

## **“There is a Safe Life!” Project**

The project “There is a Safe Life!”, conducted by the Association of Social Service Specialists Kocaeli Branch within the framework of the “Strengthening Capacity of National and Local NGOs on Combating Violence Against Women Grant Scheme”, is co-funded by the European Union and the Republic of Turkey, and carried out in the cities of Kocaeli, Sakarya and Düzce. The project partners are Kocaeli University, Sakarya University, Düzce University, Kocaeli Bar (*the body of lawyers*), Düzce Nilüfer Cooperative of Women, Environment, Culture and Management, and the associates are East Marmara Development Agency and Gölcük Governorate.

The general aim of the project is to contribute to the process of putting into practice of necessary measures taken by the cooperative action of involved parties to eliminate violence against women, as well as enhance, popularise and integrate all the activities conducted on the regional scale to protect the human rights of women by empowering the civil society. In order to achieve this objective, the project seeks to help the NGOs and initiatives, based in Kocaeli, Sakarya and Düzce and with a particular aim to battle violence against women, with developing their capacities, ameliorate the services for the fight against gender-based violence by encouraging a cooperation among actors at local and regional levels, and finally foster an awareness in that direction.

Within the scope of the “There is a Safe Life!” Project, several activities have so far been carried out with the participation of the NGOs from Kocaeli, Sakarya and Düzce with the mission of combating violence against women, so as to raise awareness on this particular issue and maintain a cooperation between these organisations. A survey and analysis of the actual state, workshops on subjects like “the image of women in media”, “expectations from public services” and “woman-friendly cities”, trainings on the concept of gender and how to fight against violence against women, platform meetings and the creation of a public information film (TV Spot) were among these activities. The reports stemming from and the final outcomes of these activities, which aimed at improving the means to prevent violence against women and raising consciousness on this issue, were also directed to all the involved parties.

As stated above, the project foresees, among workshops, trainings and informative meetings, a TV Spot on “the fight against violence against women”. The main premises and approach

of this TV Spot, which is intended to be broadcast on national and local television channels as well as be circulated on social media, are outlined below.

If you would like to learn more about our project, please visit our website.

Project

SummaryActivitiesPartnersContact

### **Violence Against Women**

According to the “Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women”, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1993, violence against women manifests itself in any kind of gender-based action targeted at women, either in the family environment, or private or public life, that results -or could result- with the physical, sexual or psychological harassment of women. Such actions, which clearly are violations of human rights, can occur in a verbal, emotional or economic fashion. While violence against women in Turkey is prevalent, the fact that the societal consciousness on this issue is on the rise, and more and more women embrace their rights and their cause is being supported by a large number of social actors gives us hope.

*If you would like to learn more about the definition of violence against women, women’s rights, legal regulations and legal ways to pursue, please check out our booklet.*

### **The TV Spot**

Thanks to the movement of women's rights, we have come a long way since the 1970s in developing an awareness about the gender-based unjust treatments of women, although conditions can vary from region to region in the world. As a result, more and more people throughout the world come to embrace the idea that women and men are actually equal, and the assumption that it is "necessary", "natural" or "normal" for a man to physically violate his female partner for this or that reason loses support. On the other hand, however, it can also be said that the targeted sphere of influence has been oversaturated by works and studies that put emphasis merely on the existence and dimensions of violence. In other words, in the long run, the efforts of providing just information on the degree of violence that women are subjected to and defining those types of violence tend to be ineffective in solving the real problem, while these efforts certainly contribute to the awareness around the problem to a certain degree.

It is a well-known fact that law and regulating the social conditions has an important role in solving social problems, however, that alone is obviously not enough. From an operational perspective, if we are to expect a paradigm shift in the way human behaviours operate, we actually need to have a shift/transformation of consciousness as it is consciousness that determines human behaviours. Even the law and social conditions, after all, seek to acquire that change in their own right. In this respect, public service announcements/ads and public information films can definitely be effective in obtaining this goal, for they are meant to reach, by definition, as many people as possible.

Considering the significant role of consciousness, it is highly necessary to find out the real driving force behind gender-based violence -as well as violence in general- as far as human consciousness is concerned. Simply put, the TV Spot argues, as part of the overall project, that violence, in essence, is caused by the problems related to the misperception of the sense of self/personal identity. As a product of popular culture, means of communication and competitive education systems, individuals have a tendency to feel themselves detached from the people around them. In fact, even though they are physically separate from one another, the instruments of communication like language, moods and perceptions bind them together while these instruments are themselves products of such interactions.

The TV Spot, therefore, argues that the solution for violence against women is not to force the other to change, but recognise the gravity of the situation and try to bring the two parties together on the basis of love. What we mean by "love" here is more the ability to fully

understand and share the feelings of the other than the feelings of intimacy or sympathy. The film underlines the idea of characters' -male and female- seeing each other through each other's eyes. In this way, the characters end up approaching one another as if the other is like him or her. Since the responsibility of a man is higher on the issue of violence, as he is more inclined to resort to violence than his female counterpart, the film focuses rather on the transformation that the male character goes through.

Another aspect of the film is that a woman, as the victim of violence, can actually emancipate herself from the experience of having been exposed to violence. The film also points out to the possibility of leaving behind the feelings of despair and helplessness, on women's part, and continuing to carry on actively participating in life. It finally contends that human beings should not submit themselves to victimhood, and the moment when one takes control of her life is also when she starts to emancipate herself.

#### **TV Spot Cast & Crew:**

Cast:	Emre Karayel, Yasemin Taş
Scriptwriter and Director:	Nazım Güveloğlu
Producer:	Soner Alper
Director of Photography:	Hakan Kasırğa
Music:	Caner Anar
Editing:	Nazım Güveloğlu, A. Onur Ayhan
Camera Assistant:	Emre Duman
Gaffer:	Sercan Balım
Gaffer Assistants:	Muhammed Arıklar, Ali Türk
Color Correction:	A. Onur Ayhan
Production Company:	Nar Film, İstanbul
Studio:	Film Sokağı, İstanbul
Dubbing:	Filiz Bozkuş Al