

**Women Support Centre in the village of Strazhets has a mission to develop policies for woman development and civil initiatives.**

The organization has been established only by women volunteers from the village. In it take part mainly young unemployed women between the ages of 20 and 55 with more than one child. They mainly represent the Roma and Turkish ethnic communities.

In the last three years the Centre focuses its work in strengthening its own capacity and implements programs for protection of women's rights, prevention of domestic violence and provides various services for them and their families.

The Center provides psychological and legal support to women experiencing domestic violence and in 2008 it became a member of a Coalition of NGOs advocating for changes in the National domestic violence law.

**Currently, the organization implemented the project "Better life for disadvantaged women in the village of Strazhets" supported by the Global Fund for Women, USA.** The main objective is to involve local people with useful initiatives to promote women's social disadvantage and single mothers by providing free legal and psychological support - advice, tips, information, training, meetings with representatives of institutions to resolve, important for them social, economic and other issues.

**Eight young women with Roma and Turkish origin worked under employment contacts and offered free consultations and advice to the Roma community in the village of Strazhets.** The organization implemented the project "Roma Consultants, part of the National Program" From Social Assistance to Employment "(2005-2007).

Consultants of the Roma community were providing useful information, advice, assistance by representatives from different ethnic minorities in the village Strazhets and Razgrad. Support for Roma advisors had a positive impact on tackling social exclusion of ethnic minorities in the village.

**Since 2005 The Women Support Centre in the village of Strazhets developed workshop for ethnic jewelleries as a social enterprise.** Interweaving of three religions and cultures in the village, women desire to be useful for themselves and their families is a great opportunity to create a woman work. It will provide income for the families of the women and development of the social enterprise. Its main activity is the production of accessories in style ethno-end consumer market for clothing industry.

The Women Support Centre in the village of Strazhets is registered in the Social Assistance Agency as a provider of social services since 2005 for: "Daily Centre for Adult", "Crisis Centre for Adults", "Personal Assistant" and "Social Assistant", "Centre for social Rehabilitation and Integration" and "Bureau for Social Services". **In October 2009 the registration was renewed in the SAA.**

The organization is registered with decision № 1/15.02.2005g. of Razgrad District Court as a legal entity with non-profit public benefit. It is registered in the Central Registry for profit at the Ministry of Justice under No 20050825008.

The aims of the Association are:

- Equal opportunities for women from the different ethnic groups;
- Protection of women from all forms of violence – home violence, women trafficking, sexual harassment at work;
- Effective social protection of women at disadvantage;
- Practical protection against sex discrimination, violence at home or in public;

- Creating good opportunities for improving the social status of permanently unemployed women from an ethnically compound region with a high unemployment rate;
- Assistance for intellectual, professional, and spiritual development of women at disadvantage;
- Abolishing the existing limitations on the basis of sex, in the sphere education, training and labor;
- Identifying, protecting, and lobbying for elaboration and application of the policy for women at disadvantage;
- Intercession between different national, local institutions and NGOs, and coordinating their efforts on the problems of violence against women;
- Assisting in increasing the role of women in improving the relationship between the police and the ethnic minorities;
- Organizing and leading trainings and information campaigns;
- Supporting the activity of the Association's members and stimulating the growth of charity in Razgrad's region.