



Global Network of Women's Shelters

DATA COUNT 2013 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 fifth year. Results of the Data Count can be used to raise awareness about the work that shelters do in your country or region.

The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) co-ordinates the data gathering on behalf of the Global Network of Women's Shelters. 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 2013 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 10 – 21, 2014. Their priority theme is the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls. As a result we have incorporated a couple of questions around this theme. See more at: www.unwomen.org/en/csw#sthash.7sSAfxq7.dpuf

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 2013 occur?

Please select one day for your Data Count that works well for your organization or network.

For Australian (and neighbouring countries), please select a day between 4 November and 29 November 2013 to fill out your data count. The data count survey monkey link will be available from late October to 6 December 2013.

We will send out the Questions to you by the end of October 2013. If you are part of a network, please work with your colleagues to make sure they understand all of the questions.

Results need to be submitted to **ACWS in December 2013**. 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 2014.

What to consider when choosing a day:

1. Sufficient advance notice to participating shelters so they can plan for data count day and inform their staff
2. Dates that can help build awareness for your shelter or network.
3. Dates selected by your national or regional network.
4. Timing: We are asking that all data be returned to ACWS by December 1, 2013.

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?

The 2013 Global Data Count for Australian (and neighbouring countries – New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, etc) is located at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/S/VWSNP7B>

If you are unable to connect to the internet, please complete the attached **Data Count Questions** document and e-mail the document to margaret.augerinos@wesnet.org.au by December 6, 2013.

The online survey will be available for use from late October to December 6, 2013.

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:

Margaret Augerinos (Australia) margaret.augerinos@wesnet.org.au
Colleen Schmidt (USA) cschmitt@dayoneservices.org
Marai Laras (England) director@imkaan.org.uk
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We can be reached by phone, SKYPE or e-mail. Please e-mail on how you would like to be in touch.