



## ZOYA ROUHANA

Managing Director, Kafa, Lebanon

### Kafa in Brief...

#### Mission of Kafa

Kafa is a non-profit, non-political, non-confessional civil society organization that seeks to mitigate the causes and results of violence and exploitation of women and children

#### Major areas of focus

Kafa focuses its strategies and efforts on three major areas:

- Gender Based Violence
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Trafficking in Women and Children for sexual exploitation

#### Our Strategies

To achieve the overall goal, Kafa takes up three dynamic and flexible core strategies:



### 1) Supporting Victims

The Listening & Counseling Center (LCC)

A team of specialized social workers, lawyers, psychiatrists, psychotherapists and forensic doctors provides a series of services to women and children victims of violence and exploitation.

Basic principles:

- confidentialit
- empowerment
- support of self-independence.

\*Free social support and counseling

\*Free legal consultation

\*Court representation for special cases

\*Free psychological consultation

\*Psychiatric assessment and psychotherapeutic follow for



special cases

- \*Forensic medical report
- \*Referral to Safe Houses
- \*Helpline Program 7 / 24
- \*Other referral services for specific needs

## **2) On-going training on gender-based violence and child sexual abuse**

on gender-based violence and child sexual abuse

- KAFA is considered as a key resource in Lebanon in training on issues related to GBV and Child Sexual Abuse. Solicited by different actors and organizations, KAFA delivered over the years a large number of training workshops on:
  - Skills of listening, counseling and intervention in cases of GBV
  - Implementing awareness raising tools on GBV,
  - Lebanese Laws and International Human Rights Law.
  - Training on working tools with children in preventing sexual abuse

Targeted groups were:

- Lawyers and judges
- Social workers at MOSA centers & NGOs
- Health care personnel
- School and university personnel
- Students
- Journalists

## **3) On-going awareness raising activities**

Among the other awareness raising tools:

- community sessions,
- Seminars and conferences
- Media campaigns
- TV spots and documentaries.

Thanks to its excellent relationship with local organizations and the social development centers of the Ministry of Social Affairs, KAFA was able to reach a large number of women in all regions in Lebanon, through awareness raising sessions on issues related to gender-based violence and child sexual abuse.

## **4) Raising Awareness / Training Tools**

“Silent Witness Exhibition”

“Silent Witness” campaign in Lebanon is an exhibition of 37 wooden silhouettes of 37 women who were killed in Lebanon as a result of domestic violence or “Honor killings”. Each silhouette represents a woman who was killed by a male relative, sometimes for the mere suspicion of her “bad behaviour”.

They are true stories taken from the files of Lebanese Supreme Court and they record how, when and why the victim was killed.

Since its launch at the UNESCO Palace on 8 March 2006, the exhibition has been moving around to various Lebanese universities, where in each place; the exhibition was accompanied by various activities such as testimonies by survivors of similar crimes, readings of poems and discussion groups This activity aims to sensitize the Lebanese community on Domestic Violence problematic and to reflect the size of this phenomenon and to push forward the criminalization of this violence.

Each group or organization is invited to host this exhibition within its sphere, so that the voice of the silent witness will reach each person in Lebanon and worldwide...

Clothes Line Exhibition:

Permanent display of more than 100 T-Shirts on which women testified about violence against women by decorating/ drawing on T-shirts. Hanged on clotheslines, the T-shirts still circulate in different regions in Lebanon.



### Annual Campaigns

#### “16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence”

For the past three years, KAFA have been taking part in the international campaign “16 days of activism against gender violence”, through organizing different activities, and using different awareness raising tools:

Caravan of the Silent Witness Exhibition

Caravan of the Clothesline Exhibition

The campaign for this year will focus on Legalizing the Protection of Women From Family Violence

### Annual Campaigns - 19 November

World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse “Protecting children from violence: Their right - Our duty” Campaign

November 19, 2006

KAFA launches a campaign jointly with The Higher Council for Childhood-the Ministry Of Social Affairs and World Vision-Lebanon on the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse all over Lebanon.

Thousands of awareness flyers, posters, stickers and pins are distributed to raise awareness on the problem of child abuse in Lebanon.

### Raising Awareness

“Mobilizing civil society against child sexual abuse”



### Awareness tool kit

KAFA produced an awareness kit preventing Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) including posters & Flyers addressed to parents and educators, booklet “security passport” and pins.

### 5) Lobbying and Advocacy activities

KAFA partnered with CRTD.A in “My Nationality is a right for me and my family» campaign.

“Legalizing the Protection Against Family Violence” –June 2006

was the title of a regional meeting that was organized by KAFA and summoned 20 NGO activists from 11 Arab countries, in addition to representatives of national and international NGOs.

The meeting aimed at enhancing the NGO work on the issue, based on the UN Legal Framework issued by the Special Rapporteur on VAW

Since July 2007, Kafa started to work on drafting a Lebanese law to protect women from Family Violence.

A committee was established for this purpose and was formed of:

- 3 Judges
- 2 lawyers
- 1 representative of Internal Security Forces.

Main features of the Law:

- It recognizes various forms of domestic violence: physical, sexual, mental, verbal and economic abuse
- It recognizes marital rape as a crime
- It applies to women and girls within a blood or marital relationship
- It recognizes that a single act of harm or injury gives the victim the right to seek protection;
- It calls for establishing specialized family courts and a specialized family unit in the Internal Security Forces

- It obliges anyone aware of an incident of domestic violence to report it
- It issues a protection order for the abused
- It obliges the perpetrator to provide the plaintiff and her children (if any) with alternative accommodation, or will be forced to leave the current accommodation
- It obliges the perpetrator to pay any and all medical expense

2 roundtables were held:

- NGO roundtable
- Legislators roundtable

KAFA distributed the 2008 CEDAW recommendations over the ministerial committee formed for drafting the Ministerial Statement.

Kafa also sent letters highlighting the importance of legalizing the protection of women and girls from family violence.

**Article 61 of the Ministerial Statement:**

## البيان الوزاري



### ٦١ - شؤون المرأة

ستستمر الحكومة في العمل على تعزيز دور المرأة في الحياة العامة ومشاركتها في المجالات المالية والاقتصادية والاجتماعية والسياسية. كما ستعمل على تنفيذ التعهدات التي التزم بها لبنان والواردة في الاتفاقيات الدولية التي وقعها أو التوصيات التي وافق عليها، ولاسيما اتفاقية القضاء على جميع أشكال التمييز ضد المرأة والتي تتطلب تشريعات وتدابير لتحقيق المساواة بين الرجل والمرأة وللتصدي لكل أشكال العنف ضد المرأة والفتاة. وتؤكد الحكومة ضرورة تفعيل الهيئة الوطنية لشؤون المرأة وإقرارها للقيام بدورها.

#### **Advertising and Media:**

A series of TV spots were produced, in which 2 famous Lebanese actors played

The TV spots will be broadcasted during the 16 days of activism on all Lebanese TV stations

All newspapers, magazines, TV talk shows and others were contacted to dedicate special programs on the Law

#### **Grassroots Activism:**

A Coalition of 20 NGOs was formed to lobby for the law.

The Coalition is drawing out its strategy for intensifying its lobbying action during the parliamentary elections process next spring.

On 25 November, a press conference is going to be held to announce the establishment of the coalition.

- Several activities have been decided for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence:

Art exhibitions, Mini film competition, kiosks in malls and universities...

- A public gathering at the UNESCO palace on the 12 th of December.



### Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation

Trafficking Unit is still drawing its strategy:

In January 2008, KAFA published a shadow report on the issue of trafficking in women in Lebanon. The report was submitted to the

CEDAW Committee during its examination of the Lebanese official periodic report.

In October 2008, Kafa held the first workshop on trafficking of women for sexual exploitation that summoned concerned Lebanese NGOs with the help of the expert Gunilla Ekberg, the Consultant of the Swedish state on trafficking

### Research

In March 2008 KAFA, conducted a study on women killing in Lebanon. The study is considered to be the first of its kind in Lebanon because it adopts the perspective of femicide, thus adding a theoretical value to previous studies on honor killings. The study, entitled “Women Killing in the judicial system in Lebanon”, is based on the analysis of 66 verdicts issued by the Supreme Court in Lebanon (between 1999 and 2007) on crimes of killing executed by the partner and/or relatives of the (women) victims. Through the analysis of the verdicts, the researcher drew, among other conclusions, a map of the crime and its elements, a profile of the perpetrator and the victim, an analysis of the law related to “honor killing” and the position and interpretation presented by the judges during the court proceedings.

KAFA is currently undertaking a research analysis of approximately 1200 Court verdicts issued by two religious courts in Lebanon during the year 2005 - 2006. The aim of the research is to highlight the compliance of these verdicts with the international law and norms. The research is due to be published this month

An action-research was lately conducted by KAFA on the issue of child sexual abuse, “Child Sexual Abuse: The Situation in Lebanon”. A representative sample of 1100 children were interviewed for the purpose of this study and showed that 16.1% of the children were victims of sexual abuse.

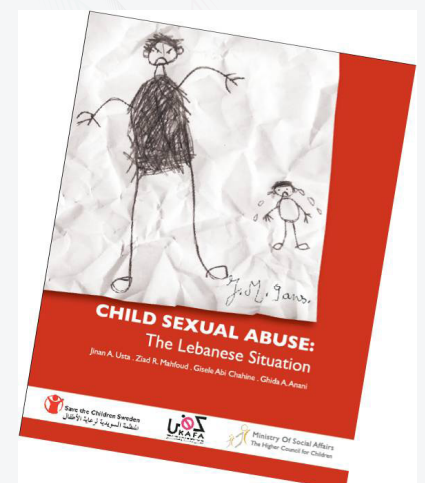
### Lebanese Women for Civil Peace Campaign

#### UN 1325 resolution

KAFA carried out several projects and activities after the July war in 2006 with the aim of preventing the increase of family violence as a pretext of the stress resulting from the war.

over 770 men and women were targeted by the awareness raising sessions  
a TV spot was produced and projected on local TV channels for a period exceeding one month

Billboard posters were produced and spread in 450 points in Lebanon  
1,000,000 (one million) flyers with messages of civil peace were produced and thrown all over Lebanon with the help of the Lebanese Army helicopters.



The flyers were signed under the name of “Lebanese Women for Civil Peace” and had on the following slogans:

- Say “NO” to civil war...
- In war, we are all losers
- Say “NO” to civil war...
- Don't watch in silence
- Say “NO” to civil war...
- We don't have to pay for their differences
- Say “NO” to civil war...
- You can make a difference
- Say “NO” to civil war...
- You too can protect civil peace



This awareness campaign was supported by UNFPA-Lebanon, within the frame of 1325 UNSC related to women and girls' right of protection in situations of armed conflict and the vital role of women in decision making and peace building.

### Campaigns

#### “OU3a Campaign” - Civil society leaves its marks against political impasse

KAFA with other Eleven civil society groups issued a call on Saturday March 3 for Lebanese politicians to «watch out» and citizens to «wake up» in a public demonstration at Beirut's Bechara Khoury intersection. Participants in the «OU3a» campaign gathered in the afternoon near the statue of the former president to leave white handprints on a black wall as an expression of commitment to civil peace and a rejection of political irresponsibility.



#### KAFA relief work during and after July War 2006

KAFA (enough) Violence & Exploitation strived during and after the crisis, to provide relief assistance to thousands of displaced families in Southern Lebanon, Northern Lebanon, Mount Lebanon and Grand Beirut

### Raising Awareness

#### “Lebanon in our Hearts”

#### Trip of War affected Lebanese Children to Cairo- December 24 - 29 , 2006

Under the auspices of Egypt's First Lady Mrs. Susan Mubarak, 231 children ages 8 to 14 years old from war affected villages in Lebanon, traveled to Egypt from December 24 to 26, 2006 in an effort organized by KAFA. This trip was in collaboration with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood in Egypt, and supported by the “Arab Group for Muslim and Christian Dialogue”, the “Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue”, and BBAC Bank in Lebanon.