaries to have non-stop access to professional services and assistance. Lawyer and Clinical Psychologist are engaged per need for assistance and counseling in specific cases.

III. Safety of Premises of the Safe House

When it comes to security of premises of the Safe House, and personnel and beneficiaries that are sheltered in the Safe House, police officers of authorized police station were conducting everyday monitoring of premises. Upon sheltering a woman victim of violence and her dependant children, personnel of the Safe House was informing a police station about it, with providing all needed information. Immediately upon sheltering a woman victim and her dependant children, security assessment is undertaken, with paying special attention on assessing all possibilities of eventual repeated violence in a case of contact with an abuser. During this reporting period, it happened in two cases that abusers were directing verbal threats to victims over phone or were coming to the location of the Safe House and were directing threats to personnel of the Safe House and victims of violence. Upon warning and calls to police, harassments and threats stopped. In one case, there was a need for increased police patrols every 15 minutes due to seriousness of the situation, while in one case the police took into custody a person that committed violence against a woman sheltered in the Safe House.

IV. Procedure for Providing Shelter in the Safe House

In introductory part of the Report, we emphasized certain obstacles related to the lack of harmonization between legislation related to procedure of sheltering victims of domestic violence in the Safe House. During initial period after opening the Safe House for women and children beneficiaries, one woman beneficiary was sheltered in the Safe House on Decision of the Center for Social Work Banja Luka, while two women were sheltered based on assessment of professional team of United Women Banja Luka.

Since 1 May 2007, Mobile Team for Providing Assistance and Support for Victims of Domestic Violence in Banja Luka Area was established. Beside representatives of police, Team members are women and men representatives of Center for Social Work Banja Luka and NGO United Women Banja Luka. The Mobile Team operates 24 hours every day a week. Upon receiving report about violence by police, they inform other members of the Mobile Team, and together they conduct field interventions and take necessary steps to provide assistance and support to victims. If there is a reasonable doubt that violence could repeat in a near future and victim could be exposed to further life and security threatening situations, a decision is made for sheltering victims in the Safe House Banja Luka.

Persons with permanent residence outside Banja Luka area were sheltered in the Safe House Banja Luka based on assessment of NGO United Women Banja Luka, with previous consultations with Center for Social work Banja Luka. Upon providing shelter for beneficiaries, authorized centers for social work in a place of permanent residence of victims were informed. Since number of sheltered women with permanent residence in other municipalities was much higher than number of women from Banja Luka area, we were taking into consideration only those cases of urgent nature which could not wait for further assessment of Center for Social Work Banja Luka. Some women victims of violence were directed to request decision about shelter in the Safe House from centers of social work in their permanent place of residence, however, in none of these cases permission for shelter was granted. The basic problem lies in fact that other centers for social work do not recognize possibility for securing protection of women victims of violence as one of protection measures regulated by the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence in RS, and sheltering of victims in the Safe House is not considered as one of the options when facing this type of problems.

In one case, center for social work contacted us to inform about possibility of providing shelter for a woman victim of domestic violence with dependant children, but upon receiving information that they should cover daily costs of shelter, they were informing us they identified some other solutions, and, as they said, it was questionable that a woman was a victim of violence at all.

V. Activities of the Safe House Banja Luka

Upon receiving shelter in the Safe House Banja Luka, women beneficiaries were signing the contract about accommodation, and were introduced to all house rules in the Safe House. House Rules of the Safe House Banja Luka received official approval of the Ministry of Health and Social Care of Republika Srpska. All women beneficiaries and their dependant children are receiving their room for sleep, rest and storage of personal belongings, and are required to take care for cleaning and keeping order in these rooms.

Professional team of the Safe House Banja Luka is providing assistance to women beneficiaries and their dependant children every working day from 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. while nurses are present during 24 hours every day in case of need for assistance and solving eventual problems.

During this reporting period, support was also provided by women and men representatives of Center for Social Work Banja Luka in terms of assessment of need for further shelter of women and children beneficiaries of the Safe House. Here we must emphasize that some women

beneficiaries were sheltered for shorter period than needed for their full empowering and safe exist strategy.

Each Monday, Safe House professional team is preparing schedule of daily activities as form of working-occupational therapy. Working-occupational therapy consists from certain internal and external house activities that are repeated daily, once a week or just once. Everyday activities are including cleaning common premises, as well as preparing meals. Each woman beneficiary is on duty per schedule for preparing meals for a day. Meetings with women beneficiaries of the Safe House are organized peer need.

Additionally, women beneficiaries of the Safe House had individual and group counseling sessions with social worker and Coordinator of the Safe House every day. Twice a week, a female clinical psychologist is working with women beneficiaries, depending on needs of each beneficiary. Counseling also consisted of assessment of possible solutions of the problem and defining exit strategy in best interest of women beneficiaries.

As a part of working-occupational therapy, art workshops of working on glass, wood, and ceramics were organized. Special ecologic colors on water basis were used for glass and ceramics, napkins for work with napkin technique, frost, contour colors, and other materials needed for work. Interest of women beneficiaries and children from 8 to 17 years of age was great. Art workshops were organized twice a week in duration from two to four hours with constant presence of professional staff that was providing instructions for work. Ten women and four children age 8, 12, 16 and 17 was involved in this form of therapy. Art workshops were well accepted by women beneficiaries as it helped them to relax and forget about current problems they have.

Children sheltered in the Safe House have assistance of professional staff in terms of acquiring new skills and knowledge. Majority of children sheltered in the Safe House were not victims of direct violence, however they witnessed daily violence between abusers and their mothers. In one case, children were directly exposed to physical and psychological violence by their father. Until now, we did not notice some changes in behavior of children that would be alarming or would make some long term consequences.

Professional staff was also organizing various workshops adjusted to children when it was possible to create groups. Professional staff also works individually and in groups with children sheltered in the Safe House in order to enable learning process on various topics and acquiring positive habits. Depending on volume of daily activities, one woman beneficiary was always scheduled to watch on children. Workshops were mostly organized in afternoon hours, in duration from 15 to 120 minutes.

Activities conducted in work with children are including four educational areas: physical and health education, cognitive development, creative culture and work, and socially emotional development.

Because of insufficient number of children, professional staff mostly worked with children in one group, and workshops were adjusted to various age groups of children and had different level of assistance from professional staff. Children of school age were transferred to school with which the Safe House has agreement in relation to work with children. In six cases, there was a need for relocation of children from existing school to a school that was closest to location of the Safe House Banja Luka. Procedure of relocation was conducted with 24 hours, so children continued with school plan and program normally.

Several more children were sheltered in the Safe House Banja Luka, however their stay in the House was matching the school break and there was no need for relocation. In two cases, children that are attending the high school were reallocated to school in Banja Luka that was matching the educational profile of schools they were attending prior coming to the Safe House. In two cases we also secured internships as a part of regular high school program.

VI. Characteristics of Women Beneficiaries of the Safe House Banja Luka

In the period from opening the Safe House Banja Luka until 31 December 2007, the Safe House provided shelter for 22 women and 26 children.

Beside women beneficiaries with permanent residence in Banja Luka area, women with permanent residence in municipalities of Laktaši, Kotor Varoš, Prijedor, Gradiška, Kneževno, East Sarajevo, Bratunac, Ugljevik and Gacko were also sheltered in the Safe House.

In majority of cases, women beneficiaries of the Safe House Banja Luka were exposed to violence from their marital or common law partners. In four individual cases abusers were a victim's brother, father, mother, and partner's mother.

The largest percentage of 36% goes to persons that were suffering from violence for more than 10 years, while 30% of women beneficiaries were suffering from violence from five to ten years. 9% of women beneficiaries were reporting violence after a few months of suffering torture from their abusers. Through analysis of data, we can conclude that middle age and older women were suffering from violence for more than ten years, while younger women were ready to report violence and step out from deep rooted prejudices and stereotypes after a few months of being exposed to violence.

Women beneficiaries were sheltered in the Safe House Banja Luka from one day up to three months, depending from identifying adequate solution in each case. Nine women beneficiaries were sheltered in the Safe House up to 15 days, five women beneficiaries were sheltered from 15 to 45 days, while eight women beneficiaries were sheltered from 45 to 90 days.

Age of women beneficiaries was ranging from 17 to 69, and the largest percentage of 41% goes to women age 30 to 39. 40% of women beneficiaries have high school education, while 40% has only elementary school education. Two women beneficiaries of the Safe House have no formal education, while two women beneficiaries have some university level education.

81% of women beneficiaries of the Safe House Banja Luka were unemployed, while four women beneficiaries have secured monthly income. Majority of women beneficiaries were sheltered in the Safe House Banja Luka together with their minor children. 36% of women beneficiaries were sheltered together with two or three children, while 27% of women beneficiaries were sheltered with one child. 36% of women beneficiaries were sheltered in the Safe House without children, and some of them have adult children.

54% of women beneficiaries of the Safe House Banja Luka did not have visible physical injuries that required medical treatment. In three cases, women beneficiaries had severe physical injuries of crania fracture and inter-crania bruises. Other women beneficiaries were in need for some medical treatments and had light body injuries in a form of blood bruises and contusions. Four women beneficiaries were also long term victims of violence and had consequences of physical nature during their stay in the Safe House Banja Luka.

Majority of women beneficiaries did not have their own housing, namely their abusers were staying in a house. Support from a victim's families existed on the level of psychosocial support, while any other assistance was excluded, which did not improve position of women victims. Due to that, possibility of identifying exist strategy was difficult, especially in situations when a woman beneficiary was staying in the Safe House for shorter period.

VII. Evaluation of Work With Women Beneficiaries of the Safe House Banja Luka

Once in two weeks, women beneficiaries of the Safe House Banja Luka were filling in the evaluation questionnaires with objective of assessing their satisfaction with services provided in the

Safe House, and undertaking suitable actions aimed to improve work of the Safe House. The questionnaire consisted of nine questions with open answers.

On the first question related to arrival to the Safe House Banja Luka, majority of women beneficiaries emphasized they perceived it as rescue from situations of violence. Some women felt unsafe at the beginning because lack of information about work and services offered within the Safe House. However, soon after receiving shelter they were changing their opinion. These feelings related to lack of safety was largely related to the fact that Safe House Banja Luka represents new service, and our society still did not accept this type of protection for victims of domestic violence.

All women beneficiaries emphasized they are satisfied with accommodation and food in the Safe House. Majority of women beneficiaries said they feel they have equal benefits from all activities, while certain number of women emphasizes individual counseling sessions and activities of working-occupational therapy as the most beneficial activities. There were no objections or proposals for improvement of services of the Safe House from women beneficiaries. Largest issue for women beneficiaries represents fear for existence after exiting the Safe House, especially finding employment and adequate housing.

VIII. Identifying Exit Strategies for Women Beneficiaries of the Safe House Banja Luka

Employment of Women Beneficiaries

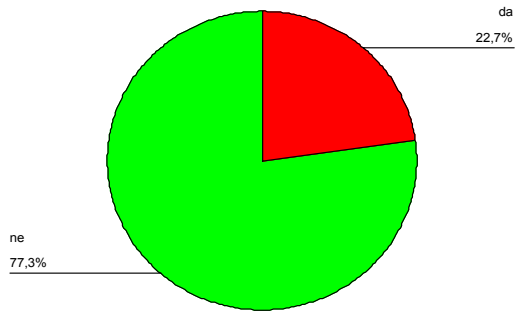
Our experiences with women beneficiaries are positive, since until now we were successful in identifying adequate solutions as exit strategies in best interests of women and children. Our work with women victims of violence does not cease with their leaving from the Safe House Banja Luka, as we continue to provide support for women to create independent life and monitor each case for 12 months period. Identifying exit strategies was difficult in situations when a victim does not have support of her family and friends. Furthermore, in absence of adequate treatment from official institutions, women victims are experiencing increased feelings of helplessness.

Largest percentage of women that received shelter in the Safe House Banja Luka have elementary school and high school education, 2 women beneficiaries have some level of university education while 2 women beneficiaries do not have any formal education. This fact represented difficulty in identifying possibilities for independent life of women and exit strategies in terms of their employment.

However, in seeking for support in finding employment for some women beneficiaries of the Safe House, we experienced increased sensibility and understanding of private entrepreneurs, although these were unfortunately isolated cases. For a short period of its existence, the Safe House Banja Luka succeeded to establish some cooperation with Private Employment Agency "Spektar" Banja Luka, which committed to give priority to women victims of violence in employment opportunities, in case they are meeting conditions set by employers.

Eighteen women that received shelter in the Safe House Banja Luka during this period did not have any employment. We succeeded to find some employment for five women beneficiaries during their stay and after leaving the Safe House Banja Luka. **Chart 1 shows percentage of women beneficiaries of the Safe House Banja Luka that found or did not found some form of employment during their stay in the Safe House Banja Luka.**

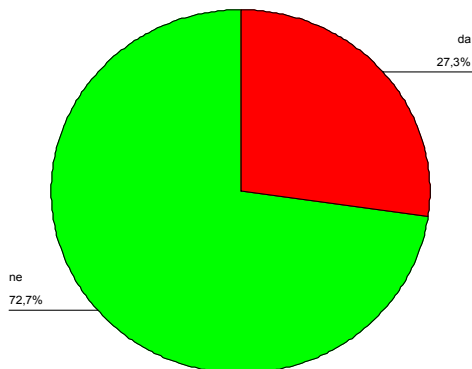
Chart 1 During stay in the Safe House Banja Luka, 22.7% of women beneficiaries found employment



Housing for Women Beneficiaries of the Safe House

Majority of women beneficiaries of the Safe House did not have their own housing - more specifically persons that committed violence were staying in the house. Support from families of women victims existed on the level of psychosocial support, while any other assistance was missing, which did not improve position of women and children victims.

Out of total number of women and children that were sheltered in the Safe House Banja Luka during the reporting period, housing was secured for six women, and they started independent life with their children. Other women victims of violence returned in previous environment, or started living with some of their relatives.



Other Activities

During May 2007, Safe House Banja Luka was supported by CRS Bosnia and Herzegovina and Youth Communication Center Banja Luka with small donation to implement the project with title "Bring Us Back Our smile", aimed to build children's playground for children sheltered in the Safe House Banja Luka, but also to promote volunteerism in our local community.

We organized volunteer action of painting sand box, and decorating swings, seesaws, and toboggan. Because of secret location of the Safe House Banja Luka, volunteer action was organized only with women SOS telephone volunteers, Safe House personnel, and members of United Women Banja Luka. With building the children's playground, we succeeded to expand space for playing for children sheltered in the Safe House. This initiative was also promoted in media, as a part of regular media promotion of the Safe House Banja Luka services, as one of the ways in protecting women and children victims of domestic violence.

During summer period, Safe House Banja Luka also had weekly visits from Deanna Griffin and Sandy Ashburn Wood, graduate students of psychology from University of Denver, Colorado, USA. During the eight weeks period, they organized education from following areas:

- Trafficking of people
- Domestic violence
- Violence in schools
- Violence at public places

Education was organized for all professional staff of the Safe House Banja Luka.

IX. Established Contacts with Official Institutions and Private Companies

Since opening of the Safe House Banja Luka, we made agreement with Water Factory Banja Luka for free water supply for needs of women and children beneficiaries of the Safe House. There is no water supply from city supplying network in the area where the Safe House is located, so majority of local population collects water from springs and natural resources. There is an increased need for water usage in the Safe House since its capacity is to provide shelter for 21 people and accommodates small children as well. Due to that, management of Water Factory Banja Luka showed understanding for the problem, and depending on needs they provide regular portions of water for water tank in the Safe House Banja Luka.

„Eko tim“ Banja Luka, which is responsible for cleaning of city river sites, provided cleaning of house backyard and part near the river Vrbas, in close area of the Safe House.

All purchases of groceries and cleaning material are done in Private Companies TROPIC and Interex Banja Luka, and we made contracts with these companies.

Safe House Banja Luka is 7 kilometers away from the city center, and we asked for assistance of Private Transport Company “Čivčija Tours” that promised to reduce prices of monthly bus pass for all school children sheltered in the Safe House Banja Luka for 50%. Based on this, price of monthly bus pass for children is 6.00 BAM instead of 12.00 BAM.

The largest issue for exit strategy is finding employment for women beneficiaries of the Safe House that would enable them to continue normal life upon leaving the shelter. In relation to that, we reached agreement with Private Employment Agency “Spektar” Banja Luka to register in their data base all unemployment women beneficiaries of the Safe House. Employment will be provided in case of satisfying conditions for available jobs, based on their professional background and qualifications.

Nongovernmental organization „Duga“(Rainbow) from Banja Luka enabled all interested women beneficiaries of the Safe House Banja Luka to attend various occupational courses free of charge. Women beneficiaries that complete some courses have possibility to continue to work, or independently initiate handicraft home business.

As a part of the campaign “16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence” that is organized each year in the period from 25 November – International Day of Fighting Violence Against Women and 10 December – International Human Rights Day, Private Company “OM” Banja Luka donated coffee and OM Coffee Dishes for women beneficiaries of the Safe House Banja Luka. On that occasion, Maja Đaković, Public Relation Officer of “OM” Company Banja Luka organized visit to the Safe House Banja Luka, together with journalists of daily magazines of “Glas Srpske” and “Euro Blic”.

On the occasion of Sent Nicolas and New Year, “Press” Company and Daily Newspapers “Press” organized visit to the Safe House and provided gifts for children sheltered in the Safe House Banja Luka, and brought Santa Claus for children.

IX. Media Activities

During the period covered with this Report, professional staff of the Safe House Banja Luka and members of United Women Banja Luka worked on media promotion aimed to raise public awareness about the issue of domestic violence and violence against women in our society, and encouraging women victims to report violence.

Beside the fact that all electronic and printed media showed great interest for the Safe House Banja Luka, Daily Newspapers "Dnevni Avaz" were preparing weekly reports about work of the Safe House Banja Luka and ways of assistance for women and children victims. Opening of the Safe House Banja Luka and initial period of work gained a lot's of media attention.

Overview of Media Activities per Months:

February 2007

- Radio Television of Republika Srpska (RTRS) – Report about opening of the Safe House in TV Program "Srpska Today"
- RTRS – Opening of the Safe House on the Central News Program
- Alternative Television (ATV) Banja Luka - Opening of the Safe House on the Central News Program
- Radio of Republika Srpska – Report from opening of the Safe House
- Daily Newspapers Euro Blic – Article about opening of the Safe House, procedures of accommodation, and legislative
- Daily Newspapers FOKUS - Article about opening of the Safe House, procedures of accommodation, and legislative
- Daily Newspapers Glas Srpske - Article about opening of the Safe House, procedures of accommodation, and legislative
- Daily Newspapers "Večernje novosti" - Article about opening of the Safe House, procedures of accommodation, and legislative
- AS - Article about opening of the Safe House, procedures of accommodation, and legislative
- RTRS – TV Program "Panorama of Banja Luka" – Report about opening of the Safe House
- PINK BH – "Balkan net" – TV Program about domestic violence and Safe House
- FREE Radio Prijedor – Radio program on the topic of domestic violence: forms of violence, violence against women and children, cycle of violence, ways of protection, changes of legislation
- PINK BH – TV Program "Made in Banja Luka" – Safe House and ways of assistance for victims of violence
- BHT1 – Evening News – Topic – Violence against women and children. Following guests were on link: psychiatrist from Sarajevo and Secretary of the Association of People with PTSS (Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome). Discussion focused on Safe House, violence against women and legislative in this area.

March 2007

- International Press Center Banja Luka - Press conference organized by United Women Banja Luka and Helsinki Citizens Assembly Banja Luka on the occasion of 8 March – International Women's Day. Conference participants were Aleksandar Živanović, Program Coordinator of Helsinki Citizens Assembly Banja Luka, Amela Bašić, Coordinator of the Safe House Banja Luka, and Nada Golubović, President of the United Women Banja Luka. They talked about media and reporting on women's human rights, Safe House Banja Luka and Law on Protection from Domestic Violence of Republika Srpska.
- Daily Newspapers Dnevni Avaz – Article about the Safe House Banja Luka with emphasis on why the Safe House is empty, about irregularities in implementation of the Law on Protection From Domestic Violence of Republika Srpska.

- Uno Radio Banja Luka – Direct participation in morning program on the occasion of 8 March
- RTRS – Morning program broadcasted report from the 8 March press conference about Safe House Banja Luka, and report was re-broadcasted as the part of Central News Program
- ATV Banja Luka – TV Talk Show “Buka” on the topic violence against women. Guests were Svetlana Cenić, Former Minister of Finance of RS Government, Brana Janković Private Agency Aquarius, Dragana Dardić from Helsinki Citizens Assembly Banja Luka and Amela Bašić, Coordinator of the Safe House Banja Luka. TV program focused on issues of violence against women in public and political life, existing stereotypes and prejudices related to violence against women, ideal of female beauty, and portrayal of violence in media.

April 2007

- BHT 1 – Statement about obstacles for providing shelter for victims of violence in the Safe House Banja Luka
- Daily Newspapers Dnevni Avaz – Statement on the occasion of sheltering women in the Safe House Banja Luka
- Daily Newspapers Fokus – Statement on the occasion of sheltering first woman in the Safe House and still existing issues related to work of the Safe House
- AS – Sheltering of victims in the Safe House
- ATV Banja Luka – News report on Central News Program about the Safe House, with statement of Ljubo Lepir, Assistant Minister for Health and Social Protection of Republika Srpska.

May 2007

- BLIC – Statement about the Safe House and persons sheltered in the Safe House, mentioned Law on Protection from Domestic Violence of Republika Srpska
- Daily Newspapers “Nezavisne novine” – Statement on the Safe House, women beneficiaries, laws, security provided by police, and Mobile Team for Assistance and Support for Victims of Domestic Violence in Banja Luka
- Radio RS – Radio Program on domestic violence. Guests: Spomenka Krunić, Director of Gender Center of RS Government, Anđelko Đokić and Renata Ritan, representatives of Center for Social Work Banja Luka, Sanja Sumonja, representative of Center for Public Security Banja Luka and Amela Bašić, Coordinator of the Safe House Banja Luka. Radio program was open for calls of listeners, and comments were given from 4 people, while one woman victim of violence called to ask for number of SOS telephone. Participants talked about legislation, prevalence of domestic violence in our society, and the Safe House in Banja Luka
- Daily Newspapers Glas Srpske – Article about the Safe House and persons accommodated in the Safe House
- ATV – Within EU project, this TV station produces 10 documentary movies, among which also documentary on domestic violence. Interview was conducted with Amela Bašić, Coordinator of the Safe House Banja Luka about domestic violence, Safe House Banja Luka and accommodation in the Safe House Banja Luka.
- Daily Newspapers Glas Srpske – Article about the Safe House Banja Luka
- Daily Newspapers Dnevni Avaz – Article about the Safe House Banja Luka

July 2007

- Daily Newspapers Nezavisne novine – Article about building of children’s playground in the Safe House Banja Luka, promotion of volunteerism, and statement of a woman beneficiary of the Safe House about importance of building children’s playground

- Daily Newspapers Glas Srpske – Article about volunteer's action in the Safe House Banja Luka
- Daily Newspapers Dnevni Avaz - Article about violence against girls
- Magazine Reporter -Article focusing on violence on public place, working place, university
- ATV Banja Luka - Central News Program - News report about Law on Protection from Domestic Violence of Republika Srpska
- Daily Newspapers Glas Srpske - Article about Safe House Banja Luka

August 2007

- Daily Newspapers Dnevni avaz – Article about the Safe House Banja Luka

September 2007

- Daily Newspapers Dnevni avaz – Article about the Safe House Banja Luka

November 2007

- RTRS – Morning Program - Announcement of the Campaign 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence
- RTRS – TV Program "Panorama of Banja Luka" – Participation in the program on the occasion of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence
- Radio RS – Radio Program on domestic violence
- ATV Banja Luka – Central News Program – Report about the Safe House Banja Luka
- Press Conference on the occasion of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence
- Daily Newspapers Glas Srpske – Article about visit of Company "OM" Banja Luka to the Safe House

December 2007

- Daily Newspapers Press – Visit of Company "Press" Banja Luka to the Safe House and providing New Year's gifts for children beneficiaries