

NEWSLETTER

December 2010



Women's Rights Mini Tour

In the beginning of November five of our caseworkers went on a mini tour to a nearby city, Drammen, to inform women about their rights. We went for two days and had five lessons in total. The response was really good.

One of the groups we lectured was a group from Poland with very little norwegian language skills. For the first time we had an interpreter to translate for us. It worked very well.

The tour was financed with funding from IMDI (The Directorate for Integration and Diversity). We wanted to make this tour to prepare for our womens rights tour this upcoming spring. We have now decided to make the tour with or without funding, because we see how extremely important the information we give to these women is.

JURK is costantly working on improving our language and communication skills. The challenge is to turn the legal language into a language that our audience can understand.

Brainstorming on legal information

On the 18th November JURK organized a brainstorming session about legal information in collaboration with the Gender Equality Ombudsman. We wanted to determine whether minority women get the right information they need and, if not, what can be done to improve the situation.

We tried out a new concept that proved to be very successful. Participants were divided into small groups and went around to different stations where they discussed various issues relating to the topic. There were two rounds with different questions. This way of working proved to be very constructive. With one person leading the discussions and one taking notes on each station, all participants had ample opportunity to voice their opinion.

JURK is now working on a detailed report that can be used in our political work. We look forward to seeing the results.



Samia Boulbetina from JURK is taking notes at one of the brainstorming stations



Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security – 10 years later

From the 8th - 12th of November Eli Apold, one of our caseworkers, and Marit Aurdal, from JURK's International Division, went to Colombia at FOKUS's Networking – Conference that took place in Bogotá. The subject for the conference was UN's Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security – 10 years later. 74 women from 34 different organizations around the world were present.

Colombia is a country of very complex problems, who have had internal war since 1948. The left winged government army have fought against the right winged guerilla groups and para military groups for more than 60 years. Colombia is one of the countries in the world with the highest amount of internal refugees, between 2 and 4 million people are internal refugees and 70 % of these are women.

The purpose of the onference was to improve the participants knowledge on resolution 1325, and that the women present would exchange experiences from their own countries working with the resolution.

There were lectures, panel debates and group work. We learned how extremely important women's participation in the processes for peace are. Furthermore we tried to find solutions on how to ensure

women's participation in the future, and how to protect women and give women reparation after conflicts.

The second day in Bogotá all the participants went to visit one of FOKUS's partners in Colombia, FASOL. This organization work in the poorest neighbourhood of the capital and they work especially with internally displaced women. FASOL has a theater group who performed for us. The plot of the play was based on these women's own experiences from the conflict in Colombia. It was very emotional and made a great impression on the audience.

The conference was a success, both professionally and socialy. The last day of evaluation showed that the participants had learned a lot and that the networking was successfull. The challenge for the future is still the implementation of women's right, both under the resolution and elsewhere. But togeher we are stronger, and knowing that there are so many women fighting the same battles every day, makes it inspirational to go back home and continue our work!



International day for the Elimination of Violence against women

The 25th of November JURK marked the international day for the elimination of violence against women. The day started with a silent demonstration in the center of Oslo. We were made up by make up artists from National Theatre of Oslo, who made us look like victims of violence. With a

banner with the words “Stop violence against women.” we stood next to the morning rush passage in silence for one hour. This was an effective mean to recieve attention.

Later this day all of our caseworkers put on t-shirts with a warning triangle and the word “violence” on it. We walked around in different parts of Oslo and handed out brochures on violence against women with contact information on where you can get help if you are or have been a victim of violence. The responses from the passerby were mostly positive.

In the evening we arranged a debate about the family violence coordinators in our police departments. The debate led to fruitful discussions on the subject violence against women in general. One of the questions that was approached is how to

ensure that the police prioritise domestic violence against women. One of the problems in our country is that domestic violence is still considered a “family-problem”, and we need to change the attitudes on the subject.

Hearing in the Parliament

On the 6th December JURK was invited to a hearing in the Parliament. The meeting was arranged by the Parliament's delegation to the European Council and the topic was domestic violence. There were several organizations there that work with domestic violence. Each organization received five minutes of talking time and then there was a short discussion. The European Council is working on a convention, and the delegates wanted to get some input for their continued work.

Merry Christmas and happy new year!

