



UNION OF WOMEN ASSOCIATIONS OF HERAKLION PREFECTURE
"GUEST HOUSE FOR THE ABUSED WOMEN AND CHILDREN"
"HOUSE OF ANGELS" - S.O.S. LINE **801-11-16000**

UNION OF WOMEN ASSOCIATIONS OF HERAKLION
PREFECTURE

Organisation Profile





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The **UNION OF WOMEN ASSOCIATIONS OF HERAKLION PREFECTURE (UWAH)**, is an NGO, established in 2000, that belongs to the Voluntary Non Governmental Organizations, and operates at Heraklion Municipality, Crete. It is an organization for women's and children rights; also it promotes culture and civilization. It has been recently certified for its counselling services under the ISO 9001:2008 protocol. It operates the 24/7 emergency telephone line, the Shelter for women victims of domestic violence, the Counselling Centre, and the Homeless Unit to provide an array of social services for people victims of economic crisis.

Therefore, the association is active in the following fields:

- Protection of women rights and the promotion of gender equality to Heraklion municipality and Crete region. Focus is providing to migrant women, under a constant communication with the formal migrant communities (Albanian, Russian, catholic);
- Provision of shelter assistance and psycho-social support services abused women and children;
- Operation of Counselling Centre for women aiming at the scientific provision of services (psychological support, legal advice, return of abused women to the labour market etc). Provision of counselling and social services to women in danger and children. Focus is given to the support of migrant women who live permanently in Crete;
- SOS helpline operation for reporting domestic violence incidents and support (every day operation);
- Actions of dissemination, awareness raising and education for the abused women either at private level or social level (work etc.);
- Mentoring to women on re-entering the labour market (women victims of domestic violence)- Promotion of women entrepreneurship;
- Supporting women self-help groups in Heraklion;
- Protection of abandoned children of age 0-6;
- Promotion of Foster Families within society; awareness raising of public, training of executives;
- Provide actions of added value to the immigrant women of the region. Mobilization and awareness raising on the topic of female migrants victims of domestic violence. The Association will mobilize local stakeholders and social service departments in order





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to focus also to domestic violence of immigrant women;

- Provision of services to homeless persons and persons that face poverty problems.

UWAH is working **in close collaboration** with like-minded organisations in Greece and Europe (Cyprus, Italy, Lithuania, Italy, Iceland, Estonia, UK, Iceland) and participates in national and international networks for the protection and promotion of Human Rights (EUROCHILD, Anna Lindh Foundation, WAVE Network). Moreover, UWAH is cooperating closely with local institutions (Authorities, Police, Universities), as well as governmental institutions. UWAH is a member of the **Regional Council for Gender Equality** in the Region of Crete and is a dialogue partner of the **General Secretariat for Gender Equality**.

Permanent projects:

1. THE SHELTER FOR ABUSED WOMEN & CHILDREN

The Shelter for Abused Women and Children was created to offer hospitality and protection to women and their children that have suffered any kind of violence (physical, psychological, sexual or economical) by their father, husband, partner, brother or friend. It gives women the chance to find a safe place to live for as long as it takes to protect her and her children in times of crisis. Women can also get informed on their rights, receive support by our experts personnel and finally make own decisions about their life.

2. HELP LINE - AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (HELPLINE 801-11-16000)

Active at 24/7 basis - Call free of charge

3. THE COUNSELLING CENTRE – "THE WOMEN HOUSE"

Development of Counselling Centre for Women and Migrant Women, "The Women House", under the auspices of the EEA Grants "We are All Citizens" programme (2015-2016). The aim of the project is the development of an organized and autonomous counselling centre, which will target women and migrant women. The personnel will be trained and scientifically supervised by an experienced scientist. The project entails: (i) the development of the Centre, recruitment and training of executives, (ii) the certification of the centre (ISO 9001) and the organization under the ISO 9001:2008 protocol (iii) the establishment of a collaborative approach with Cypriot Women NGO for training, mutual management of incidents (focus on migrant women) and exchange of good practices.

The aims of our centre are:





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- To provide direct help to women-victims of violence and their children with personal interviews, psychological support and provision of legal advisors.
- To inform women on the existence of the Hostel, as well as on the possibility of hospitality during times of crisis, in addition to the various other services that can provide help.
- To educate and raise awareness about women's rights and gender based violence.

4. CHILDREN'S SHELTER – "THE HOUSE OF ANGELS" (UNDER CONSTRUCTION) (2011-today)

The shelter (multidimensional centre for social services provision to abused children) will be established with the purpose to offer short-term hospitality and support services to "unwanted" or abandoned children aged 0-6 years old.

Main Projects:

1. ERASMUS+ KA2, Strategic Partnerships for vocational education and training – "DIS.CO." (2017-2019)

UWAH is the coordinator of the transnational, Erasmus+ KA2, 2-year project "DIS.CO. - Development of "at a DIStance" COUnselling Skills for professionals in the field of Counselling Women Victims of Violence or Abuse". The project focuses on enhancing the skills and expertise of Counselling Professionals on the topic of Counselling victims of violence at a Distance. The project engages nine partners from six different European countries.

2. ERASMUS+ KA2, Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education – "TISOVA" (2017-2020)

UWAH is currently participating in the Erasmus+ KA2, 3-year, project "TISOVA – Training to Identify and Support Older Victims of Abuse" that aims at developing a comprehensive interactive educational programme for professionals and volunteers in elderly care, on the topic of violence against elderly, and with a specific focus on women victims. The project is lead by the NGO "Women Support and Information Centre", in Estonia.

3. ERASMUS+ KA1, European Voluntary Service – "Volunteering to Support Women Rights" (2017-2018), "Equal Youth" (2018-2019)

UWAH is the coordinator of the transnational Erasmus+ KA1 projects "Volunteering to Support Women Rights" & " Equal Youth" that give the opportunity to young persons from the EU to engage voluntarily with our organisation for ten months. The projects aim at promoting volunteering among young people as well as at enhancing the interest of young Europeans in





Equality and Women's Rights issues.

4. DAPHNE – "WHOSEFVA" (2017-2018)

UWAH is currently participating in the Daphne 2-year project "Working with Healthcare Organisations to support Elderly Female Victims of Abuse" lead by the Women Support and Information Centre, Estonia; where training material for healthcare professionals and protocols for healthcare settings will be produced and disseminated.

5. HOUSING & RE-INTEGRATION PROGRAMME – "ANOIKO" (2015-2018)

UWAH is currently running the project "Anoiko" that is providing housing as well as mentoring services for **homeless persons** of the region, funded by the Ministry of Employment & Social Solidarity.

6. EUROPE FOR CITIZENS – "FEMALE MIGRANT PRISONERS RIGHTS" (2015-2017)

UWAH is currently participating in the Europe for Citizens project "Prisoners: Present Discussion and Contribution to the Future European Union" lead by Novi Homines, Lithuania (<http://novihomines.lt/prisoners>); on prisoners' rights and future perspectives in the context of the EU.

7. DAY CARE CENTRE FOR HOMELESS PERSONS – MUN. HERAKLION (2013-2015)

UWAH, together with local authorities and NGO's contributes to local initiatives for poverty healing of families that suffer from the recent economic crisis. Alongside with Municipality, and local entities, it provides social care and free medical and psychological assistance to families who suffer from the severe negative effects of crisis by providing to their children free medical assistance (in collaboration with the local medical association). In this context, UWAH has run the Day Care Centre in the municipality of Heraklion. In addition, it contributes to a local initiative to poverty fighting at Heraklion, in collaboration with Heraklion Municipality, and other local NGO's, while contributing to promote social entrepreneurship (social enterprises start up) of women to Heraklion prefect.

8. ACTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - "TOGETHER FOR WOMEN" (2013-2015)

UWAH has coordinated a comprehensive 2-year project, funded by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality. The project included activities on awareness raising & events organization, data management for incidents and beneficiaries, counselling services for women, publication of Practical Guide (book) for domestic violence, as well as the structured management of the





organisation's volunteers.

9. ACTION FOR THE INTEGRATION OF MIGRANT WOMEN IN THE LABOUR MARKET and ENTREPRENEURSHIP- "SOCIAL NET" (2013-2014)

UWAH has participated in the local Development Coalition, funded by the Operational Programme "Human Resources Development" 2007-2013, TOPEKO, to support actions for comprehensive interventions, i.e. "Local Actions for the social inclusion of vulnerable groups".

10. DAPHNE – "COMMUN-AID" (2012-2014)

UWAH has participated in the transnational project "COMMUN-AID", funded by the European Commission, lead by TEI Crete, Greece. The main objective of the project was increasing the capacity of migrant female domestic workers of different origins to respond to sexual violence through community-based interventions.

11. GRUNDTVIG – "CERTAINLY MOM" (2012)

UWAH has participated in the transnational project "CERTAINLY MOM", funded by the European Commission, lead by Liberamente, Italy. The project aimed at providing support services to Migrant Mothers victims of domestic violence.

12. FOSTER FAMILY PROJECT (2010 - today)

Since 2010, UWAH is running projects to promote foster families idea to the local society. Successive meetings with National Agency of Social Care and the General Secretariat of Women Equality, have been taken place and local seminars have been organized at local level in order to promote the idea of fosters family to the social services executives of public and private sector.





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Nr. of MEMBERS: 75

Nr. of VOLUNTEERS: 45

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

The organization is staffed by specialised executives, as follows:

PSYCHOLOGISTS

SOCIAL WORKERS

SOCIOLOGISTS

ECONOMISTS (General Manager, Financial Manager)

ADMINISTRATION

The Board is comprised (by the founding law) by 13 members and the President of board is elected every 4 years. **Elected President of Board: Mary Pahiadaki**

POSTAL ADDRESS:

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