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# JUWOBA

*Justice to Women exposed to violence in the  
Barents region*



Marte Taylor Bye

KUN Senter for kunnskap og likestilling



Senter for kunnskap  
og likestilling

[www.kun.nl.no](http://www.kun.nl.no)



**Abstract: Final report JUWOBA (Justice to Women Exposed to Violence in the Barents Region)**

The goal of the project, which was funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services, was to map and discuss society's institutionalization of measures to ensure justice for victims of violence. Through four seminars in the Barents Region, Norwegian and Russian representatives from health care, the police, the judicial system, organizations working with state compensation to victims of violence and crisis centers exchanged knowledge and discussed their experience from their respective work fields. Major differences between the systems of the two countries as well as similar challenges were discussed. While in both countries there is legislation against domestic violence, there are big differences in the way it is carried out in practice. Suggestions for further projects were made. The Russian partners expressed a need for new projects with a practical focus on how to utilize and implement the existing Russian legislation related to domestic violence. They also identified the police and the court as central areas for new projects. The possibility of trying out the Swedish arrangement of a crime victim fund was also suggested. The project ran from August 2010 to August 2011.

**Sammendrag: Sluttrapport JUWOBA (Justice to Women Exposed to Violence in the Barents Region)**

Målet for dette prosjektet, som var finansiert av Helse- og omsorgsdepartementet, var å kartlegge og diskutere samfunnets institusjonalisering av tiltak for å sikre rettferdighet for voldsofre. Gjennom fire seminarer i Barentsregionen utvekslet norske og russiske representanter fra helsevesen, politi, retssystemet, voldsoffererstatning og krisesenter kunnskap og diskuterte sin erfaring fra de respektive arbeidsfeltene. I tillegg til store forskjeller mellom systemene i de to landene ble felles problemstillinger på tvers av grensa diskutert. I begge land finnes lovverk som forbyr vold i nære relasjoner, men det er store forskjeller i måten disse lovene blir etterfulgt i praksis. Det ble fremmet forslag til nye prosjekter. De russiske partnerne ga uttrykk for et behov for nye prosjekter med et praktisk fokus på hvordan man kan ta i bruk og implementere den eksisterende russiske lovgivingen som gjelder vold i nære relasjoner. De pekte også ut politi og domstoler som sentrale områder for nye prosjekter. Muligheten for å prøve ut den svenske ordningen med et fond for kriminalitetsoffer (Brottsofferfonden) ble også foreslått. Prosjektet ble gjennomført i tidsperioden august 2010 til august 2011.

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## JUWOBA- Justice to Women exposed to Violence in the Barents Region

### 1 Topic and aims

#### Background-domestic violence in the Barents Region

Domestic violence is a violation of human rights. According to United Nations studies, this kind of violence is the most common form of violence experienced by women worldwide<sup>1</sup>. At the start of the 21st century, violence kills and harms as many women and girls between the ages of 15 and 44 as cancer<sup>2</sup>. In addition, domestic violence is associated with taboo and regarded as a private matter. As pointed out by the UN women's commission in the CEDAW (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women), domestic violence is underreported in both Norway and Russia, and both countries need to continue the work on exposing the hidden numbers connected to incidents of domestic violence.

In Norway, there has been an increased focus on the subject during the last decades, resulting in the development of several institutionalized measures targeting victims of violence as well as perpetrators. New strategies for institutionalization in Norway are the office for Compensation for Victims of Violence in Vardø, special hospital emergency rooms for victims of abuse, coordinators of work against domestic violence at police stations, and the Children's Houses, which are specialist centres receiving and taking witness statements from children who are suspected to have witnessed or experienced violence or sexual abuse. The law stating that every Norwegian municipality must offer shelter services to women, children and men exposed to domestic violence was implemented as late as in 2007. § 219 from the Norwegian Criminal Code, which was adopted in 2005, states that domestic violence is not only punishable in case of physical injury. The psychological damage is also taken into account when measuring out sentences.

Russia has seen a different development. During the Soviet era, discrimination of women was banned by law, and was hence defined as non-existing. It was therefore cumbersome work for Russian women's organizations to put domestic violence on the agenda in the early 1990s<sup>3</sup>. In the Barents Region, several international projects have focused on raising awareness of this social problem and on the need to provide support to victims of violence. The establishment of crisis centers in several Russian regions can be seen as visible proof of the successes of collaboration between Russian NGOs on one side and international institutions and donors on the other (ibid). When the first crisis centre was established in Murmansk in 1997, Norwegian collaborators, the Council of Equality and the Barents Secretariat contributed with competence and finance. The cooperation through the NCRB project (Network of Crisis Centres in the Barents Region, 1999 – 2003) resulted in a broader understanding and strengthened the contacts between the centres. These initiatives and great enthusiasm contributed to the institutionalization of a number of crisis centres across the Northwest region. After ten years of work on domestic violence in Northwest Russia, these centres have proven to be stable institutions that provide crucial assistance and advice

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<sup>1</sup> Hasselbacker, Lee (2010) "State Obligations Regarding Domestic Violence: The European Court of Human Rights, Due Dilligence, and International Legal Minimums of Protection". *Northwestern Journal of International Human Rights* 8[2]

<sup>2</sup> Meyersfeld, Bonita (2008) Conference on World Law and World Health: Domestic Violence, Health and International Law. *Emory International Law Review* 61.

<sup>3</sup> Stuvøy, Kirsti (2011) "Sosial kapital og mobiliseringen mot vold mot kvinner i Nordvest-Russland". *Nordisk Østforum* 24 [1]: 7-28

to women that experience domestic violence. At the same time those crisis centres that remain active today rely heavily on voluntary, unpaid work. The centres experience continuous challenges in their work, as they are heavily dependent on ad hoc solutions and social networks in order to provide assistance to their clients. There is a great need for institution-building efforts, new inputs, strategies and strengthening of the system that supports and assists women, children and men who are exposed to domestic violence.

### **Aims**

This project directed attention to institutions that address justice for victims of domestic violence. While domestic violence also affects men, women as victims of domestic violence were the target group for this project. The aim was to create an arena for dialogue and exchange of knowledge and experience between people working in related areas from both countries. Three phases of justice were the core focus of the project:

- Initially, the experience of justice for victims depends on how they are approached when first establishing contact with the crisis centre, public authorities, the police, and medical personnel in particular.
- Second, the processing of an incident of domestic violence in the justice system,
- Third, the availability of compensation claims exposes society's concerned approach to domestic violence and justice.

The main activity was seminars. The project activities included exchange of facts, knowledge and experience from Norway and Russia concerning institutional work on domestic violence. KUN centre for gender equality has earlier taken part in several collaboration projects in the Barents region. Together with Russian, Swedish and Finnish partners, KUN has participated in the process of aiding NGOs in establishing crisis centers in Russia. In this work, collaboration has been on grass root level, focusing mainly on the respective centers. With JUWOBA, the aim was set at a higher level. The purpose of JUWOBA was to map and to facilitate further development of society's institutionalized measures to ensure justice to women exposed to domestic violence, in Norway and in Russia both. The project drew upon the networks from previous projects, and collaboration partners were crisis centers from different parts of the Barents Region as well as Kirsti Stuvøy from Lillehammer University College. Representatives from various fields were invited to present and discuss their work.

The chosen fields of work were

- the police
- the judicial system (lawyers and judges)
- state compensation for victims of crime
- health care

Representatives from these fields were invited to present their work, to discuss challenges and to suggest improving measures. In order to achieve a good development of knowledge, it was decided to recruit experts<sup>4</sup> in high positions in both countries, to present and discuss at the open seminars.

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<sup>4</sup> The use of the term 'expert' is not unproblematic. In relation to domestic violence, the project partners are no less experts than the external representatives from the various work fields. Several of the partners indeed also had presentations during the seminars. In this sense the term 'external competence' might be a more

This way, one would increase competence both cross-sectionally within each country and across the border. By arranging seminars in Kirkenes, Sortavala, Murmansk/Apatity and Archangelsk, each partner would have the opportunity to raise awareness about domestic violence in their region, and to recruit relevant experts from their area, thereby expanding their local network. In addition to the experts, politicians from various levels were invited. By exchanging experience and comparing Norwegian and Russian systems one sought to gain new perspectives, establish new networks and hopefully inspire new ideas for improvement and further development in both societies.

## 2 Organisation

- Funding: Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services
- KUN- project leader
- Norasenteret IKS Kirkenes- partner
- 'Prijut', Murmansk- partner
- 'Nadezjda', Archangelsk- partner
- Apatity crisis centre- partner
- Sortavala Crisis centre-partner
- Lillehammer University College- partner



fitting description. At the same time, it was a goal to recruit participants in relatively high positions, i.e. with some power of influence. To signify this position, and in order to separate between project partners and external speakers, the expert term will be applied in the report.

JUWOBA was funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services. When the application was written, the intended partners were crisis centers in Murmansk, Archangelsk, Sortavala (in Karelia), Kirkenes as well as the University in Tromsø (UiT). The Russian partners were recruited through the networks of KUN and the Norwegian partners.

All Russian partners but the Sortavala crisis centre are NGOs. The operation of the Sortavala crisis centre has been taken over by the local government. In certain Russian regions there have been formed new municipal crisis centers which in some cases have replaced crisis centers run by NGOs. Our partner in Murmansk, the non-governmental crisis centre 'Prijut', is connected to the Kola Peninsula Women's Congress, which is an active NGO. As the project progressed it turned out that the Prijut Crisis centre is currently in a period of transition (ongoing renovations with no specified date of re-opening), and that there now also exists a crisis centre administrated by Murmansk municipality. Prijut was however kept as a partner, as well as the Congress, the umbrella organization to which they belong. We visited the municipal crisis centre during the Murmansk seminar. In the Archangelsk region there had also been some change, and we learned that the partner we had originally intended to cooperate with, 'Bridges of Mercy', was also in a transitional state, in which they are looking for new office spaces and central co-workers (all voluntary), as the centre have taken up other time-consuming responsibilities at the new Federal University of the North, a prestigious initiative in Archangelsk funded under the state (Moscow) budget. Instead we contacted the other non-governmental crisis centre in Archangelsk, 'Nadezhda'.

Kirsti Stuvøy has a PhD on non-state crisis centers in the Barents region. She was working at UiT at the time of the application. Before the project started she had however changed employer, to the Lillehammer University College (LUC). LUC thus replaced UiT as project partner. Kirsti Stuvøy's field of research, Russian Civil Society, remains the same, and she is enrolled in a research program on the Russian Northern region, in cooperation with the Norwegian Institute of Foreign Affairs (NUPI) and Nordland University.

### 3 Progress

Activities during the project period		
2010	August/September	Contacting networks, visa application, Recruiting external experts and planning first seminar
	October	Seminar and partner meeting Kirkenes
	December	Seminar and partner meeting Murmansk
2011	March	Seminar Arkhangelsk
	May	Seminar and partner meeting Sortavala
	June-July-August	Dissemination, report and compendium

Due to various reasons, the work on the project was started somehow later than scheduled in the application. Marte Taylor Bye took over from Marit Alsaker Stemland as project leader. It was decided to overlap during the first phase of the project, so that Marit and Marte worked in parallel until after the Murmansk seminar in December. In August and September the work of contacting the network and recruiting external experts was started. Because of limitations in the time frame and a need to adjust the program to the participants' schedules it was decided to make some alterations in



the plan of action. The two planned meetings in Norway were combined into one gathering, carrying out both seminar and partner meeting in Kirkenes in October. Furthermore it was decided to postpone the next gathering to December. To save time and facilitate transportation, this meeting was moved from Apatity to Murmansk. There were thus two gatherings in 2010 in stead of three. By arranging both partner meeting and a seminar in Norway during the week in Kirkenes, there were nevertheless as many meetings as planned originally, i.e. altogether two seminars and two partner meetings were carried out in 2010. Seminars in Archangels in March and in Sortevala in May 2011 were conducted according to plan. In April 2011, we received notice that an external application for interpreter services was turned down. The resulting reduced budget, combined with the fact that KUN had spent a good deal more work hours than originally stipulated, lead to the decision to cancel the final partner meeting scheduled in September. Various other suggestions were discussed, for instance to apply for funding for a follow-up conference in May/June 2012. However the Russian partners expressed doubts about the feasibility of achieving any political or structural change in such a relative short time, and argued that a conference next year might be to soon to be able to come up with something new. It was instead agreed to make a compendium from the seminars as a document available to the crisis centre partners in their further work.

#### 4 Implementation

In the initial phase, one of the main tasks was recruiting experts to lecture at the seminars. The crisis centre in Apatity assisted in writing invitations for the Russian visa applications. It turned out to be challenging to recruit Russian experts from the targeted work fields to attend the Norwegian seminar. This was due to several factors, one of them being a relatively short time limit. In addition, some of the experts had difficulties in obtaining permissions from their employer to participate. This fact highlights the necessity of conducting regional seminars in order to reach the relevant networks in the different regions. It also underscores the importance of setting aside enough time in the initial phase of such a project when a fairly extensive network is to be coordinated across the borders.

On the Norwegian side we managed to find experts from all fields except the police to attend the two first seminars. All domestic violence coordinators in Northern Norway as well as two representatives from the police administration were contacted, but the response was always that there was neither time nor resources in the various police departments to attend the seminars. For the third and fourth seminar, Lisbeth Aarvik from Mosjøen Police Department was fortunately able to represent the Norwegian police.

#### 5 Gathering 1, Kirkenes, October 11th to 15<sup>th</sup>

In addition to the seminar, the aim of this first gathering was to get to know the partners and their work and to jointly plan the road ahead as well as the distribution of work tasks. All partners except the Apatity crisis centre and Kirsti Stuvøy were present. Two interpreters from Kirkenes interpreted consecutively.

Svetlana Parshkova represented the Kola Peninsula Women's Congress, and there were



representatives from the Norwegian Office for state compensation for victims of crime, from the unit for receiving victims of abuse at Tromsø Hospital, and free counselor services for victims of rape or domestic violence. As mentioned earlier, there were some difficulties recruiting Russian experts for this first seminar, so most of the presentations were about Norwegian institutions. After each presentation there were questions and discussion. The Russian partners expressed particular interest in the state compensation arrangement.

At the partner meeting, all the partner institutions presented themselves. We visited the premises of the Norasenteret IKS. The Russian partners were impressed with the standard of the centre, both by the fact that there were several self contained apartments for the users of the centre and that it was so well equipped. It was also remarked how the centre was made accessible to all users, by the use of colour codes and Braille markings, and by providing an apartment adapted for wheelchair users. Using Norasenteret's video conferencing system we conducted a meeting with project partner Kirsti Stuvøy in Lillehammer. There was also an excursion to the Norwegian Barents Secretariat, where we were given a presentation of their work.

Plans for further action were made, and each partner defined their own tasks and strategies for further work on mobilizing the respective networks and informing media and relevant forums. For the work ahead the importance of including expertise on a high level in all fields was emphasised. There was also broad agreement that a crucial topic is children living in violence, and we agreed to ask Ståle Luther from the Childrens' House in Tromsø to attend the next seminar. Olga Bobretsova from the 'Nadezjda' crisis centre in Archangelsk works with children as court witnesses, and was asked to represent the topic on the Russian side.

## **6 Between the seminars**

The Russian partners prepared working lists to document the activities in the time period from the Kirkenes seminar to the conference in Murmansk. A key task that all the partners began immediately after the meeting in Kirkenes was to identify and contact local experts that they could invite to participate in the consecutive conference. In addition to a formal letter of invitation, personal meetings were organized with local experts in order to introduce the rationale of the project and explain the opportunities the project provided. For example, the Murmansk partners, who were co-hosts of the conference in Murmansk, met with representatives of the Murmansk oblast (region) Duma (Parliament), the Director of the Centre of social assistance to families and children, and presented the project in a session at the Societal Council in the Department of Internal Affairs in Murmansk oblast.

The partners also sent project information and invitations to participate to the Committee of Health Issues in Murmansk City and the Justice system. All partners contacted representatives on the regional administrative level with information about the project, as well as the leadership of the Department of Internal Affairs. The other public entities that were contacted differed among our partners. In Arkhangelsk there was an "Investigative Committee" of Arkhangelsk oblast that was contacted, in addition to an oblast Office of Court medicine. From the Norwegian perspective, this insight into the multiplicity of entities relevant to the project is interesting and informative. There is a persistent need for better understanding of the local organization in Russia. The working lists show how the partners used and expanded their networks for the project.

The partners in Sortavala arranged information meetings with co-workers in the local crisis centre, in the children's home and in the Council of non-governmental/societal organizations in which they informed about the rationale of the project. Special emphasis was on the aim of institutionalization of a system to address domestic violence. The partners in Sortavala expanded their local network to also include representatives of police and health system in an adjacent municipality (Pitkjarantskij rajon). In sum, they established contact with representatives in the health system, social protection, police, procurator and courts. Clerical tasks, such as the preparation of visa documents and coordination of conference preparations/organizational duties were also documented in the working lists.

On the Norwegian side, the network was also contacted and expanded. A media advisor was hired to help make a media plan for the Murmansk seminar. She made an introductory press document and provided press contacts.

### **7 Gathering 2, Murmansk December 13th to 17<sup>th</sup> 2010**



The preparations for the Murmansk seminar were done in cooperation with Pasvikturist. They booked the hotel, conference room and meals, and offered a driver to take us around in Murmansk. Communication with the Russian partners was done through Kirsti Stuvøy and Marina Bomban who was employed at Norasenteret at the time.

The aim of this seminar was to exchange knowledge about different practices related to work on domestic violence, and to discuss this knowledge with the Murmansk network.

In addition to the partner networks we invited the police attaché at the Royal Norwegian Honorary Consulate as well as the Barents Office in Murmansk to attend the seminar. Ståle Luther accepted the invitation to represent the Children's House, and as it turned out that the police still was not able to participate, he agreed to represent them as well, as he has previously worked as domestic violence coordinator in Troms police district. It was signaled from our Murmansk partners that it might be difficult to get some of the Russian experts to stay for the whole seminar, and they suggested that we visit them at their work place instead. As one of the aims was to gather relevant experts and to facilitate discussion and exchange of experience and knowledge between them, we saw it as important to concentrate the program in a one day seminar. By making the seminar as short as possible (i.e. one day in stead of two), we hoped to enable the Russian experts to stay for the whole program. For this reason simultaneous interpretation was chosen. The two interpreters from the Kirkenes seminar came with us to Murmansk. They did the interpretation during the seminar, and a local interpreter from Murmansk, Alexander Lizogub, did the consecutive interpreting at the partner meeting. This time we had presentations from all selected work fields from both countries. For details, see seminar program in appendix II.

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, the Murmansk partners arranged excursions to two locations. Firstly, we visited a rehabilitation centre for children with physical and mental disabilities. This centre covered the whole

county, and had children staying there for longer and shorter periods of time. The centre was very well equipped, including a room for sensory stimulation, rooms for physiological examination and training, kitchen, play rooms and dormitories.

We also visited the communal crisis centre. The centre had been in operation for a year. The visit made an impression on the Norwegian participants. In contrast to the Nora crisis centre in Kirkenes it was not a house by itself, but a flat in what appeared to be a rather worn-down apartment building. Bearing in mind the fact that the centre is at the time the only operational crisis centre in Murmansk, the two bedrooms and an office seem inadequate to meet the needs of the society. We were told that at times, there were two or three families staying in each of the three rooms of the apartment.



At the Murmansk crisis center

Both partners and experts were present at the excursion, and there were useful discussions between the participants and the managers of both institutions on the issues of the institutionalization of just responses for victims of domestic violence.

One of the conclusions of the evaluation after this seminar was that for the next seminars the partners would increase their emphasis on recruiting participants to attend the open seminar. It was also decided to make some alterations to the program at the next seminar in order to better facilitate discussion.

### **8 Arkhangelsk, March 22. to 24.**

The preparations for the Arkhangelsk seminar were organized a bit differently from the Murmansk arrangement. The partners from the Nadezjda crisis centre had the main responsibility for arranging the seminar and for sorting out practicalities. Valeriy Hudojash who is part time volunteer at Nadezjda speaks English. This made the communication much easier, and it facilitated the planning



process. Kirsti Stuvøy was asked to initiate plenary discussion by presenting some of her research findings and to lead the debate. The chosen focus area for this seminar was the free legal aid system for victims of violence. Unfortunately, Ståle Luther from the Children's House was not able to attend the Arkhangelsk seminar. However, Lisbeth Aarvik from Mosjøen police department joined the project. There is cooperation between the University of Tromsø and the Pomor State University. Jusshjelpa (student judicial counseling) at the law faculty in Tromsø, is collaborating with the law school department at the Pomor University. Jusshjelpa were invited to join the seminar and present this collaboration. In

addition JURK (a nationwide, free legal advice office for women in Norway) were invited. The legal clinic in Arkhangelsk- the partnering institution of Jusshjelpa, was unfortunately not able to present at the seminar.

The staff at Nadezjda guided some of their experts in both how to present their field of work and how to acquire statistical data. For instance, Svetlana Kuznetsova from the Archangelsk office for forensic medicine gathered and presented data about reported injuries resulting from domestic violence. These statistics were requested by some of the other participants at the seminar, as few official numbers are in general attainable in Russia on this subject.

The seminar took place at the premises of the Pomor State University, in a hall fitted with advanced equipment for simultaneous interpretation. Two local interpreters were hired for the occasion. The duration of the seminar was expanded from one to two days. Overall, there was much more discussion during this seminar than during the previous two seminars. This gave interesting insight not only to how the Russian crisis centre partners involve in debates with Russian officials and policy makers, but also to some of the attitudes related to domestic violence that can be found in professional groups like the police and the judicial system. At times heated debates were evidence of our success in setting the ground for discussion on the subject. Bearing in mind that the seminar lasted for two days, and that we had previously experienced it as challenging to get the participants to stay for the whole duration of the seminar, it was noteworthy that most of the participants, including those who were most involved in the debate, returned to the seminar on day two.

On day three there were excursions to two organizations. The first was a centre for handicapped children. The centre was run by an NGO, and received support from the Municipality. As with the similar centre in Murmansk, it was very well equipped. It provided day care for handicapped children as well as schooling, physical treatment and social clubs.

We also visited the premises of Nadezjda, our crisis centre partner, established in 1999. They are located together with two different organizations, an emergency shelter for children and an activity centre and school for children and youth who are convicted for minor crimes. The centre provided temporary shelter for children who are removed from their home, waiting either to be moved to an orphanage, a foster family or back home. The day centre for sentenced youth provides activities like handicrafts, hiking and sports, as well as studying facilities. The crisis centre service currently consists of a hotline which is manned at particular times of the day. Some of the other tasks are campaigns among school children to prevent violence, and informing and assisting victims of violence. They are also planning to start a free hotline for men who exercise domestic violence. In addition they provide services for children as court witnesses. They find that the co-location with a municipal enterprise provides good opportunity for active work. Nadezjda is for instance consulted as experts by police and courts, and they focus on human trafficking and child prostitution. It was somehow difficult to get a full grasp of the activities of this centre and the division of tasks.

The day ended with a short partner meeting, where it was agreed to focus on prevention of domestic violence at the seminar in Sortavala.

### 9 Sortavala, May 24. to 26.

Because of changes in the planned activities, the fourth seminar in Sortavala was also the last seminar of this project. As in Arkhangelsk it was decided to have a two day seminar program. At this point of time, Svetlana Kurthi who had previously been our interpreter hired through Rambøll, had started working at the Norasenteret IKS, and she provided the link between the project leader and the partners in Sortavala. In addition, she translated documents, e-mails and presentations. Together with Olga Zhitova from Arkhangelsk she did the interpretation during the seminar. It was again decided to use simultaneous interpretation, although equipment was not available at the premises and had to be hired from outside at a relatively high cost.

Sortavala is a small town compared to both Murmansk and Archangelsk, and it is situated in a rural area. For this reason, participants from women's NGOs in the neighboring regions including Petrozavodsk were also invited to attend the seminar. Norasenteret in addition invited and paid for a participant from BRiS, the Buskerud region's incest centre. All in all there were 41 registered seminar participants. The seminar was conducted in the lecture hall of an old university building, and the program was opened with a performance by a local children's song and dance group, followed by an introduction by the mayor of Sortavala.

As agreed in Arkhangelsk, there was a particular focus on prevention of violence at the Sortavala seminar. A general impression is that one often hears about prevention and information campaigns on the Russian side of the border. This might be due to many factors. One of them is that compared to many other measures, a campaign might be relatively inexpensive to implement, in face of a lack of financial assets. Campaigns also offer the possibility of reaching many people at the same time, and they provide a way for working on



changing attitudes towards domestic violence. Bjørg Irene Østrem from the Nora centre presented the ACE-study, an on-going, longitudinal study of the effects of adverse childhood experiences. Focusing on the effects of violence, and how being exposed to violence as a child among other things dramatically increases the probability of becoming a perpetrator or a victim of violence later in their life, this study provides the argument that one of the most efficient preventive measures is to remove children from exposure to violence. At the end of the seminar, the partners from Sortavala led a group process where the theme was methods and prerequisites for preventing domestic violence. This way of working in groups was new to the project, and added a tangible and practice-oriented perspective to the seminar. The method used was the so called coffee table dialogue, a method where groups write down key words pertaining to a chosen subject on a big sheet of paper which is subsequently handed over to the next group, the end result being as many sheets as groups, on different subjects. The Norwegian participants were placed in the same group. Language barriers made this method a bit strenuous, as all notes were done in Russian.

There were excursions to Sortavala crisis centre and to an emergency home for children, both located within the same compound. Sortavala is proud of their municipal crisis centre, a house built

by Finnish crisis centre partners during earlier projects. The Karelia region is a rural area, and one of the challenges of the crisis centre is to reach out also to the more remote areas. The crisis centre meets this challenge through information campaigns and local networks.

One of the work tasks of the children's shelter is conducting information campaigns about children's rights. They also provide temporary shelter for children. Due to regulations, the maximum number of children staying there was recently halved, and the centre has thus had to replace the bunk beds with single beds.

As the last planned seminar in Kirkenes was cancelled, various options for finalizing and following up on the project were discussed at the partner meeting in Sortavala. Several possibilities were mentioned. One was to apply for funding for a conference after a year to sum up the project and discuss the partners' experience. The Russian partners expressed doubts about the amount of change in the Russian society's system for providing justice to victims of violence that might be attainable in such a relatively short time, and it was decided not to plan such an event for the time being. It was also discussed whether or not KUN should apply for money to print a brochure presenting the basic findings from both countries, but we instead came to an agreement to collect manuscripts from the experts' presentations in order to create a compendium which might be used in the partners' future work. Finally, the project as a whole was summarized, and the conclusions from this evaluation are summed up later in this report.

## **8 Press and dissemination**

Before the Kirkenes seminar a press release was distributed to Norwegian newspapers. The Norwegian partners collaborated about a newspaper article that was published in Finnmarken on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Sør-Varanger newspaper also published an article about the project during the seminar week. In November 2010, Marte Taylor Bye presented JUWOBA at the national conference for victims of violence in Oslo, arranged by the Office for state compensation to victims of violence (voldsoffererstatningskontoret).

The seminars were all covered by newspapers. The Murmansk partners contacted the press, both TV and radio, and the Russian partners reported that there were broadcasts about the project both on the local TV and radio channels during the seminar week. Two Arkhangelsk newspapers printed stories from the seminar in March. All the way through the project period, the Russian partners actively informed relevant forums about the project. Information was for instance posted on the web page of Arkhangelsk oblast, of the Russian Gender Forum, the NGO Garant, and the Pomor State University. The Kola Peninsula Women's Congress sent a letter to the Murmansk ministry of national affairs, informing about the project and attaching Lisbeth Aarvik's presentation from the Mosjøen police office. A chronicle about the project was printed in the Norwegian newspaper Nordlys in July 2011, and a blog entry was posted at the website 'her high north' in August.

## **9 Economy**

Some alterations were made to the budget during the project period. One is that more resources have been spent on project management from KUN than was originally planned. There are several reasons for this. As noted earlier in the report, the fact that we changed project leader necessitated extra work hours, both because there was a need for overlap in order to transfer knowledge and

because of the extra time needed for the new project leader to familiarize herself with the network and the project background. Secondly, the Russian partners initially had a somewhat less active role than planned. One of the reasons for this is that due to unforeseen circumstances, we did not have stable access to someone who spoke both Russian and Norwegian. Thus, for a while the amount of work hours fell more to the project leader and less to the partners than planned. When preparing for the third seminar, this situation improved as one of the project partners in Arkhangelsk speaks English, allowing for better communication and more active participation from the hosting partners in making the arrangements for the seminar. Kirsti Stuvøy also provided an indispensable Russian speaking link between the project leader and the partners during this planning process. From April 2011, Norasenteret IKS employed Svetlana Kurthi who interpreted at the Murmansk seminar, and from then on the communication went through her during the planning for the seminar in Sortavala.

There were put aside funds for expert fees, but except for one Norwegian expert, Lisbeth Rønning, none of the experts have claimed this. Lisbeth Rønning is self-employed, and was hence compensated for lost earnings. The other experts have been able to attend the seminars as part of their job.

An external application for funding for interpretation and translation did not go through, and this was not clear until April 2011. Taking into account the resulting reduced budget and the extra amount of work hours that had already been spent on project management, it was decided to cancel the last seminar which was originally planned in Kirkenes in August/September 2011.



## 10 Findings

The seminars provided interesting arenas for information exchange and discussion. Although the situation differs significantly between the two countries, the similarities that can be found are also noteworthy. In Norway and Russia alike, domestic violence remains a hidden social problem with particular challenges related to evidence and allocation of guilt. While the process of reporting violence or abuse and going through a trial might in both countries in many cases appear as a 'double punishment', it is evident that both reporting violence and receiving help is much easier in Norway than in Russia.

Compared to the Norwegian system, many of the Russian efforts to fight domestic violence are characterized by lack of resources. In some of the presentations from Russian politicians, it might be seen as symptomatic that initiatives that were presented did not necessarily target domestic violence specifically. In Arkhangelsk for instance, sanitary work to increase living standards, and courses in maintaining romance for couples were mentioned as measures applied to ease the situation of families affected by domestic violence. A major part of the work that is done in this field is based upon NGOs and volunteer labor, with the limitations that this entails.

From a Norwegian point of view, some of the attitudes that were expressed by some of the Russian participants during presentations and debates appeared as controversial. One of the Russian judges identified attitudes to domestic violence as an area where work is needed, and she pointed out how the tendency to blame the victim is widespread. During presentations and discussions we saw several examples of such approaches, such as when another judge stated the need for mothers to bring up their children better so as to avoid raising potential future abusers. The Russian partners for their part noticed reluctance among the Norwegian participants to focus too much on mediation in cases of domestic violence. Many of the Russian crisis centers work with family counseling, with one of the goals for their work being to decrease the amounts of divorces. Such an approach is unfamiliar to Norwegian crisis centers.

Comparing the facilities of Norasenteret with those we have seen in Russia, one gets a visible example of the different levels of development and of the economical standards of the crisis centre services in the two countries. At the same time, one must take into account that even though the standards differ between the countries, the sheer fact that in some Russian regions crisis centers are now run by the municipality or regional authorities is a tangible result of a relatively short history of targeted work by NGOs to establish and institutionalize emergency services to victims of crime.

We have also seen how there are differences between regions within Russia. One example is how women who turn to the crisis centre in Murmansk have to undergo a physical examination before they may be allowed to stay there. They are only allowed access when they have tested negative for tuberculosis and various sexually transmitted diseases. This practice, it turned out, was not the same for instance in Sortavala, where there are no such tests. Such regional differences are interesting to bring to light, and they serve as a way to underscore the importance of conducting regional seminars, as well as to strengthen the network between regions.

10.1 Health care: In Russia there is no parallel to the receiving unit for abuse victims that we find in the biggest Norwegian hospitals. Nor are there health stations for youths. The Russian health experts expressed particular interest in the cross-sectional work of health stations. In Norway, although there are receiving units for victims of violence in each county, where you live in the country dictates the access you have to this kind of health care service, as the rural areas do not have the same kind of specialized service as the more urban areas.

On several occasions, it was pointed out how the cost of 540 rubles in Russia for a physical examination is an obstacle for many victims of violence to get examined at all, since this is a cost that the victim has to cover. The question was raised whether or not it was possible to charge the perpetrator instead, but this seemed not to be an option. It was also mentioned that there are no statistics available pertaining to reported physical injury as a result of violence. At her presentation at the Arkhangelsk seminar, Svetlana Kuznetsova from the Arkhangelsk bureau of forensic investigation presented basic statistics from the bureau, collected for the occasion. The Russian partners asked to have this presentation to use in other forums.

There Russian emphasis on prevention includes information campaigns, counseling and courses. Connected to this work are social workers, counselors and psychologists. However, state regulations have led to a reduction in the numbers of psychologists and social teachers during the last years, something which was brought up as a problem by the Russian partners.

#### 10.2 State compensation for victims of violence:

There is a Russian state compensation for victims of violence, which applies to cases of terrorism, as exemplified in Norwegian media after the bomb at a Moscow airport in January 2011 (<http://www.abcnyheter.no/node/124680>). However, this kind of compensation is rarely, if ever, paid out to victims of domestic violence. The Russian partners were particularly focused on the fact that victims of domestic violence may in Norway receive compensation regardless of the result of a trial. It was also brought up how regular fines payable by the perpetrator in Russia are often subtracted from the family budget, and there was great interest among the Russian partners as well as the seminar participants as to how this state compensation was funded, and about the possibility to pay compensation to the victim regardless of the perpetrator's financial situation. The sheer fact that in Norway a compensation claims system exists and operates accordingly, is impressive to the Russian partners, and this system is attractive to them. The impression is that it is attractive because it gives victims a financial compensation, but also that it is evidence of a system that addresses the victims and their experiences seriously.

#### 10.3 Police:

The police is a work area where there is great contrast between the two countries. For this reason the Russian partners were particularly interested in the presentation from Lisbeth Aarvik, head of Mosjøen Police Station. Following the seminar in Archangelsk they distributed a copy of her presentation to various forums, including the Archangelsk police and the Ministry of internal affairs in Murmansk. Although domestic violence has been an area of priority in the Norwegian police for a while, some challenges remain. The Norwegian shadow report for CEDAW 2011, points out that even though since 2002, every police district in Norway are required to have at least one full-time position working on domestic violence, only eight out of 19 districts so far have this, and the

arrangement with domestic violence coordinators is in conclusion described as fragmentary and not systematically conducted<sup>5</sup>. Initially, it was a goal to recruit a domestic violence coordinator as a Norwegian expert. It might thus be a point for thought that none of the domestic violence coordinators that were asked saw it as feasible to participate at the seminar, and that the representative from the Norwegian police that we managed to recruit after many rounds of enquiry at different offices was not in fact herself a domestic violence coordinator.

In Norway all instances of domestic violence must be reported by the police, regardless of the victim's wishes. The Russian police do not report on behalf of the victim, although once prosecution has started it cannot be cancelled. Unfortunately, the quality of the police work on domestic violence depends too much on individual involvement and experience. This goes for both countries, although seemingly to a bigger extent in Russia. In Russia, violence in the private home is in practice defined as less of a problem than violence in public, and domestic violence is regarded as a private matter. There is a more limited range of measures to be taken than in Norway. Unlike the Norwegian police, the Russian police do not have the possibility to issue restraining orders or to equip victims with rape alarms. In Arkhangelsk, the representative from the police reported that previously, the only measure the police were able to take was to detain the perpetrator for three hours in cases of reported violence, but that they now had the additional possibility of assigning fines. The Russian crisis centre partners told of several known cases when women who contacted the police about domestic violence were told not to call back unless they feared for their own life. In Russian court, there is made a distinction between violence with and violence without consequences. Examples of consequences are broken bones, concussion, diagnosed psychological damage etc, and it seems that this operationalization of violence and its consequences is also evident in the work of the police. Cases of domestic violence often take long to investigate. One of the reasons for this might be difficulties in collecting evidence. Contrary to the Norwegian police, the Russian police operate with a time limit of two weeks to investigate a case. Another difference between the two systems is that in Norway, police who are called out to investigate suspected cases of domestic violence are obliged to seek out any children staying on the premises, to wake them up if they appear to be sleeping, and to talk to them and make sure they are all right under the circumstances. Russian police are on the other hand prohibited to make contact with children who seem to be sleeping. This might be connected to differences in the view on children in violent relationships. While one can see an increasing Norwegian focus on children being autonomous parts in cases of domestic violence, in Russia the children are to a bigger extent seen as pertaining to their parents, and not regarded as directly inflicted by violence if they are not proven to be beaten themselves.

#### 10.4 Justice:

Since 2006 there has existed a specific Norwegian penal code against domestic violence (§219). There is no such specific law in Russia, but rather a number of laws in the Russian Criminal Codex under which domestic violence can be punished. The Russian state does not offer any legal assistance, except in rare and extreme cases, although this is a service to which the victims are entitled. If the victim does not follow up on a case on her own, the tendency is that it is dismissed. Among those that are treated, a high rate of cases are shelved. A city court judge at the Sortavala

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<sup>5</sup> Norwegian NGO shadow report to CEDAW 2011, page 23

seminar reported a shelving rate of 70 percent in these cases. If a perpetrator is assigned a fine, this cost is most often taken out of the family budget, i.e., the family has to pay the fine from the money which is already earmarked for living costs. Adding the fact that victim and perpetrator are often forced to continue living together, the costs of running a case in most cases are seen to exceed the benefits. In Norway free legal aid is offered up to a certain limit in cases of sexual abuse or domestic violence. Again, the main difference between Norway and Russia is not normative, as both countries have legal assistance to victims embedded in their legislation. The point is that Norway has implemented this through a “bistandsadvokatsystem”, and the Russians have not.

The Russian judicial system distinguishes between violence with and without consequences. In cases of violence which are defined to be without consequences, i.e. no severe physical damage or diagnosed psychological damage, the case is treated in mediation court or by what is called a ‘peace judge’. In Norway, there is a much stronger focus on penalty according to the criminal code, and it can be argued that mediation has not traditionally been a main focus in the legal treatment of cases involving domestic violence. While mediation and restorative justice are both focal points in the Norwegian strategic plan of action to fight domestic violence (Vendepunkt- 2008-2011) the use of mediation in cases regarding violence is a debated topic. Some are arguing that the concern for children involved should be prioritized higher, moving the emphasis from that of mediation between partners to that of achieving the goal of the child living with a non-violent parent. It is also claimed that in practice mediation is often not an option, as admission of guilt is a prerequisite that is often difficult to obtain from the perpetrator. In any case, and in both countries, the treatment of cases of domestic violence is contentious and controversial.

10.5 Children: In the six biggest cities in Norway there are so-called ‘Children’s houses’, where children involved in cases of abuse or violence are interrogated and examined. These children’s houses provide a way of assuring among other things that whoever interrogates children is qualified to handle this age group. Research shows that for children, witnessing violence is just as detrimental as being exposed to it. In many cases of violence and neglect children do not have their own legal representative to safeguard their rights, and considering that as a group they represent the weaker part this fact is of particular concern. There is a need to strengthen the children’s perspective in the treatment of domestic violence cases. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is an official Russian diagnosis for children exposed to violence, and there is awareness of how being exposed to violence in childhood dramatically increases the risk of becoming an abuser or a victim of abuse as an adult. Although in Russia there is a strong emphasis on the child, the concern for children is in practice rarely ranked over the concern for the parents. In addition, it was mentioned how children of sentenced parents may in adult life experience difficulties of obtaining a state job because of their parents’ record. This was referred to as one of the reasons for reluctance to report abuse and domestic violence. Olga Bobretsova from the crisis centre in Arkhangelsk reported that quite some work has been done pedagogically and psychologically in Russia but that there is great need for a legal focus on children as affected persons in cases of domestic violence, and that more knowledge about the age characteristics is needed when children are witnesses in court. The children’s shelter in Sortavala conduct campaigns about children’s right, and they find that the concept of children having their own rights is foreign to many, including teachers and pedagogical personnel.

## 11 Results and evaluation

The main goal of JUWOBA was to create an arena for exchange of knowledge between representatives from different work fields in Norway and Russia, namely police, health care, the justice system and state compensation for victims of violence. One might say that this goal was accomplished as soon as the seminars were carried out. Overall the seminars have provided arenas for interesting debates, involving a number of relevant actors from different regions. The partner networks were pivotal to recruiting relevant experts from the different work fields both in Norway and Russia, and the initial challenges of low turnout were met as the project progressed. As the Russian partners also emphasized, one criterion for success in recruiting both experts and other seminar participants was the organization of the seminar, by inviting experts to present and discuss their work across the border. This kind of professional dialogue is something we recommend for future projects.

No expectations were defined in the project description as to further consequences and possible development in the wake of the seminars. Nevertheless, the partners' active work to disseminate knowledge from the seminars has resulted in a number of new contacts, inquiries and professional meetings. For instance, the Kola Peninsula Women's congress received inquiry to propose a new member for the Judges' Council, and the Arkhangelsk police department requested a workshop with the crisis center in Arkhangelsk about Norwegian police work on domestic violence. The crisis centre in Arkhangelsk was also invited to conferences on domestic violence arranged by the state Duma as well as the regional Ministry of Development. The experts were not solely found among the partners' already established contacts, the process of recruiting experts also offered an opportunity to expand the partners' networks. Judging from the debates and the diverse opinions that were expressed, the seminars seem to have succeeded in gathering more than the so-called 'usual suspects'. Evaluating the project, the partners identified several beneficial effects, like expanding their networks, gaining authority and impact, and improving the cooperation with relevant authorities. The Russian partners intend to use the project compendium of expert presentations and continue the dissemination activity.

Different ways of organizing the debates were tried out in order best to facilitate involvement and depth of the discussion. The comparison of different practices was in itself a well suited vantage point for discussion. In Arkhangelsk we had good experience with launching the debate with an introduction by Kirsti Stuvøy, including open-ended questions to be discussed. The following debate, which to a certain extent was dominated by the Russian participants, was characterized by diverse and strong opinions, of which some seemed rather controversial from a Norwegian point of view. Some of the Norwegian participants expressed the wish for a debate that went even deeper, and suggested that the strong involvement of the crisis centers might have created a tendency for pre-closure of the discussion. Since one of the aims was to assist and strengthen the Russian NGOs, and since the active partnership of the crisis centers was one of the major mainstays of the project, this objection will not be discussed further here. For potential future projects targeting the institutionalization of measures directed towards victims of violence this concern might however be an argument to consider.

The Russian partners expressed a wish that the project result in something tangible and practical. Several possibilities have been discussed, for instance whether or not it is constructive to lobby for a

specific Russian law against domestic violence. This suggestion is not new, and there has been done a lot of work to achieve this already, so far to no avail. It might be wise to start in another end, by focusing on the Norwegian arrangement of free legal counseling for victims of violence, which has no direct parallel in Russia. It is also important to focus on how one can work on making the existing laws function in practice, something which is often not the case. This argument was also pointed out by one of the Russian partners, who remarked on how the necessary laws and regulations are already there, and that the work which needs to be done in the future is to get them implemented in practice.

During evaluation rounds, the feedback from both Russians and Norwegians suggests that the participants found the seminars both instructive and inspirational. It has been discussed how to secure a similar dividend for both Norwegian and Russian partners. Although the seminars have been based on dialogue between experts from various fields on similar levels, making possible a professional dialogue, it might be argued that the balance has still been somewhat skewed from the beginning. One contributing fact to this imbalance is that while there were only two Norwegian partners (Norasenteret IKS and LUC) there were altogether four different Russian partners, and that more Russian networks thus were involved than Norwegian. When the final meeting in Kirkenes was cancelled, one lost one of the opportunities for discussing the themes in a Norwegian setting. As we have seen, the Russian partners have expressed that knowledge about the Norwegian system is very helpful to them for their future work. That being said, both the Norwegian partners and experts reported that the project provided valuable and interesting insights to the work with domestic violence in Russia. Even though Norway is ahead of Russia in many senses when it comes to attending to the rights of victims of domestic violence, we wish to maintain the focus on the potential for improvement in both societies.

## **12 Suggestions for the future**

Several areas of interest for further work were identified during the project period. Some of the Russian partners expressed the opinion that through the years many projects have been carried out on a theoretical level, and identified a need for an action-oriented approach. Possible topics for new projects that have been suggested during the project period are cooperation between police, forensic medicine and prosecutors, or specific projects targeting Norwegian- Russian exchange of experience in the police and the court. It might also be of interest to look at the experiences from the Swedish 'brottsofferfond', an arrangement where perpetrators are charged a fee which is deposited in a fund used for information campaigns and research benefiting victims of violence. This arrangement is new to both countries, and could thus provide a fruitful topic for future Russian-Norwegian projects related to domestic violence.

## Appendix I

## 13 Program Kirkenes, oktober 2010

Date	Time		
Monday 11.10	16.00	Arrival Thon Hotel Kirkenes	
	19.00	Welcome	Marit and Marte
		Presentation of the office for victims of crime, Vardø	Veronica Eriksen
		Questions/discussion	
	20.00	Dinner	
Tuesday 12.10	09.00	Visit at Norasenteret	
	12.00	Lunch	
	13.30	Presentation KUN, project discussion, expectation, organization and work strategies	
	20.00	Dinner	
Wednesday 13.10	10.00	Visit at the Barents Secretariat	
	12.00	Lunch	
	13.30	Video conference with Kirsti Stuvøy	
		Meeting- networks, dissemination and media. Questions/debate	
	20.00	Dinner	
Thursday 14.10	10.00	Seminar	
		Receiving units for victims of abuse	May Elin Sømhovd, leader receiving unit, Tromsø Hospital
		Legislation and legal treatment of victims of violence-possibilities and challenges	Lisbeth Rønning, lawyer
		Crisis centre work in three Russian regions	Svetlana Parshkova, Olga Bobretsova, Liudmila Mikhailova
	12.00	Lunch	
		Partner meeting-work assignment before the Murmansk seminar	

JUWOBA

	20.00	Dinner	
Friday 15.10		Departure	

**Participants Kirkenes:**

Bye, Marte Taylor	Project leader, KUN
Bobretsova, Olga	Crisis centre 'Nadezjda' Arkhangelsk
Eriksen, Veronika	Service for victims of crim, Vardø (Rådgivningskontoret for kriminalitetsofre)
Eriksson, Annik-	Norasenteret IKS
Mikhailova, Liudmila	Crisis centre Sortavala
Novikova, Valentina	Crisis centre Sortavala
Parshkova, Svetlana	Kola Peninsula Women's Congress
Rønning, Lisbeth	Lawyer
Shtylova, Ljubov	Crisis centre 'Prijut', Murmansk
Stemland, Marit Alsaker	KUN
Sømhovd, May Irene	Sexual abuse emergency room (Overgrepsmottak), Tromsø University Hospital
Østrem, Bjørg Irene	Norasenteret IKS



**Seminar hotel Meridian 14.12.10**

<b>14.12</b>	10.00-10.15	Welcome	Marte Taylor Bye, project leader JUWOBA, Svetlana Parshkova and Ljubov Stylova, Murmansk
	10.15-10.30	Legislation and domestic violence	I. Zazhigina, people's elect in the Duma
	10.30-10.45	Experience from work on domestic violence in St.Petersburg	Valentina Frolova, lawyer, St.Petersburg
	10.45-11.00	Educating personnel who work with victims of violence	Elena Viktorova, Norwegia people's aid, Murmansk
	11.00-11.10	Break	
	11.10-11.45	Police work on domestic violence in Russia	Angelina Shevchuk,
	11.40-12.15	Police work on domestic violence in Norway	Ståle Luther, Children's house, Tromsø
	12.15-12.30	Questions/discussion	
	12.30-13.30	Lunch	
	13.30-14.00	State compensation to victims of violence (Voldsoffererstatning)	Remi Strand, office for state compensation to victims of violence, Vadsø
	14.00-14.30	On helping victims of violence	Marina Simanova, Lawyer
	14.30-15.15	Children and violence	Ståle Luther, Children's house, Tromsø
	15.15-15.35	Children and violence	Olga Bobretsova, crisis centre Arkangelsk
	15.35-15.50	Break	
	15.50- 16.20	Legal safeguarding of victims of violence	Evgeny Dulov
	16.20-16.50	Legal safeguarding of victims of violence	Lisbeth Rønning, Free legal counselling (bistandsadvokat)
	16.50-17.00	Break	
	17.00-17.15	Health care for victims of violence in Norway	Kjerstin Møllebakken, health station, Kirkenes
	17.15-17.35	Health care for victims of violence in Russia	
	17.35-18.00	Summary and discussion	

## Appendix II Program and participants Murmansk

NAME	ORGANISATION/DEPARTMENT	CITY
Bobretsova, Ol'ga Valentinovna	Crisis centre Arkhangelsk	Arkhangelsk
Bye, Marte Taylor	Advisor KUN centre for gender equality	Steigen
Dulov , Evgenij Jur'evich/		Murmansk
Eriksson, Annik	Leader Nora crisis centre, Norasenteret IKS	Kirkenes
Frolova Valentina	Lawyer	St. Petersburg
Khudojash Valery	Arkhangelsk county	Arkhangelsk
Kuznetsova, Svetlana	Physician	Arkhangelsk
Larjukova		Sortevala
Lanevskaja , Tatyana	Crisis centre Apatity	Apatity
Luther, Ståle	Barnehuset (Children's House)	Tromsø
Møllebakken, Kjerstin	Health station Kirkenes	Kirkenes
Nadezhda Viktorovna Hudojash/	Leader crisis centre "Nadeschda"	Arkhangelsk
Neyman Liudmila	Social work	Arkangelsk
Novikova, Valentina	Women's organisation "Nadeschda"	Sortevala
Parshkova, Svetlana	Congress of Women Cola Peninsula	Murmansk
Rogozina, Nadezdja	Prokurator	Arkangelsk
Rønning, Lisbeth	Layers Rønning & Rønning	Kirkenes
Shevchuk, Angelina / Шевчук Ангелину	Police	Murmansk
Simanova, Marina	Lawyer	Murmansk
Sokolova, Tatyana	Psychologist	Arkhangelsk
Stemland, Marit Alsaker	Senior advisor KUN centre for gender equality	Steigen
Strand, Remi	Voldsoffererstatningskontoret, Office for compensation for victims of violence	Vardø

Appendix II Program and participants Murmansk

Stylova, Ljubov Vasilievna	Murmansk Pedagogical University	Murmansk
Stuvøy, Kirsti	University College, Lillehammer	Lillehammer
Sviridenko, Kulia	Police	Arkangelsk
Vanyuta Ludmila	Lawyer	Arkangelsk
Viktorova, Elena		Murmansk
Zazhigina, I.	Representative Duma	Murmansk
Østrem, Bjørg-Irene	Assistant director Nora crisis centre, Norasenteret IKS	Kirkenes

22-24.mars 2011, Arkhangelsk

<b>Tid</b>	<b>Beskrivelse</b>	<b>Foredragsholder</b>
March 22. 10:00	Welcome	<b>Marte Taylor Bye</b> , project leader, «JUWOBA»  <b>Olga Bobretsova</b> , crisis centre “Nadezhda” (Hope)
10:20	Women’s rights and domestic violence.	<b>Ljubov Anisimova</b> , Ombudsmann for human rights, Arkhangelsk county.
10:40	Legislation to protect women and children against domestic violence	<b>Ljudmila Kononova</b> , deputy chairman in Arkhangelsk health- and social comittee  <b>Tatjana Borovikova</b> , people’s elect in Arkhangelsk Duma  <b>Irina Piatakova</b> , people’s elect in Apatity city council
11:30		
11:45	Domestic violence- from a judge’s perspective  Legal practice related to cases on domestic violence in Arkhangelsk	<b>Vidar Stensland</b> , judge  <b>Aleksander Zdretsov</b> , Administrator Isakogorskij District Court, Arkhangelsk
12:45	Discussion	
13:00 – 14:00		
14:00	Free legal aid to victims of domestic violence  Legal assistance to victims of domestic violence in Russia	<b>Lisbeth Rønning</b> , lawyer  <b>Olga Smolentsjuk</b> , lawyer at office for legal aid for victims of violence
15:00	Legal counselling for women (JURK)  Free legal aid, experience from legal aid office	<b>Vivian Mikalsen</b> , JURK leader, Tromsø, <b>Bente Bjørke</b> , <b>Emma Hermanrud</b> – representatives from JURK, Oslo  <b>Ekaterina Gavriljuk</b> , leader legal aid office, Petrozavodsk state University
16:00		
16:15	Discussion on legal practice and assistance to victims of domestic violence	Introduction by <b>Kirsti Stuvoy</b> , researcher at Lillehammer University College
18:30		
March 23. 10:00	Police work on domestic violence  Police work in Russia on domestic violence, in relation to children	<b>Lisbeth Aarvik</b> , <b>Mosjøen Police district</b>  <b>Julia Sviridenko</b> , senior police inspector with responsibility for minors in Arkhangelsk

Appendix III, program and participants Archangelsk

11:00	Hospital receiving unit for victims of domestic violence  Examination of victims of domestic violence	<b>May Elin Sømhovd</b> , Tromsø University Hospital  <b>Svetlana Kuznetsova</b> , forensic expert
12:00		
12:15	Psychological preparation of children before interrogation and participation in legal hearings	<b>Olga Bobretsova</b> , psykolog department of protection of children's rights
12:45	State compensation for victims of violence	<b>Remi Strand</b> , leader office for state compensation
13:15	Questions of compensation in Russian legislation	Russian expert
13:30-14:30		
14:30	Discussion, children and domestic violence	Introduction by <b>Olga Bobretsova</b> , department of protection of children's rights
16:00		
16:15	Summary	<b>Marte Taylor Bye</b> <b>Olga Bobretsova</b> <b>Valerij Khudojash</b>
18:00		
10:00	Visit at rehability center for disabled children	
11:30		
11:45	Visit at Centre for protection of minor's rights	

Appendix III, program and participants Archangelsk

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
Anisimova Lubov	Commissioner for Human Rights in the Arkhangelsk region
Bjørke Bente	JURK, legal guidance for women, Oslo
Bobretsova Olga	Member of the Board of the "Hope" Crisis Center, psychologist-consultant
Borovikova Tatyana	Deputy of the Arkhangelsk City Council, Chairman of the City Council of Women
Bye Marte Taylor	Advisor, KUN
Danilova Larisa	Head of the " Bridges of Mercy" Crisis Center
Gavrilyuk Ekaterina	Head of the Pomor State University Faculty of Law Legal Clinic
Hermanrud Emma Caroline	JURK, legal guidance for women, Oslo
Huziakhametov Askar	Investigator of the Investigation Committee of Oktyabrskiy district of Arkhangelsk
Izotov Pavel	Judge of the Isakogorskiy District Court of Arkhangelsk
Kators Galina	Judge of the Isakogorskiy District Court of Arkhangelsk.
Khudoyash Nadezhda	Chairman of the Board of the "Hope" Crisis Center
Khudoyash Valeriy	Member of the Board of the "Hope" Crisis Center, psychologist-consultant
Konev Konstantin	Investigator of the Investigation Committee of Solombala district of Arkhangelsk
Kononova Ludmila	Deputy chairman in the Committee on Health and Social Affairs of the Arkhangelsk Oblast Council of Deputies
Korzhina Natalya	Head of the Justice Maintenance Department of the Isakogorskiy District Court of Arkhangelsk
Kuznetsova Svetlana	Forensic expert of the Arkhangelsk Regional Bureau of Forensic Medical Examination
Leontyeva Olga	Head of the Juvenile Department in the Oktyabrskiy District of Arkhangelsk.
Lyapunova Olga	Psychologist-consultant of the " Bridges of Mercy" Crisis Center, psychology PhD
Mikalsen Vivian	Leader Student legal aid, University of Tromsø
Nejman Ludmila	Head of Academic Mobility Division of the International Cooperation Department of the Northern Arctic Federal University
Potapova Natalya	Psychologist-consultant of the " Bridges of Mercy" Crisis Center, psychology PhD
Proselkov Aleksandr	Deputy to the head of the Judicial Department of Arkhangelsk region.
Rogozina Nadezhda	Senior Assistant of The Investigation Department in the Investigative Committee for the Arkhangelsk Region and Nenets Autonomous District
Rønning Lisbeth	Lawyer, free legal aid for victims of abuse or violence
Vidar Stensland	Judge
Remi Strand	Head of office for state compensation for victims of violence

Appendix III, program and participants Archangelsk

Kirsti Stuvøy	Researcher, Lillehammer University College (HiL)
Sviridenko Julia	Senior Inspector of Police for the Juvenile Department
May Elin Sømhovd	Leader unit for receiving victims of abuse, University hospital in Tromsø
Tilman Olga	Psychologist-consultant, volunteer at the "Hope" Crisis Center.
Zdretsov Aleksandr	Chairman of the Isokogorskiy District Court of Arkhangelsk
Bjørg Irene Østrem	Norasenteret IKS Crisis Centre Kirkenes
Lisbeth Aarvik	Head of Mosjøen Police department

**PFU**

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**DETTE SKJER**

- statssekretær i Finansdepartementet Kjetil Lund er i Japan på det andre møtet i overgangskomiteen for Det grønne klimafondet. Han besøker også Sendai, hovedstaden i det tsunamirammede fylket Miyagi.
- kulturminister Anniken Huitfeldt deltar på «Allsang på grensen» i Halden. Hun vil og få orientering om kulturkommune Halden, besøke Fredrikshalds Teater og Fredriksten festning.
- I Ankara må den tyrkiske regjeringen gjennom en tiltakstøtting i nasjonalforsamlingen.
- I New York skal FNs sikkerhetsråd stemme over en resolusjon om beskyttelse av barn i konfliktområder.

**NETTOPP NÅ**

Avfallservice har fått medhold i å sparke en ansatt som de etter GPS-overvåking mente tok for lange pauser. Bør bedrifter ha lov til å overvåke sine ansatte via GPS?

Ja	25%
Nei	75%
Bryr meg ikke	100%

Hytt spørsmål på [www.nordlys.no](http://www.nordlys.no)

**7.690**

+ 5 nye siste dogn  
Nordlys-lesere er nå registrert som engo-brukere via nordlyspuls.no for å delta i debatten på nettet.



Det her går ikke lengre. Innfartsveien til Tromsø er en av de aller farligste i Norge.



**FOR 20 ÅR SIDEN**

Nordlendingene må ta til takke med det søringene ikke vil ha. Da turoperatørene ikke fikk solgt reiser til Bulgaria, i Sør-Norge, prakket de tilbudet på Nord-Norge. Det gjorde de ved å kansellere alle andre direkteturer til Syden fra landsdelen. For Roy Johansen og flere andre tromsøværinger som besøkte Bulgaria, ble ferien et mareritt.

Nordlys 13. juli 1991

**FOR 50 ÅR SIDEN**

Tromsdalen har også fått sin campingplass. Den ligger på Elvestrand like ved Tromsødalselva, og spør om her er idyll. Heldigvis er skogen bevart, bare det høyest nødvendige er hogd bort. Mellom trærne kan man slå opp sitt telt. Har en ikke telt med seg, så er campinghyttene utmerket å ligge i. Elektrisk strøm skal også legges inn.

Nordlys 13. juli 1961



«Der tiltrængtes et blad som vil være en ærlig talsmann for smaafolks sak»

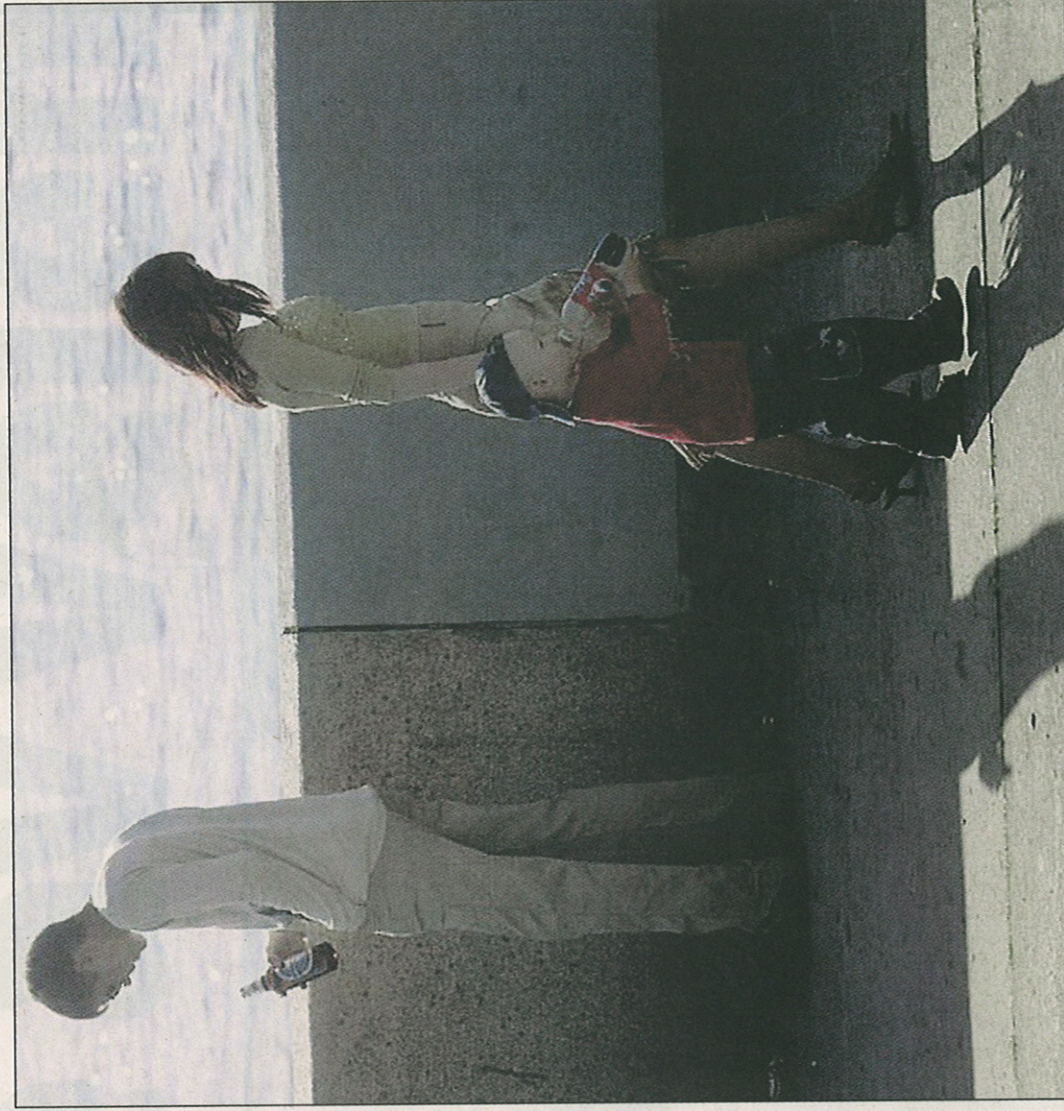
Alfred Eriksen grunnlegger av Nordlys i 1902

**VOLD: Et nylig avsluttet norsk-russisk prosjekt om vold i nære relasjoner viser at det er ulikt syn på problemene i Norge og Russland.**

# Kan man avslå et slag?

**PÅ DEN 3. SIDE**

**Marte Taylor Bye**  
Rådgiver KUN senter for kunnskap og likestilling, Steigen



**RUSSLAND: Familieforsøning er noe russiske krisesenter legger vekt på. Med suksess, mener de, og viser til at skilsmissetallene er gått ned. Men hva når det er vold med i bildet?** Illustrasjonsfoto: Yngve Olsen Sæbøe

Familien står tradisjonelt sterkt i Russland, i mye større grad enn i Norge i dag.

I tillegg ligger det store begrensninger i boligsituasjonen. Det er svært vanskelig å finne ny bolig, slik at par som går fra hverandre kan bo hver for seg. Selv i tilfeller der en voldelig og ofte alkoholisert partner har blitt kastet ut av leiligheten er ofte utfallet over tid at vedkommende flytter inn igjen, i mangel på alternativer.

Situasjonen synes låst så lenge det framstår som tilnærmet uoppnåelig å flytte for seg selv. Ut ifra disse mildt sagt vanskelige forutsetningene kan det kanskje fortone seg som mer hensiktsmessig å jobbe for å få forholdet til å fungere så godt som det lar seg til å bryte ut av forhold.

**Ulikt utgangspunkt**  
På mange områder har Norge et bedre utbygd system enn Russland for å ta tak i vold i nære relasjoner. Med såpass ulikt utgangspunkt kan det fra norsk side være en utfordring å se bjelken i sitt eget øye, så

å si. Samtidig gir nettopp forskjellene mellom de ulike systemene mulighet for interessante diskusjoner.

De russiske krisesentrene merket seg lite gehør for meklings- tankegangen fra norsk side. Finnes det ikke et fungerende system for å fange opp og gå inn i voldsproblematikken på en god måte, er det ikke sikkert meklung er bedre enn ingenting.

I verste fall kan det bidra til å feie problemet lenger inn under teppet enn det var i utgangspunktet. Ut ifra det vi vet om vold og dens skadevirkninger, fortøner en målsetting om å bevare familien seg i denne sammenhengen som sekundær og potensielt skadelig, særlig for barn som lever i vold.

**«Restorative justice»**  
Samtidig kan det hende at man bør være oppmerksom på farene ved et straffesentrert fokus. Også i saker hvor voldsofre har fått medhold, sitter en del av dem igjen med en følelse av tomhet og av at gevinsten av å ha vunnet rettsaken ikke veier opp for belastningen saks-

Ut ifra det vi vet om vold og dens skadevirkninger, fortøner en målsetting om å bevare familien seg i denne sammenhengen som sekundær og potensielt skadelig.



Ut ifra det vi vet om vold og dens skadevirkninger, fortøner en målsetting om å bevare familien seg i denne sammenhengen som sekundær og potensielt skadelig.

gangene har medført. Mange opplever behovet for å bli hørt og for å plassere ansvar for voldshandlingene som sterkere enn behovet for straff. «Restorative justice» er et alternativ som kan være tilfredsstillende både for den som har opplevd og den som har utøvd vold. Det er en dialogbasert prosedyre som er under utprøving, som en del av regjeringens tiltaksplan mot vold i nære relasjoner.

Denne metoden forutsetter at voldsofferet har gitt sitt fulle samtykke, og at den som har utøvd vold innrømmer skyld. Målet er at offer og gjerningsmann gjennom strukturert dialog skal komme fram til en felles avtale om framtiden for forholdet.

**Det er en krevende prosess som fordrer bevissthet om at maktfordelingen mellom partene i slike situasjoner ofte er langt fra balansert.**

Noe av potensialet i «restorative justice» kan ligge i at det gir et utgangspunkt for hvordan de som er berørt kan prøve å komme seg videre. Legger man opp til muligheten for en dialog hvor partene er myndige aktører må man også respektere og anerkjenne muligheten for at par kan bestemme seg for å holde sammen, tross det som har skjedd. Men det må aldri være et krav fra utenomverdenen.



# ERFARINGSUTVEKSLING HJELPER VOLDSUTSATTE KVINNER I RUSSLAND

21. - 25. mars ble JURK invitert på seminar i Arkhangelsk i Russland. JUWOBA - Justice to Women exposed to violence in the Barents Region- er et prosjekt finansiert av Helse- og omsorgsdepartementet og ledet av KUN (Senter for kunnskap og likestilling). Seminaret inngikk i en norsk-russisk erfaringsutveksling med det formål å forsøke og bedre situasjonen for voldsutsatte kvinner i Russland. Deltakere var norske og russiske frivillige organisasjoner, representanter fra rettssystemet, krisesentre og helsevesenet.

Artikkelen er skrevet av Bente Bjørke og Emma Caroline Hermanrud. Både Bente og Emma er saksbehandlere på gjeld-, vold-, og fengselsgruppen og er studenter ved 5. avdeling ved juridiske fakultet ved Universitetet i Oslo. Til høsten vil Bente fungere som nedtrapper da hun har fullført to semestre som saksbehandler, mens Emma fortsetter på sitt andre semester hos JURK. Foto: Marte Taylor Bye.

Under seminaret fikk vi høre innlegg fra både de norske og russiske representantene.

## SITUASJONEN I RUSSLAND

Marte Taylor Bye fra KUN åpnet seminaret med å snakke om den store forskjellen på antall drepte kvinner i Norge og Russland. I 2010 ble 14 000 kvinner drept av en nærstående i Russland, mens det i Norge var 14. Selv når man tar i betraktning antall innbyggere har Russland 35 ganger flere kvinnetrap per år.

Russland har en rekke lover og ordninger som skal hjelpe kvinner utsatt for vold i nære relasjoner, men to store hindringer gjør at systemet ikke fungerer. Voldsutsatte kvinner prioriteres ikke i lokale og nasjonale budsjetter. I tillegg er det et problem at mange i Russland ser på vold i nære relasjoner som et problem som må løses innad i familien.

## ERFARINGER

Under seminaret ble det fokusert mest på forholdene for voldsutsatte kvinner i Arkhangelsk fylke. Blant temaene som ble

berørt var domstolenes behandling av vold i nære relasjoner, politiarbeid, krisesentre og retten til bistandsadvokat. Under seminaret ble det holdt innlegg fra både russisk og norsk side, hvor målet var å utveksle erfaringer, og diskutere eventuelle muligheter for endringer.

I følge den russiske dommeren Galina Katars er ikke vold i nære relasjoner et stort problem i Arkhangelsk fylke. Ved den respektive domstolen ble det behandlet 80 slike saker i 2010, og hun fremhevet at dette ikke er mange, tatt i betraktning at innbyggertallet i Arkhangelsk er 350 000. Fra norsk side ble det fremhevet at i slike saker må man være klar over at det finnes store mørketall. Mange saker om vold i nære relasjoner blir ikke anmeldt, og mange ender også med henleggelse.

Det trekkes også likhetstegn mellom mødrenes kvinnes dårlige oppdragelse og voldelige menn.

En folkevalgt i Arkhangelsk fremhevet viktigheten av å tilrettelegge for det hun kalte "ulykkelige familier". Et eksempel på slik tilrettelegging er at det organiseres romantiske middager for ektepar som sliter med vold, slik at de lærer å ha det hyggelig.

”I 2010 ble 14 000 kvinner drept av en nærstående i Russland, mens det i Norge var 14. Selv når man tar i betraktning antall innbyggere har Russland 35 ganger flere kvinnedrap per år.”



#### FORSKJELLER

Det russiske systemet inneholder en rekke institusjoner som vi ikke finner paralleller til i Norge. Fullmektig for menneskerettigheter og fredsdommere et eksempel på dette. Det russiske konfliktrådet er også oppbygd på en annen måte enn slik vi kjenner det i Norge.

Fullmektig for menneskerettigheter er et statlig organ som skal sikre at menneskerettighetene blir ivaretatt. Selv om det er et statlig organ, er det likevel uavhengig og rapporterer ikke til noen andre statlige organer. Fullmektigen har ikke kompetanse til å ta beslutninger, og kan bare komme med anbefalinger. En fullmektig for men-

neskerettigheter skal bidra til å opplyse om menneskerettighetene, til å perfektionere lovgivning og til å koordinere virksomhet mellom forskjellige etater.

I Russland er ordningen med konfliktråd utstrakt. Konfliktrådet er en tverrfaglig organisasjon som har eksistert i fire år, og er et samarbeid mellom politi, psykologer, dommere og andre. Konfliktrådet driver et utstrakt informasjons- og opplæringsarbeid, i tillegg til mekling og familierådgivning. Det er knapphet på ressurser her, og de er avhengige av støtte fra private og frivillige organisasjoner.

”En folkevalgt i Arkhangelsk fremhevet viktigheten av å tilrettelegge for det hun kalte *ulykkelige familier*. Et eksempel på slik tilrettelegging er at det organiseres romantiske middager for ektepar som sliter med vold, slik at de lærer å ha det hyggelig.”

I Russland finnes det i tillegg såkalte fredsdommere. Dette er domstoler som kan mekle i mindre alvorlige voldssaker. Fredsdommere er de ordinære dommerne, men sakene får en forenklet behandling etter søknad fra fornærmede, uten bruk av politietterforskning. Etterforskningen foretas av fredsdommeren selv. Målet med en slik behandling er at fornærmede og skadevolder skal komme til enighet.

Det russiske strafferettssystemet inneholder ikke offentlig påtale for voldssaker. Politiet kan altså ikke starte en sak uten offerets samtykke, men dersom saken er i gang kan ikke den fornærmede stoppe den. Russland har heller ingen ordning med bistandsadvokat tilsvarende den norske, og det er kun tiltalte som har krav på gratis advokat.

Alle krav om erstatning til volds ofre i Russland må behandles i en sivil retts sak og utbetales av voldsutøver. Dette kan gå

hardt ut over familieøkonomien. I Russland gis det også ofte bøtStraff i saker om vold mot barn. Boten må betales fra familiens budsjett og det er barna som til slutt lider mest av dette.

Det ble i 1991 vedtatt en lov om volds offererstatning, men systemet ble ikke utarbeidet på grunn av mangel på penger. Bestemmelsen eksisterer fortsatt, men per dags dato fungerer denne ordningen ikke i praksis i den grad at det ikke blir innvilget volds offererstatning, med unntak av erstatning til ofre for terrorisme. Dette skyldes mangel på midler.

#### **KRISESENTRER**

Grunnen til at JUWOBA-prosjektet ble startet var at man ønsket å videreutvikle tidligere samarbeid, og se nærmere på og se på institusjonelle aspekter ved tilbudet til voldsutsatte kvinner. Dannelsen av krisesentre i Russland er blitt initiert av frivillige

organisasjoner. Deres grunntanke var at dersom kvinner skal kunne bryte ut av voldelige forhold trenger de et døgnkontinuerlig og uavhengig tilbud.

Krisesentrene er blant de mest vellykkede NGO-ene som har vokst fram i sivilsamfunnet i det nye Russland, forteller Kirsti

midler til å spre informasjon, så all informasjonsspredning forgår via jungeltelegraf. Krisesenteret har kun botilbud for barn, men dagtilbud og telefontjeneste for kvinnene.

Den mest markante forskjellen på russiske og norske krisesentre er at de russiske ikke nødvendigvis har et overnattingstilbud til kvinnene. I tillegg ser man en del strukturelle hindringer og ad hoc løsninger, der sosiale nettverk og personlige relasjoner er viktige. Det er viktig for kvinnene å skape en ny identitet, bedre selvforståelse og økonomisk uavhengighet. Krisesentrene fungerer som kunnskapssentre for arbeidet mot vold i nære relasjoner på samme måte som de gjør i Norge.

## ”Krisesentrene er blant de mest vellykkede NGO-ene som har vokst fram i sivilsamfunnet i det nye Russland.”

Stuvøy. Hun har skrevet doktoravhandling om russiske krisesentre og er en av initiativtakerne til prosjektet. Krisesentrene i Russland er i stor grad bygd opp av utenlandske midler. Når disse faller bort fortsetter de ansatte i mange tilfeller å drive kontoret selv. I enkelte regioner i Russland, som for eksempel Murmansk, har det også etter hvert blitt opprettet kommunale krisesentre, som erstatter tidligere senter drevet av NGO-er.

Det finnes ikke offentlige krisesentre i Arkhangelsk fylke. Det finnes kun krisesentre som er drevet av frivillige organisasjoner, og disse mottar ingen statlig eller kommunal støtte. Krisesenteret har ikke

### ”HUSBRÅK”

En utbredt holdning i den russiske befolkningen er at ”å slå det er å elske”. Politiet klassifiserer ofte vold i hjemmet som ”husbråk”. Holdninger som at kvinnen burde lære mannen sin ikke å drikke, at hun har provosert frem hendelsen, eller at politiet ikke vil registrere saken og at den bør håndteres innad i familien er ofte fremtredende. Mange av disse problemstillingene ser vi fortsatt i Norge. Situasjonen ligner den vi hadde i Norge for noen få tiår siden, men prosjekter som JUWOBA og sterke russiske kvinner som ønsker å endre situasjonen gir grunn til optimisme.



KUN

Senter for kunnskap og likestilling  
N-8286 Nordfold

Kunnskapsparken  
Jakob Weidemannsgate 9  
N-7713 Steinkjer

Telefon 75 77 90 50  
Faks 75 77 90 70

[post@kun.nl.no](mailto:post@kun.nl.no)



Senter for kunnskap  
og likestilling

[www.kun.nl.no](http://www.kun.nl.no)