Global Network of Women's Shelters

WESNET Australia

DATA COUNT 2012 Information Sheet
Uniting Shelters around the Globe
Information Sheet

Backgrounder

Thank you for participating in this global initiative!

At the 1st World Conference of Women's Shelters in 2008, a commitment was made to undertake a Global Data Count to build awareness and connect shelters around the planet. Data Counts have been conducted ever since and we are entering our fourth year. Results of the Data Count can be used to raise awareness about the work that shelters do in your country or region.

WESNET Australia co-ordinates the data gathering on behalf of the Global Network of Women's Shelters for Australian services. Individual shelter data will be compiled and reported by country only and NOT by shelter name.

The information collected will be used as part of the 2012 Global Data Count to educate the public about the good work that shelters do and the challenges they face. We also hope to present this information in conjunction with the UN Commission on the Status of Women to be held March 4 – 15, 2013. Their priority theme is the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.

Consent

Shelter organizations and networks around the world are working together through the Global Network to make change to end violence against women and their children.
These national and regional networks of women's shelters may also wish to have the information collected by shelters in their area in order to raise public awareness. We would like to have your consent to share your information with your national/regional network(s).

At the start of the survey, we will ask for your consent to use your information. Again, individual shelter data will not be publicly disclosed. In addition, should you be part of an existing regional or national network, we will also ask for your consent to share your individual shelter data count information with your regional/national network(s) for public awareness purposes with the same understanding that individual shelter data will not be publicly disclosed.

Who should participate?

We are asking individual shelters – either individually, or through their networks - to participate. This is up to you and your network(s). Not all countries have women's shelters but do have women's organizations that are working hard to create safe places for women. We welcome your participation as well. If this is the case, then simply fill out the questionnaire as it relates to your agency, even though the word "shelter" is used.

Note: In your region shelters may more commonly be known as refuges, transition houses, or interval homes.

When does Data Count 2012 occur?

Please select a date for Data Count 2012 that works well for your organization or network. We will send out the Questions to you by October 1, 2012. Results need to be submitted to **WESNET Australia by November 23, 2012.** This will allow us enough time to collate results, check them with you and develop the report in time for UN Commission on the Status of Women meeting in March.

Data Count Dates

Please fill out the online survey on any one day between 5 and 16 November 2012.

What do we ask?

Please ask the questions provided on the attached document: *Data Count Questions*. Comments from staff and women in shelter help tell a story that cannot be told by numbers alone.   We strongly encourage you to answer as many of these as possible. Comments from women and staff can help paint a picture of the challenges and victories that women and shelters experience on a day to day basis.

If there is additional information you wish to collect that is of particular importance to your country or region on Data Count Day, please feel free to add them.

How is the information compiled?

An e- link will be sent to you in October 2012. Once completed, you can input the results of your shelter/regional survey directly into Survey Monkey.

The online survey will be available for use from November 5 to November 16, 2012.

What are the questions?

1. **The number of women helped** by your shelter on data count day. They may have stayed in the shelter, visited the shelter, phoned the shelter, attended a shelter group program or had a shelter worker visit them.

2. Of all the women helped on data count day, how many of them were **known by shelter staff to be pregnant**?

3. **The number of children helped** by your shelter. They may have come to the shelter with their mothers, participated in a children's group program, been visited by the shelter worker or their mother was receiving help from the shelter. For instance, if a woman calls the shelter for help and tells you that she has two children then you would count that you helped one woman and her two children.

4. The number of women, children and seniors who asked for help from your shelter but were **not able to receive all the help they needed** because you had no space for them, you were full, had no staff to help or not enough money to provide the service. This will give us an idea of the number of unmet requests for shelter services in one day as a result of a shortage of funds and staff.

5. To paint a global picture, we are also asking if you can tell us about a **significant event or achievement** relating to violence against women that happened in your country in 2012. This might be the passing of significant legislation, a precedent setting court case, funding issues, etc.

6. We are also asking to identify **what major challenges are facing shelters** in your country from a list – but you also have the option of identifying a major challenge that may not be on the list. We are asking you to check all of the challenges that may apply.

7. The focus for CSW[1] this year is on prevention, so this year we want to start to identify the prevention activities shelters are involved in. We would like to know if you do any preventative work.

8. We are also asking you to identify shelter services you may provide for marginalized women.[2]

9. Finally, we will ask you a set of questions about whether any shelters have had to **close their doors** in 2012 and if so, why.

10. In addition, the comments of women and staff from shelter are very important and help to create a picture of what is happening in shelters around the world. Would you please compile comments:

   a) **From women who were in shelter**: What the shelter means to them, the experiences that brought them to the shelter, etc. Examples in the past include, "This shelter saved my life!"; "I was brutally hit with an iron rod… I couldn't shout… my mouth was gagged and my hands were tied… somehow I managed to run away and later seek help from Saathi which saved my life."

   b) **From staff** about what they saw that day, and how they feel about the work they do. "More survivors, often in life-threatening circumstances, are seeking our services, and we are overwhelmed trying to accommodate everyone who comes to our door."

Some Examples of Preventative Work

1. Develop and implement a cross-government gender equality strategy.
2. Ensure universal delivery of a 'whole school approach' to prevent violence against women and girls across the education system.
3. Ensure funding for specialist violence against women and girls services to deliver prevention work.
4. Invest in research, monitoring and evaluation of prevention interventions.
5. Produce evidence-based and sustained public awareness campaigns.
6. Fund community mobilization activities to challenge violence against women and girls.
7. Promote leadership at all levels to champion gender equality and non-violent norms.
8. Tackle the sexualisation of women and girls in the media and popular culture.
9. Commission the voluntary VAWG sector to deliver quality training on violence against women and girls to a range of agencies as part of vocational qualifications and ongoing professional development.
10. Target interventions to ensure prevention of violence against women and girls addresses intersections of gender with other social inequalities

   From A Different World is Possible from The End Violence Against Women (EVAW) Coalition

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[1] CSW: UN Commission on the Status of Women
[2] Marginalization refers to a segment of population which is essentially "left out", or not cared about; they are excluded, unimportant, powerless or a combination.

See last year's data counts for examples at http://gnws.org/en/work/global-data-count/2011-global-shelter-data-count.html . All comments included in your response will be anonymous (and should be submitted without names). The comments are very important to creating an impactful document.

What if I have questions?

The Global Network of Women's Shelters Communication Committee will also be arranging information sessions and have on-line information available. In addition, members of the Data Count Committee are available to answer any questions you may have. They are:

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Maria Stetter Rubin (Denmark) mas@danner.dk
Jan Reimer (Canada), janreimer@acws.ca

We can be reached by phone, SKYPE or e-mail. Please e-mail on how you would like to be in touch.