

## **CAPTIVE – Final conference concluding thoughts**

As a Probation Officer I worked with victims of domestic violence and I have to admit it is not an easy situation to deal with, and I am talking about dealing with local victims. Also as pointed earlier by Prof Formosa, one might find cases that the report cases of violence simply to help their separation process.

Project CAPTIVE added another dimension to gender based violence, and this is the aspect of migration. Migrants with different cultures, practices, trends and customs. To address these distinct facets CAPTIVE invested into researching gender-based violence but more important was to invest time to create room for dialogue with migrant women, women that come from different parts of the world. Dialogues that aim at facilitating and encouraging understanding and valuing of women that left their country for various reasons.

An aspect of project CAPTIVE, that I think should be commended for is to try to bridge women who suffered, and others who are currently suffering from violence, with entities and service providers that can provide a helping hand. Academics, NGOs and other service providers need to network and work together, to research and share good practices. However, all these entities are to approach migrants and to raise awareness and create support programmes. It is evident that waiting for migrant women to come and knock on our doors and those of our authorities is not a solution. But with the help of ethno-cultural agents and tools like the e-manual are important steps to provide a toolbox of helping measures that aim at improving and sustaining the lives of migrant victims and potential victims.

Having or creating a network of professionals that inform about the rights, acceptable behaviours and illegal ones, is important to ensure that enacted laws, that aim at hindering and deterring domestic violence are exploited in their entirety to safeguard current and future victims. In providing these services, it is important that victims feel welcomed and understood no matter where they are coming from. So a Referral System would ease some of the victims' pains by avoiding to relive the suffered trauma. Also in providing the quintessential services, service providers are to ensure to overcome language and cultural barriers by providing training to professionals and employing ethno-cultural agents to establish an efficient support system for victims of gender-based violence.

To conclude, I hope that CAPTIVE served and continues to serve as a platform that provides support, care and empowerment, which breaks down this cycle of violence and keeps on promoting interventions for the social wellbeing of migrant women.

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