



ANNUAL REPORT

2017 Highlights



TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT KAFA	1
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	2
I- FAMILY VIOLENCE UNIT	3
1- Campaigning against early marriage and sexual violence (including Article 522) ...	3
a- Campaign against early marriage	3
b- Campaign against sexual violence (including sexual harassment)	4
c- Lobbying for the full abolishment of Article 522	6
d- Additional activities during the 16-days campaign	8
2- Enhancing the protection of women by amending Law 293	9
3- Training and capacity building for front liners	10
a- Training targeting Internal Security Forces	10
b- Training targeting humanitarian actors working in NGOs	11
c- Educational sessions targeting media students	12
4- Production of awareness and training material	12
a- National perception study with the Internal Security Forces	12
II- WIDENING THE SCOPE OF COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	14
a- Enhancing the capacity of non-GBV specialized local organizations	14
b- Creating volunteer groups	15
c- GBV outreach activities addressing Syrian refugees and host communities	18
1- Series of training workshops of multipliers for outreach	18
2- Drama sessions	18
3- Puppetry sessions	19

4 -Literacy sessions	19
5- Awareness sessions	19
III- SUPPORT CENTERS	21
a- Listening and counseling services	21
b- Group therapy activities for beneficiaries of the support center in Beirut	22
• Art therapy sessions for women	22
• Drama therapy for women	22
• Yoga for women	22
• Dance therapy for women	23
• Support group for women (self-help groups)	23
• Awareness sessions for women	23
c- Children's activities	24
• Self-defense for children	24
• Yoga for children and adolescents	24
• Music therapy for children and adolescents	24
d- Staff's activities	24
• Coaching for KAFA staff in Beirut and the Bekaa	24
• Group therapy for KAFA staff in Beirut and the Bekaa	24
• Individual therapy for staff in Beirut and the Bekaa	25
• Team building activities for staff	25

IV- ANTI-TRAFFICKING UNIT	26
a- Protecting victims of exploitation and trafficking for sexual exploitation and domestic servitude through operating a helpline and a safe shelter	26
b- Awareness and outreach among Migrant Domestic Workers	28
c- Advocacy and lobbying	30
d- Building the capacity of law enforcement officers on sex trafficking	33
 V- CHILD PROTECTION UNIT	 34
a- Overview	34
b- Capacity building	34
c- Safe spaces for adolescents	36
d- Outcome	39
e- Quotes from children and caregivers	41
 VI- REGIONAL ACTIVITIES: MODEL LAW TO PROTECT WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM VIOLENCE IN THE ARAB STATES	 42
a- Background	42
b- Launching the model law to protect women and girls from violence in the Arab countries	43

ABOUT KAFA

KAFA (enough) Violence & Exploitation is a feminist, Lebanese, secular, non-profit, non-governmental civil organization seeking to create a society that is free of social, economic and legal patriarchal structures that discriminate against women.

KAFA has been aiming to eliminate all forms of exploitation and violence against women since its establishment in 2005. It seeks to realize substantive gender equality through the adoption of a combination of different approaches, such as:

Advocacy for law reform and introduction of new laws and policies; altering public opinion, practices and mentality; conducting research and training; and empowering women and children victims of violence.

Our focus areas are: Family violence; exploitation and trafficking in women, especially in migrant domestic workers and women in prostitution; child protection, particularly from family violence and sexual abuse.

KAFA (enough) Violence & Exploitation

P.O.Box: 116-5042 Beirut, Lebanon

Tel/Fax: +961-1-392220/1

www.kafa.org.lb

www.facebook.com/KAFA.lb

www.twitter.com/KAFA_lebanon

www.youtube.com/KAFAlebanon

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

While KAFA continues to move forward in its long march towards eradicating discrimination against women and realizing their human rights, its team cannot but express its gratitude to all individuals, groups, organizations, the media, that encouraged our organization's mission and activities throughout 2017, in addition to all those providing moral or financial support to KAFA's efforts to eradicate all forms of gender-based violence and exploitation of women and children.

KAFA takes this opportunity to extend its thanks to the public and private institutions for cooperating with KAFA in achieving noticeable progress in the promotion of legal reforms and change in policies, in addition to influencing public opinion and the adoption of relevant laws and their enforcement. It also extends its thanks to the funding agencies for providing the financial support needed to help in the protection of women and children from violence, abuse, and exploitation, namely: UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, OCHA, Anti-Slavery International, International Federation of Red Cross, Norwegian People's Aid, Kvinna Till Kvinna, UN Trust Fund, Amica e.V, Christian Aid, Global Fund for Women, , Oxfam, European Endowment for Democracy, Hivos, and Open Society Institute.

KAFA's appreciation goes to all civil society actors who partnered with KAFA, and to the media for their partnership in providing wide coverage of KAFA's advocacy and awareness-raising activities and for courageously denouncing violence and abuse against women and children.

KAFA also thanks all its local partners, stakeholders, and recipients for their participation in the planning, monitoring, and implementation of all program activities, bringing their valuable contributions to the success of the different projects.

Finally, KAFA's gratitude goes to all women who approached KAFA's Support Centers for their courage in facing the masculine powers that tried to oppress them, and for their trust in us, sharing their agonies, fears and concerns, and relying on our support to help them escape the violent situations they passed through. We promise that we will do our best not to let them down, inspite of all the obstacles and constraints that we might face and that are imposed on us by the patriarchal system we live in.

I- FAMILY VIOLENCE UNIT

1- Campaigning against early marriage and sexual violence (including Article 522)

In 2017, three draft laws focusing on criminalizing sexual harassment, rape (notably Article 522) and the prohibition of early marriage were brought into public and parliamentary discussions. So it was crucial for KAFA to continue its lobbying activities on early marriage, and to start new ones and launch media campaigns on sexual violence.

a- Campaign against early marriage:

KAFA drafted a law to forbid child marriage and started to advocate for this law with several members of parliament (MPs). It later joined a coalition that was formed to lobby for abolishing child marriage. With that aim, and the support of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), KAFA launched a media campaign entitled:

“Wedding or Funeral?”



The campaign emphasized the idea that marrying off a young girl is like burying her dreams, her ambitions, and possibly her life.

By shedding light on the harm inflicted on a young girl, KAFA aimed to continue building public opinion against child marriage and supportive of proposed legislation setting the minimum marriage age at 18. The slogan “Raise the Age” was used in this campaign, and as a hashtag accompanying the #WeddingOrFuneral hashtag on social media. Social media were one of the main channels used to disseminate the campaign’s components, the video and the visual, which many individuals and initiatives shared. We recorded a large number of mentions of the campaign on “Girls Not Brides” social media accounts.

- The video was watched some 80,000 times on Facebook and YouTube, and the visual’s reach hit about 130,000 times, and was shared over 300 times on Facebook.
- Local TV stations included the video in their news reports, and the campaign as a whole was documented and mentioned in 20 articles or reports in different media outlets during July 2017.

The visual was posted on 850 billboards during one week, five big format unipoles during one month, and 20 LED screens during a two-weeks period.

b- Campaign against sexual violence (including sexual harassment)

In October 2017, KAFA joined the international #MeToo initiative to encourage women and girls to share their stories as a cyber-action and to report or file complains on sexual violence criminalized in Lebanon’s penal code.

The campaign was upgraded during the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. It aimed at raising public awareness on sexual harassment on the one hand, and highlighting the difference between sexual harassment, sexual assault and rape on the other. It also aimed at supporting the passage of a draft law criminalizing sexual harassment presented to parliament by the Minister of State for Women’s Affairs.

During the 16-days campaign, several posters were produced using the hashtag #ThisIsAlsoASexualViolence and posted on KAFA’s Facebook page, with Zalfa (animated character representing KAFA) explaining the different forms of sexual violence to which women are exposed - sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape, marital rape, marriage of minors and prostitution:

تحرش على الانترنت
تطيش - مطاردة

التحرش الجنسي:
هو أي كلمة أو فعل فيه إهزاء جنسي بينتلك خصوصيتك وبحسبك بالإهانة والتهديد. العلة مش فيكي، العلة انو ما في قانون بيحميكي!

تعري - صور جنسية
ابتزاز جنسي
هيدا_كمان_عنف_جنسي



إذا مهددي

الإعتداء الجنسي:
التحرش بصير إعتداء جنسي لما بتحصل ملامسة جسدية بالقوة أو التهيب أو الابتزاز. تذكر، الإعتداء الجنسي مش غلطتك.

ما تترددي
هيدا_كمان_عنف_جنسي



إرشادات السلامة في حال التعرض للإغتصاب:

- توجهي إلى مكان آمن.
- إذا يذك ثلغي عن الجريمة، اتصلي بالشرطة فوراً. التبليغ ممكن يساعدك حتى تستعدي البعض من حس السيطرة على النفس.
- اتصلي بشخص يتوفا في فيه ليكون معك ويعطيك الدعم اللازم.
- توجهي إلى أقرب طوارئ أو عيادة خاصة لتخضعي لفحص طبي. الفحص الطبي أساسي لسلامتك وضروري للحصول على الأدلة المادية لإثبات تعرضك للإغتصاب.
- احتفظي بالأدلة المادية ودولي تفاصيل الحادثة ومواصفات المعتدي لتدعيم قضية الإذعاء في حال قررتي التبليغ.
- في حال حاجتك للاستشارة، بإمكانك دائماً الاتصال بكفى من دون الإفصاح عن هويتك والاستفادة من الدعم النفسي والمعنوي والقانوني.

هيدا_كمان_عنف_جنسي



الإغتصاب الزوجي:
الموافقة شرط العلاقة الجنسية حتى لو كانت بينك وبين زوجك. القانون ما بيعترف بالإغتصاب الزوجي، بس الإغتصاب جريمة لو مين ما ارتكبها!

جريمة
لو مين ما ارتكبها
هيدا_كمان_عنف_جنسي



الدعارة:
الدعارة مش مهنة. الدعارة عنف واستغلال للنساء وانتهاك لحقوقهن وأمانهن الشخصي وكرامتهن الانسانية. الهوى ما بينشرى. كافحوا الدعارة!

الهوى
ما بينشرى
هيدا_كمان_عنف_جنسي



تزويج القاصرات:
بالقانون ما فيها القاصر تسوق، ولا فيها تشتغل، ولا فيها تمضي باسمها، بس ... فيها تتزوج! جازة أو جنازة؟ إحموا الطفلات من التزويج المبكر وأقروا السن الأدنى للزواج بـ ١٨ سنة.

جازة أو جنازة؟
هيدا_كمان_عنف_جنسي



The campaign was launched on November 24, 2017 in partnership with a key TV station the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation International (LBCI), with an animated video broadcast during the news.

In December 2017, the campaign was enhanced by another media campaign launched in partnership with the Ministry of State for Women's Affairs and the National Commission for Lebanese Woman aimed at supporting the bill to criminalize sexual harassment:



Components of the media campaign included:

- Outdoors (775 panels)
- Social media (all platforms)
- TV Commercials and animated posts

c- Lobbying for the total abolishment of Article 522:

On August 16 2017, Lebanon's parliament? voted to "repeal" Article 522 which exempted from punishment the offender of crimes established under Articles 503 to 521 related to sexual assaults if a marriage contract was concluded with the victim. During February 2017, Parliament's Administration and Justice Committee concluded that Article 522 would be abolished while maintaining its impact in Article 505 on sexual intercourse with minors, and Article 518 on "taking away a woman's virginity by promising her marriage," be she an adult or a minor. Parliament voted on the proposal as amended by the aforementioned committee.

MPs were aware of the dangerous amendments to Articles 505 and 518, which KAFA repeatedly raised, asking them to deal with the adjustments so that the abolition is complete and worthy to be named a real achievement, not another bargain at the expense of women's and girls' rights.

Therefore, KAFA reiterated its rejection of any compromise involving the rights of women and girls and any consecration of a minor's marriage under the Lebanese Penal Law. What occurred was an incomplete step that reflects continued neglect of a woman's dignity and reaffirms the acceptance of giving girls out to marriage and to forced marriages.

Accordingly, KAFA continued its lobbying activities for the full abolishment of Article 522, coordinated with the Minister of State for Women's Affairs (MSWA), with the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW), and other MPs to present another draft law ensuring the full abolishment of any exemption of punishment to any perpetrator of sexual violence.

The lobbying efforts were enhanced by a media campaign launched in partnership with NCLW and the MSWA demanding the full abolishment of Article 522 from the penal code (namely from Articles 505 and 518 which still maintained the impact of 522). In parallel a draft law was submitted to Parliament by MPs Gilberte Zouain, Alain Aoun and Nabil Nicolas.

The campaign consisted of:

- TV Commercials
- An outdoor campaign (20 unipoles, 3 big LED screens and 2 mobile trucks)
- Online campaign

Reporting Ends	Placement	Campaign Name	Result Indicator	Results	Reach	Impressions
2017-12-06	Instagram	Kafa - Stories Ad	actions:link_click	3954	149630	377887
2017-12-06	Instagram	Kafa - Video views - Instagram	actions:video_view	22912	71179	100866
2017-12-06	Facebook	Kafa - Daily Engagement	actions:post_engagement	12019	93311	236319
2017-12-06	Facebook	Kafa - Video views	actions:video_view	228283	310257	502439
2017-12-06	Google	KAFA Google Display	actions:link_clicks	4363	290,712	465,067
			Total	271531	915089	1682578



As a result of this media campaign, the videos and visuals were produced and disseminated via local media channels, movie theaters, outdoor panels, and on KAFA's social media platforms. Media anchors from various TV stations wore the white ribbon in support of the 16-days campaign. More people engaged with KAFA on social media, and there was a marked increase in press calls on the topic of child marriage, Article 522 and sexual violence.

d- Additional activities during the 16-days campaign:

As in previous years, the Internal Security Forces participated in KAFA's 16-days campaign against gender-based violence at 80 pit stops, where 11 senior officers and 220 ISF officers took part in distributing 40,000 informational flyers on their duties and responsibilities in dealing with cases of family violence, according to Law 293.



2- Enhancing the protection of women by amending Law 293

Law 293, – The Law to Protect Women and All Family Members from Family Violence was passed by Parliament in April 2014, with many distortions to the original text that KAFA had drafted. Although this law had an obvious impact on the situation of family violence in Lebanon, it still proved to be problematic for many judges. So KAFA and the Justice Ministry prepared draft amendments that were based on the conclusions of a roundtable held with a number of judges charged with implementing the law. The suggested amendments included:

- Amending Article 2 of Law 293 to specify that “the family includes either member of the couple, while married or up to a year after divorce.”
- Clarifying the definition of domestic violence to specify that domestic violence is “any action, lack of action or threat of either that reflects the misuse of power within the family through the use of physical strength or other [means].”
- Removing the condition that a protection order issued by the judiciary for a woman only covers her children if they are within the legal custody age based on the personal status law.

These amendments were launched at an event organized by the Ministry of Justice on April 7, 2017, in partnership with KAFA, where the Minister of Justice, the Minister of State for Women’s Affairs, and the Minister of State for Human Rights announced their adoption of the proposal.





On August 3, Lebanese President Michel Aoun presented to the cabinet the proposed amendment which was approved unanimously.

However, the draft amendment was not transmitted to the Parliament until this report was written and remains in the drawers of the Council of Ministers.

3- Training and capacity building for front liners

a- Training targeting ISF officers

In partnership with the Internal Security Forces, and as in previous years, KAFA continued to conduct a series of trainings addressing police officers at the ISF academy in Aramoun:

- Nine workshops conducted from April to October 2017, facilitated by ISF trainers, using the GBV/family violence curriculum, targeting 135 ISF officers on how to respond to cases of family violence.
- One training of trainers (TOT) workshop targeting second group of five ISF trainers was conducted in September 2017.



TOT targeting ISF officers

b- Training targeting humanitarian actors on early marriage

Eight workshops were conducted in five regions (the north, the south, the Bekaa, Mount Lebanon and Beirut) aimed at increasing awareness and knowledge on family violence issues, notably the legal and social contexts of early marriage, among humanitarian actors working in the field. They targeted 174 humanitarian actors from more than 30 organizations working in the field with direct contact with vulnerable people and women/girls, victims/survivors, or at risk of GVB. The sessions enabled them to provide advice and support to any woman/girl at risk, or victim of family violence they might meet during their work.



Training on early marriage targeting a group of humanitarian actors

c- Educational sessions targeting media students on family violence (Law 293/2014)

Four educational sessions were conducted targeting 59 media students at different universities in Lebanon – the American University of Beirut (AUB), the Lebanese American University (LAU) at the Beirut and Byblos campuses, and Notre Dame University (NDU) aimed at enhancing their knowledge on how to cover family violence and how to communicate with women at risk or victims/survivors of family violence. The sessions also focused on providing them with the best techniques to use in this context, with general guidelines for coverage of related stories on family violence. The sessions were facilitated by a specialist from KAFA using the "Media Guide" on how to cover family violence produced with UNFPA support in 2016.

4- Production of awareness and training material

a- National perception study with the ISF

In partnership with the ISF, a "National Perception Study" was conducted by IPSOS to evaluate a series of workshops KAFA conducted at the ISF academy since 2012, during which 1,235 police officer trainees were enrolled until the end of 2017. Specifically, the study aimed to cover the level of knowledge trained police officers had about Law 293/2014, their role and measures they should take at all levels of intervention.

The research methodology included a quantitative and qualitative approach through Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI), to question 150 ISF officers as well as visits to police stations, and focus groups sessions with victims of family violence. As for the qualitative approach, IPSOS held 3 sessions with KAFA's beneficiaries to know about their experience with the ISF, and measure the effectiveness of the ISF response to their call.

The training assessment showed almost all respondents found the related training conducted by KAFA in partnership with the ISF useful. The majority said the material received after the training was practical, and that the training had provided them with all the required information on the best ways to deal with reported cases of domestic violence.

The study concluded that the training created awareness about priorities and knowledge in cases of domestic violence reported to the ISF. However, it recommended reinforcement in specific areas such as how to rank the most important information to be collected from a caller and what is permissible for them when an incident takes place.

II- Widening the scope of community knowledge of GBV and outreach activities

a- Enhancing the capacity of non-GBV specialized local organizations

Mapping and needs assessment for non-GBV specialized local organizations and their programs and initiatives

Initially, online mapping was conducted to create a list of non-GBV NGOs in four areas in Lebanon: Burj Hammoud, Akkar, Bekaa, and Sarafand/south. Municipalities were visited to ask about active NGOs in various regions and obtain contact information on women functioning.

A questionnaire was conducted with the mapped NGOs to assess their level of community engagement, the number of people benefiting from their services, the nationalities benefiting from their services, the services they are providing and their level of interest in GBV topics.

Based on the mapping and questionnaire's results, active NGOs that targeted a large number of beneficiaries from different nationalities and that showed interest in working on gender-based violence were contacted for capacity building about GBV-related topics. The NGOs were provided with:

- **Capacity development workshops for non-GBV specialized organizations on gender mainstreaming:**

The purpose was to provide a capacity development program on Gender mainstreaming as well as GBV

- **Specialized capacity development training for targeted women's organizations:**

The trainings covered two topics: GBV definitions, causes and consequences, types and forms, and Advocacy & Campaigning. Each group attended two trainings covering the two mentioned topics

- **Supporting interventions of non-GBV specialized organizations:**

The project aimed to build the capacity of non-GBV organizations and support them in implementing intervention programs.

- **Refurnishing and equipping of selected centers' structures to become women friendly**

The project supported 6 organizations who participated in the project activities by providing specific furniture and/or office equipment needed for their centers.



b- Creating volunteer groups

Over the past few years, KAFA has received through its website and email hundreds of supporters wishing to join as volunteers. Five groups of volunteers were created in 2017: two in Beirut and Tripoli, and three at the Lebanese University's Faculty of Law, AUB and LAU.

In 2017 the first three groups were trained on three topics:

1. Gender-based violence
2. International and national legal context
3. Advocacy and campaigning

The total number of trainees was 59. They gained increased knowledge and improvement of skills of youth on GBV, particularly family violence such as early marriage and issues related to personal status laws in Lebanon, and advocacy. They were also able to create supportive local networks in different Lebanese regions.



Volunteer feedback

Ranim Chaya is a second-year psychology student at LAU who participated in KAFA's training. She has written to us with her feedback.

"I always considered myself a feminist, but I was very unaware of the degree and variety of oppression that women face, especially in Lebanon. I had very little knowledge about gender-based violence, and even some misconceptions. During the training, we were first introduced to the concept of violence, and then GBV in particular. I was fascinated by how little I really understood about violence, because in my mind, violence was mostly physical. However, I learned that neglect and restriction of freedom, among other abuse tactics, are most certainly acts of violence. I learned about the cycle of abuse and how violence is transmitted and enabled through generations, and how many of us may contribute to this violence by being silent witnesses and bystanders to it. I even realized that many incidents in my own life that happened to me or even that I carried out, were essentially violent.

I also learned about how the legal system is very patriarchal and destructive to women, and how many women suffer because of this, even though in my privileged social circle, we mostly do not suffer those effects and so it is easy for us to underestimate them or even think they're not there.

After this training, I feel that I am a much more well-rounded person, and I feel so much more passionate about GBV-related activism. My long-term plan is to become a clinical psychologist, and I now plan to specialize in trauma-related therapy in order to help women and children who have been abused, neglected, or otherwise oppressed. Until then, and especially after the advocacy training, I have been trying to be much more active when it comes to GBV; I am mostly doing this now by volunteering with KAFA and going to protests. Before working with KAFA, I had never gone to a single protest because the idea made me anxious and I felt helpless about making any change. But since my training, I have gone to at least four protests/demonstrations. On a smaller scale, the training has sparked my curiosity about GBV so I continuously read articles and books about gender, oppression, abuse, and related issues in order to build my knowledge. I also

actively partake in discussions about GBV and I am knowledgeable and confident enough to challenge mistaken assumptions such as, "She could leave if she wanted to" or "She must have done something to provoke him" with concrete, fact-based arguments. Overall, I feel I am a different person now, and I hope to continue to change in this way--and I hope other people get the chance to experience this training so they can change the way I did."



c- GBV outreach activities addressing Syrian refugees and host communities

• Series of workshops of multipliers for outreach

A group of 14 men and women from the Syrian refugee community were identified by KAFA's field coordinator to participate in a series of workshops for outreach multipliers. They were selected for their willingness and capacity to contribute to KAFA's outreach efforts within Syrian gatherings. Whether they had related academic or professional backgrounds or not, these outreach multipliers were rather interested and motivated to spread KAFA's message about GBV prevention and response among their peers. The training was designed to build the multipliers' capacities on various GBV-related topics such as types of GBV, safe identification and referral of Sexual Gender Based Violence cases, early child marriage and trafficking, Law 293 and KAFA's services. There were 16 training sessions given for this group of multipliers. Moreover, the training focused on building the multipliers' capacities in communication skills to enable them to convey the messages in the best way during their sessions in the field. Further to the training, the multipliers conducted 160 outreach sessions in Syrian gatherings targeting 2,154 men and women aiming at increasing awareness about the topics that were tackled during the training. The outreach sessions were implemented under the supervision of KAFA's field coordinator to make sure that they stay in line with KAFA's vision and up to KAFA's standards. In addition, the same multipliers volunteered to organize and give six additional awareness raising sessions in their respective communities reaching a total of 35 women.

• Drama sessions

KAFA implemented a series of six drama therapy sessions for five groups of participants, reaching a total of 56 participants. The groups were split by ages (8 to 12 years and 13 to 17 years). Of the total 56 beneficiaries, there were 38 male and 92 female participants. Ninety-one participants were Syrian Refugee and 39 were from a host community.

Sixty percent of the participants were pre-existing GBV cases in KAFA's support center, 15% were identified as potential GBV cases referred by KAFA's field coordinator participants following visits to the camps and safe identification and referral of potential GBV cases, 17% were referred from KAFA's other activities (Citadel of Protection and adolescent-friendly space activities), and 8% were referred from other NGOs.

• **Puppetry sessions**

Puppetry is a form of healing art for children as well as for adults whereby the participants learn to create characters in a form of puppets and develop their storytelling capacities that allow them to express themselves more easily and freely. 2 groups of girls from the Syrian communities in the Bekaa area were recruited for this activity. The groups were formed according to the disaggregation by age group (8-12 years old for the 1st group and 13-17 years old for the 2nd group) and by the recruitment strategy. In fact, the 1st group included 12 girls who were potential GBV cases or actual GBV cases referred by the field coordinator further to several outreach activities and visits to the camps. The 2nd group included 12 adolescents who were GBV cases beneficiaries of KAFA's Support Center referred by KAFA's cases worker. Each group of female girls and adolescents benefitted from 6 puppetry sessions.

Esraa, a 16 years old girl, is one KAFA's beneficiaries who participated to the Puppetry activity. At the end of the sessions, Esraa stated that she liked the activity very much and that it helped her reflect what is inside her in a new and unique way. She also stated that she was happy to meet girls from her own age with whom she was able to share and to interact throughout the duration of the activity. She also expressed her love for the trainer and her aspiration to become like her in the future.

• **Literacy sessions**

In this activity, KAFA implemented a series of 36 sessions for four different groups of female participants from the Syrian refugee community from Informal Tented Settlements. The selection criteria focused on those with a low level of education, identified through a literacy test. Overall, 60 participants aged 15 to 60 benefited from the literacy sessions.

• **Awareness sessions**

Women from the Syrian refugee community living in Informal Tented Settlements (ITS) or residential areas were targeted, as they were already vulnerable in terms of their risk of experiencing GBV, along with usually being financially unstable, and suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). A hundred and eighty-four awareness-raising sessions were provided to 1,286 women from the Syrian refugees living in ITSs. Most of the gatherings included either a series of interactive sessions about the "Arab Women Speaking Out" toolkit developed by International Rescue Committee or another series of interactive groupings about the "Citadel of Protection" toolkit developed by KAFA's Child Protection Unit. Topics tackled

during these sessions included gender and sex, self-esteem, the ability to decide, negotiation skills, a social support network and dealing with disclosure. Beneficiaries showed remarkable progress, notably in the fields of negotiation skills and gender issues. Participants also started addressing issues that were very intimate and secretive to them, which affected the group dynamics in a very positive way. Moreover, other information sessions were also conducted to groups of women in Lebanon's Syrian refugee camps that focused on topics related to several types of GBV, KAFA's services like case management and parenting skills. The latter topic was selected according to the need identified through previous experience in field work. Participants were therefore able to identify GBV-related behavioral patterns, how to prevent and respond to GBV, how to refer a case to KAFA, and what KAFA can offer to a GBV case. Parents also acquired increased awareness on how to improve and strengthen their relationships with their children.

Additionally, 18 awareness-raising sessions were conducted for 350 women from the Syrian refugee community focusing on KAFA's services, Law 293 and marriage and birth registration. These topics were selected following results of a baseline survey carried out in Syrian ITS showing lack of knowledge of an existing law that protects women residing in Lebanon from GBV regardless of their nationalities, including Syrian refugee women. Moreover, based on the experience of the Bekaa Support Center, with cases from the Syrian refugee communities, we noticed that there is further need for marriage and birth registration. Non-registration of marriages and births in the Syrian refugee context was hindering progress of legal procedures to obtain protection order, divorce, custody or alimony.

III-SUPPORT CENTERS

a- Listening and counseling services:

The number of cases of abused women and children who sought help at KAFA's Support Centers (SC) in Beirut and the Bekaa continued to increase in 2017. The number of new cases received by the social workers rose by 18% from 2016, while the number of calls received by the call center increased by 32%.

From January 2017 to December 2017, the support centers in Beirut and the Bekaa provided listening and counseling services to 1,077 **new** cases of women and children victims of violence. Of the new cases, 280 women were received by the Bekaa Support Center, 125 Lebanese, 146 Syrian and 9 from other nationalities. The continued increase in the number of cases benefiting from SC services reflects the huge need that exists in a radical patriarchal society. Besides, during 2017, the legal team at KAFA's SC were able to help 43 women to get protection orders from the courts.

New cases	1,077
Cases (psychological support)	280
Sessions (psychological support)	2,795
Cases (legal consultations)	633
Sessions (legal consultations)	1,083
Court representations	67
Forensic sectors' reports	75
Referrals to shelters	29
Protection orders issued with KAFA's follow-up	43
Number of calls	6,381

The support centers are considered the backbone of KAFA's work. KAFA's policies and lobbying activities are all based on facts and findings derived from the suffering of women. The centers follow an empowerment approach by providing beneficiaries with skills to face, confront and overcome their situations. They also aim to empower women to become advocates for, and activists in, the struggle to counter violence and discrimination against women.

The Call Center was established in 2015 to play the role of an emergency unit that ensures a professional, quick and organized response for survivors, by following up with Internal Security Forces and ensuring an adequate response to incidents of violence. The Call Center also follows up on crimes committed against women in family violence cases.

b- Group therapy activities for beneficiaries of the support center in Beirut

• Art therapy sessions for women

Twelve sessions per group for two groups; with eight participants in total. As a result of the homogeneous dynamic of the teams, participants felt safe and very close to each other. Each participant had the space to express her traumas, repressed feelings, and difficulties through the arts (drawing and paintings). Friendship was naturally created in the groups. A beneficiary was kind enough to bring a cake to celebrate the end of the session.

• Drama therapy for women

Twelve sessions for 10 beneficiaries in total: Simulations of critical life situations performed by beneficiaries allowed them to observe their painful feelings with discernment. It helped them release pent up emotions, feel better and more empowered to face similar situations.

• Yoga for women

Twelve sessions per group for two groups, with 15 participants in total, which included exercises for stress relief, calming distressed minds meditations, breathing techniques and physical postures.

- **Dance therapy for women**

Ten sessions per group for two groups for 15 participants in total: Beneficiaries learned how to be comfortable with their environment, the space around them, the relation to the other, and to surrounding objects. They gained the essence of what protects a human being from outside aggressiveness: a strong core, coupled with the joy of dance, of being oneself, for oneself.

- **Support group for women (self-help groups)**

A total of 33 sessions were provided for 30 women divided into three groups in Beirut and the Bekaa.

The self-help is a psychosocial support activity that provides awareness, support and empowerment to women. The sessions provided participants with very strong psychological support, increased their self-esteem and self-worth, and contributed to renewed enthusiasm about life. The women also made friends with other women with a similar past and psychological background. One of the beneficiaries quoted: “We were feeling broken, we have learned to get up on our feet when we fall. We are feeling sad that the sessions have come to an end and we surely want to have more sessions like these. Some have found work, others want to continue studying.”

These sessions were accompanied by animation provided to the beneficiaries’ children to facilitate their participation in the group support activities.

- **Awareness sessions for women**

As case workers and psychotherapists noticed a lack of information among women on how to deal with their children in a proper way, fourteen sessions for 20 participants in total were given on “parental guidance”. The participants requested further similar sessions because they felt a change in their attitudes towards their children on a daily basis. They also gained skills and tools to deal with their children.

c- Children's activities

The following activities were provided for children who were either direct beneficiaries of the support center, or the children of the women beneficiaries at the support center.

- **Self-defense for children**

Four sessions for 22 beneficiaries in total: No sustainable results were recorded because UNICEF funds were abruptly cut. Children and adolescents were eager to continue and started to develop a discipline for this activity until fund dried up.

- **Yoga for children and adolescents**

Twelve sessions per group for two groups, for 19 participants in total, which resulted in the improvement of physical comfort and strength, improvement of their internal metabolism, and improvement in their mental well-being

- **Music therapy for children and adolescents**

Twelve sessions per group for two groups, for 14 participants in total, which resulted in an improved self-image, a stronger personality and confidence, improved ability for creativity and imagination, and increased ability to express oneself.

d- Staff's activities

- **Coaching for KAFA staff in Beirut and the Bekaa**

In order to enhance the capacity of the team of social workers at the support centers, 18 coaching sessions were provided by experienced senior psychotherapists, which resulted in improved knowledge on GBV and SGBV-related issues and improved response to deal with beneficiaries with special cases.

- **Group therapy for KAFA staff in Beirut and the Bekaa**

Thirty-one sessions in total were provided for the support center's staff and resulted in improved skills for sustainable self-preservation and improved well-being. The sessions constructed a healthy team dynamic: "I have improved skills and now I am more aware about how to deal with the stress and be more in control with my mind and body. A case worker at KAFA's Amara Shelter said: *The groups we did helped me to get connected and get closer to my colleagues which is important to improve our work and share our experiences together.*"

- **Individual therapy for staff in Beirut and the Bekaa**

A safe space was created to freely express work-related stresses which helped the staff find a balance between job responsibilities and well-being, as well as plan and implement daily self-care activities, self-pacing at work, and improve interpersonal communication. One of the SC case workers mentioned: *“I sometimes feel affected by my cases, especially the heavy ones. I was deeply affected by one case I was working with before I started taking my individual therapy sessions. I was thinking a lot about that lady, especially at home. I couldn’t separate work from my personal life. When KAFA offered these therapy sessions, I was directly ready to enroll. These sessions made me able to follow up with my cases with greater motivation and enthusiasm for work as I was regaining my mental health. I learned that my self care is the core of caring for others without having my mental state affected. I worked with the therapist on a professional, but also on a personal, level which increased my motivation and enthusiasm for work. I was also able to transfer my experience to the beneficiaries I’m following up on during the social counseling sessions.”*

- **Team building activities for staff**

Two team building activities were implemented for all staff in 2017 which helped in reconstructing a healthy team dynamic and better connection among the team and contributed to changing each staff member’s attitude towards herself, colleagues, and work in general.

IV- ANTI-TRAFFICKING UNIT

The Anti-Trafficking Unit at KAFA focuses on combatting the exploitation of women migrant domestic workers (MDWs) in Lebanon and women in prostitution. The Unit works towards establishing a better legal and social protection for victims and survivors. Several approaches are deployed by the Unit to reach these objectives such as advocacy, capacity building, raising awareness, outreach, and service provision.

a- Protecting victims of exploitation and trafficking for sexual exploitation and domestic servitude through operating a helpline and a safe shelter

Through 2017, the Anti-Trafficking Unit was able to assist 238 individuals from different nationalities who called its helpline. Callers were mainly MDWs or people/institutions calling on their behalf, asking for protection and/or for legal information or consultation.

Sixty-six of the cases received by the Unit were transferred to KAFA's safe shelter for victims of trafficking and exploitation. Those victims were Lebanese, Syrians, Iraqis, Palestinians, Filipinas, Bangladeshis, Nepalis, Ghanaians, Kenyans, Cameroonians, and Ethiopians, and all received the following services:

- Extensive social follow-up
- Legal follow-up and legal representation when needed
- Psychiatric treatment and psychological follow-up
- Medical follow-up
- Capacity building trainings, awareness activities, and handcrafts workshops.

Migrant domestic workers' countries of origin's embassies and consulates play a key role in protecting their citizens in Lebanon. On May 23, the Anti-Trafficking Unit held a reception for embassies and consulates at KAFA's shelter aimed at introducing the shelter, its services, its activities, and MDWs' challenges in getting proper support and accessing justice in Lebanon. Seven diplomatic representatives came to the reception, including from the embassies of Bangladesh, The Philippines, Sri Lanka, and the consulates of Kenya, and Ghana.



Handicrafts activities at KAFA's shelter - 2017

b- Awareness and outreach among MDWs

The Anti-Trafficking Unit at KAFA continued its outreach work in 2017 with several MDWs community members, and co-organized, with the support of International Federation of Red Cross, (IFRC) five events with five African communities: Cameroon, Madagascar, Senegal, Nigeria, and Ghana.

The Anti-Trafficking Unit produced three pre-departure videos for domestic workers coming to Lebanon from Cameroon, Senegal, and Bangladesh, also with the support of IFRC. The 12-minute videos aim to provide basic information for potential workers on the recruitment process, ways to avoid abuse at that stage, culture in Lebanon, and the rights and obligations that await them in the country. The videos also offer workers information about service providers should they face abuse in Lebanon.

The videos “Working in Lebanon, what you need to know” are available on KAFA YouTube’s page:

- *For Bangladesh:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1kVtCcje5A>
- *For Senegal:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6uZx8iihpw>
- *For Cameroon:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLroGtH0KyM>



Picnic with Ghanian and Nigerian domestic workers – Chouf, September 2017

Additionally, and in cooperation with Anti-Slavery International and the International Labour Organization, the Anti-Trafficking Unit implemented a series of awareness and capacity building actions for Bangladeshi workers; specifically, six ToT sessions, and a series of awareness sessions reaching over 350 Bangladeshi MDWs. The purpose was to build the knowledge of participants on issues related to body integrity: Pregnancy and contraception; safe and unsafe abortion; Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and AIDS; Violence against women and MDWs; MDWs' rights; and a rescue plan for workers who are victims of abuse. Beneficiaries got a list of service providers (i.e. social, medical, and legal) with their contact information during the sessions.



Awareness for Bangladeshi MDWs, 2017, KAFA offices

c- Advocacy and lobbying

The Anti-Trafficking Unit conducted a photography project with a number of MDWs that resulted in a short video of demands they had about their rights. Pictures taken of women from Senegal, Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria and Madagascar holding a specific demand were used in a one-minute video posted on KAFA's Facebook page. The message at the end of the video was addressed to Lebanese authorities and the general public and stated: *"The demands are many, but the solution is one: A law that protects domestic workers and monitors their recruitment."*



Nine months after its release, the video had been seen more than 114,000 times and triggered countless debates in the comments section. The video can be found on KAFA's YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJGw509Yjbg> or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kafa.lb/videos/10155668251899337/>

Alongside these awareness raising efforts, the Anti-Trafficking Unit held four public seminars at Beirut Arab University and the Lebanese University targeting over 60 students mainly from law faculties. Additionally, three public sessions were held with the local municipalities of Jbeil (Byblos), Jeita and Zahrani targeting 32 employers of MDWs with the aim of raising their awareness on the rights of MDWs and ways to resolve conflicts.



Seminar with employers – Byblos 2017

For the 7th year, the Anti-Trafficking Unit co-organized the Labor Day March led by the Alliance of Migrant Domestic Workers and several other local NGOs. The march took place on Sunday March 30. Some 200 participants showed up to support the MDWs. At the final meeting point, Beirut's Raouche neighborhood, a stage was installed, and food and drinks were distributed to the participants. Protesters held three minutes of silence for those who lost their lives in Lebanon and read a statement in Arabic, French and English with the main demands addressed to the government.

The workers held up signs of several demands on providing protection for MDWs, ratifying C189 (Domestic Workers Convention), including MDWs in the labor law, holding abusive employers and abusive recruitment agencies accountable, guaranteeing the right of MDWs to organize and unionize, conducting proper investigations in the deaths of MDWs, and halting state violence against MDWs.



d- Building the capacity of law enforcement officers on sex trafficking

In cooperation with the UNHCR (UN Refugee Council), and for the third year in a row, the Anti-Trafficking Unit at KAFA conducted capacity building training on sex trafficking for law enforcement officers. The workshops' purpose was to build officers' knowledge of the anti-trafficking legal framework and to train them on investigative techniques based on victim-centered and human rights approaches. During 2017, KAFA delivered nine workshops targeting 30 ISF and 83 General Security personnel. KAFA also implemented sessions targeting 43 NGO members, which aimed at raising awareness on sex trafficking, its causes, and its impact on victims.



V- CHILD PROTECTION UNIT

a- Overview

The Child Protection Program (CPP) works on combating violence against children and adolescents, with a focus on gender-based violence and sexual abuse. By working on the protection and empowerment of children, the CPP is participating in the creation of a safer future free of gender-based violence and discrimination. The CPP action plan seeks to improve prevention and protection measures for children and adolescents, by reaching out to different target groups, namely children, adolescents, caregivers, and service providers, while always applying a child participatory approach and combining different tools and strategies, such as:

- Increasing societal awareness by producing tools, knowledge, research and campaigns, and developing informational and educational material for various target groups;
- Capacity building for service providers in the public and private sectors;
- Advocating for better legislation for the protection of children from violence and abuse, and creating child-friendly policies and spaces in state institutions;
- Working on children's, adolescents' and caregivers' practices, behaviors and attitudes;
- Offering legal, social, and psychological support to children and adolescents survivors of gender-based violence, family violence and sexual abuse.

b- Capacity building

With the goal of creating sustainable response mechanisms in targeted communities, KAFA is committed to continue in capitalizing its role and expertise in child protection and prevention of GBV and bridge the huge gap resulting from the absence of reliable service providers. KAFA continued to support Civil Society Organization workforce in contact with children, and enhance the capacity of the governmental institutions to provide quality response services for children at high risk through training sessions on a nationally developed tool, the "Citadel of Protection" toolkit (CoP).

The (CoP) toolkit is a child/adolescent friendly and culturally appropriate education material on GBV that was developed by KAFA in partnership with UNICEF in 2013. This toolkit contains three activities guides: one for caregivers, one for

children aged between 8 and 12 and one for children aged between 13 and 17, as well as supporting materials such as board games and posters. The toolkit aims to provide vulnerable children and adolescents affected by the Syrian crisis with appropriate information, skills, and tools to enable them to protect themselves from GBV including early marriage and sex trafficking.

Four training sessions on the “Citadel of Protection” toolkit were given to 80 service providers in four coverage areas (Akkar/Tripoli, the Bekaa, South, and Beirut/Mount Lebanon) in which they demonstrated increased knowledge of GBV prevention and child protection risk mitigation.



The International Rescue Committee, in partnership with UNICEF, established the Caring for Child Survivors (CCS) initiative, which focuses on developing user-friendly and field-tested guidelines and tools for health and psychosocial staff working with child survivors of sexual abuse in humanitarian settings. Service providers got tools and resources that featured how to provide care to child survivors, and built the capacity of service providers working with children and families affected by sexual abuse.

Four training sessions were provided to 80 case managers on “Caring for Child Survivors of Sexual Violence” with guidelines in four coverage areas (Akkar/Tripoli, the Bekaa, the South, and Beirut/Mount Lebanon), in which the trained institutional actors demonstrated increased knowledge on case management with children survivors of sexual violence.



c- Safe spaces for adolescents

Sexual and gender-based violence remains one of the main protection concerns affecting Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian children. However, disclosing incidents of sexual and gender-based violence remains extremely challenging for several reasons, including widespread acceptance of violence, fear of retaliation, religious beliefs, or belief that no one can help. After six years of working on response mechanisms with people affected by the Syrian crisis, psychosocial support services continue to be the main entry point for disclosing Sexual and Gender Based Violence incidents. This is further supported by data collected through the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) being implemented in Lebanon, which shows that one in three survivors seeks help after more than a month of ongoing participation in psychosocial activities and community-based programs.

KAFA has been working since 2014 on strengthening the resilience of vulnerable boys and girls by increasing their awareness on Gender Based Violence/Child Protection. With the aim of creating a sustainable mechanism, KAFA has since 2016 been working through a community-based approach to:

- Engage different community groups (women, men, adolescents, and children) in reducing vulnerabilities of boys, girls, and caregivers, mainly through peer education and safety identification and referral mechanisms.
- Engage different community groups (women, men, adolescents and children) in identifying risks that women and girls are facing, or at risk of facing in their communities and being a part of the risk mitigation.

KAFA continues to provide activities on GBV and child protection risk mitigation through its safe spaces which aim at strengthening resilience to SGBV and building their confidence and capacities. These safe spaces include:

- An adolescent-friendly space in Chtaura
- Twenty-one informal settlements and households in the central and western Bekaa
- Three SDCs in the Bekaa: Kab Elias, Jeb Janine and Marj
- Two SDCs in Beirut/Mount Lebanon: Hay El Selloum and Borj El Barajneh

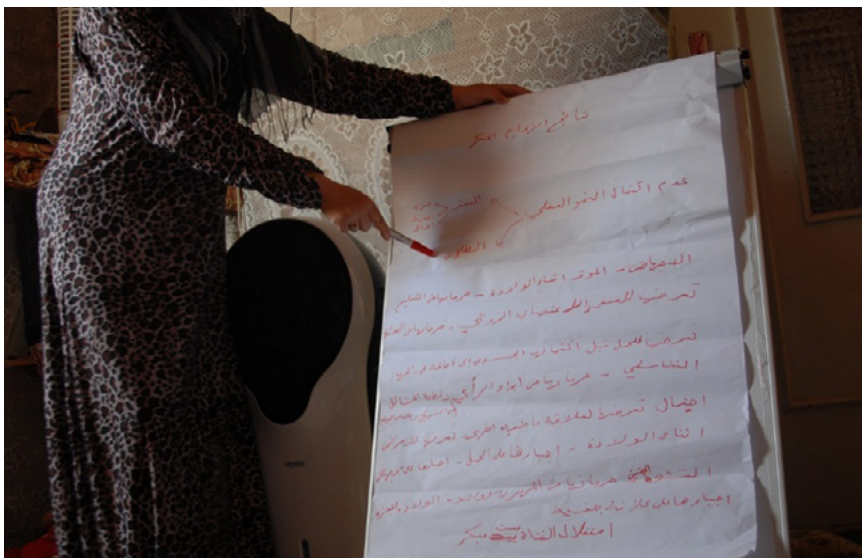


Awareness session based on the Citadel of Protection toolkit

The following activities were provided to children, adolescents and caregivers:

1. Sensitization sessions on Child Protection risks and GBV prevention.
2. Focused psychosocial support sessions including yoga, self-defense, puppetry, singing and theater.
3. Structured psychosocial support sessions based on the “Citadel of Protection” toolkit.
4. Emotional support groups for women, men and adolescent girls.

- a. Workshops on safe identification and referral
- b. Peer-to-peer trainings



6. Literacy courses
7. English courses
8. Case management to children survivors of violence
9. Art therapy sessions



38



Child Friendly Room in Hay El Selloum

Moreover, The SDCs were equipped with a child-friendly room for case management with children survivors of violence.

d- Outcome

Mount Lebanon (Hay El Selloum and Borj El Barajneh) SDCs:

Two hundred and sixty-five boys and girls accessed Child Protection and focused psychosocial support programs.

Five hundred and fifty-six boys and girls demonstrated increased knowledge, behaviors and practices towards GBV prevention.

A hundred and ninety-two women demonstrated increased knowledge, behaviors and practices towards GBV prevention.

A thousand three hundred and forty individuals were sensitized to CP/GBV issues.

Beirut (KAFA Support Center):

Sixty-nine boys and girls accessed CP and focused psychosocial support programs.

Twenty-nine boys and girls demonstrated increased knowledge, behaviors and practices towards GBV prevention.

Forty-five women demonstrated increased knowledge, behaviors and practices towards GBV prevention.

Ninety-six individuals were sensitized to CP/GBV issues.

The Bekaa, adolescents-friendly space and outreach (21 informal settlements and households in the western and central Bekaa):

A thousand nine hundred and ninety-four boys and girls accessed CP and focused psychosocial support programs.

Two thousand three hundred and ninety-three women and girls accessed mobile and static safe spaces.

Four thousand and five boys, girls and caregivers demonstrated increased knowledge, behaviors and practices towards GBV prevention.

A hundred and seventy-six men were engaged in activities on GBV prevention.

Eleven thousand four hundred and ninety individuals were sensitized on to CP/GBV issues.

Interventions in schools:

Five groups in 2017, four groups started in 2016 and finished in 2017: KAFA implemented a series of 12 sessions for nine groups of participants, reaching a total of 130 people. These groups were separated by age (8- to 12-year-olds, and 13- to 17-year-olds). Of the 130 beneficiaries 38 were males and 92 were females, 91 were Syrian refugees and 39 were from host communities.

The participants were recruited following visits to local schools in the Bekaa region. Students were a key target for this activity, as KAFA's Child Protection Unit (CPU), funded by UNICEF has a wide reach across the Informal Tented Settlements (ITS) in the Bekaa. But due to funding regulations, it is not permitted to implement CoP activities in schools, which means students are vulnerable to GBV and SGBV risks. This project was a good opportunity to extend to Syrian refugees and the host community, who otherwise may not have benefited from this service.

- o Twenty-one males – aged 8 to 12 (Syrian)*
- o Twenty-two females – aged 8 to 12 (Syrian)*
- o Forty-eight females – aged 13 to 17 (Syrian)*
- o Twenty-two females – aged 13 to 17 (Lebanese)*
- o Seventeen males -aged 13 to 17 (Lebanese)*

e- Quotes from children and caregivers:

“Girls and boys have the same rights, no one is better than the other.”

“We can answer all children’s questions especially the ones related to their sexual development, it’s better to have the right answers from us than getting incorrect ones from the others.”

“I know now to whom I should report or tell if I get exposed to any kind of abuse.”

“I know now that there is a specific law that can protect any woman who is exposed to domestic violence.”

“Providing new communities COP activities increased our self-confidence and self-esteem.”

“The fact of being responsible for coordinating with other women in the Informal Settlements helped me gain more self-confidence.”

Yoga instructor: “Many participants lacked self-confidence, it was evident in how they bent their backs, lowered their heads and other body postures. As the sessions evolved, they could straighten up and be more at ease and vibrant, showing self-confidence and strength.”

You can check more detailed success stories of the Protection Committees who that were able to stop many early marriages on the following link:

<https://kafa.exposure.co/>

VI- Regional activities: Model law on violence against women and girls in the Arab States

a- Background:

In December 2016, a meeting entitled: “*Laws Protecting Women from Violence in the Arab Region*,” was held in Beirut grouping feminist and rights-based organizations and human rights defenders from 12 Arab countries. It was aimed at discussing whether current legal mechanisms provide women with adequate protection given the rising and worrying phenomenon of violence that has been gaining ground over the past few years in several countries as a result of bloody wars and the increase in religious and extremist movements seeking to impose their grip on more than one region.

Conference participants discussed the laws and mechanisms tackling the protection of women against violence in Arab countries, namely the criminal and personal status laws or specific laws aimed at combating domestic violence. They highlighted the great need for enhancing the legal frameworks and protection mechanisms. One of the recommendations was to prepare a draft model law on combating violence against women.

As of the beginning of 2017, KAFA started to prepare a draft model law. It formed a legal committee of three experts: Judge John Azzi, Dr. Abdou Ghsoub and Maître Leila Awada from KAFA, who were asked to review existing legislation in Arab countries, draft a new law based on best practices and international treaties and conventions, while taking the Istanbul Convention on Violence against Women as a main reference. The draft was swiftly sent to a group of 13 legal experts from 11 Arab countries to examine for review before coming to a meeting held in Beirut on June 15, 16, and 17, 2017.

Over a period of three days, the experts discussed in details all the draft law’s articles until they hammered out the final version.

b- Regional meeting on December 7, 8, and 9, 2017

Fourteen Arab countries were represented by 22 women and human rights NGOs at the meeting aimed at getting the draft model law validated by all organizations that took part in the 2016 meeting, i.e. those whose members recommended preparing such a regional model decree.

After three days of discussion, the Model Law to Fight Violence Against Women and Girls in the Arab Countries was endorsed by all the participants, and was launched on December 9th, 2017 in a ceremony under the auspices of the Lebanese Minister of Justice, and attended by the Lebanese General Prosecutor, the head of the National Commission for Lebanese Women, member of parliament, representatives of the European Union mission in Lebanon, the General Director of the Internal Security Forces, representatives of United Nations and international agencies, and NGOs.



Participants in the regional meeting of December 2017