



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

ABOUT US

ABOUT KAFA

KAFA (enough) Violence & Exploitation is a feminist, secular, Lebanese, non-profit, non-governmental civil society 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 gender-based violence and exploitation 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; influencing public opinion, practices and mentality; conducting research and training; empowering women and children victims of violence; and providing them with social, legal, and psychological support.

OUR VISION

KAFA envisions a society where all its citizens live free from violence and exploitation, where they have equal access to opportunities and results and their human rights are respected, protected, and enjoyed. Violence against women can never be justified and we are convinced that women's and children's rights are integral to the achievement not only of building a free and fair society, but also to enhance economic productivity and human capital formation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The road to equal rights is a long and painful journey, one filled with bumps and obstacles to overcome. Kafa's story has been a great success throughout the years; one essentially due to the generous support of donors, partners and every individual who contributed in achieving the organization's goals.

Our funders, namely: UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNDP, 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; are the essential cornerstone of KAFA's success and the reason for its wider outreach.

KAFA's outreach wouldn't have been nearly as effective without the groups and organizations that helped spread our gospel, be it our civil society partners or media entities. These partners work on raising awareness around the many issues we advocate for and teach the masses about them.

The support of partners and stakeholders has also enabled Kafa's yearly social events calendar to see the light.

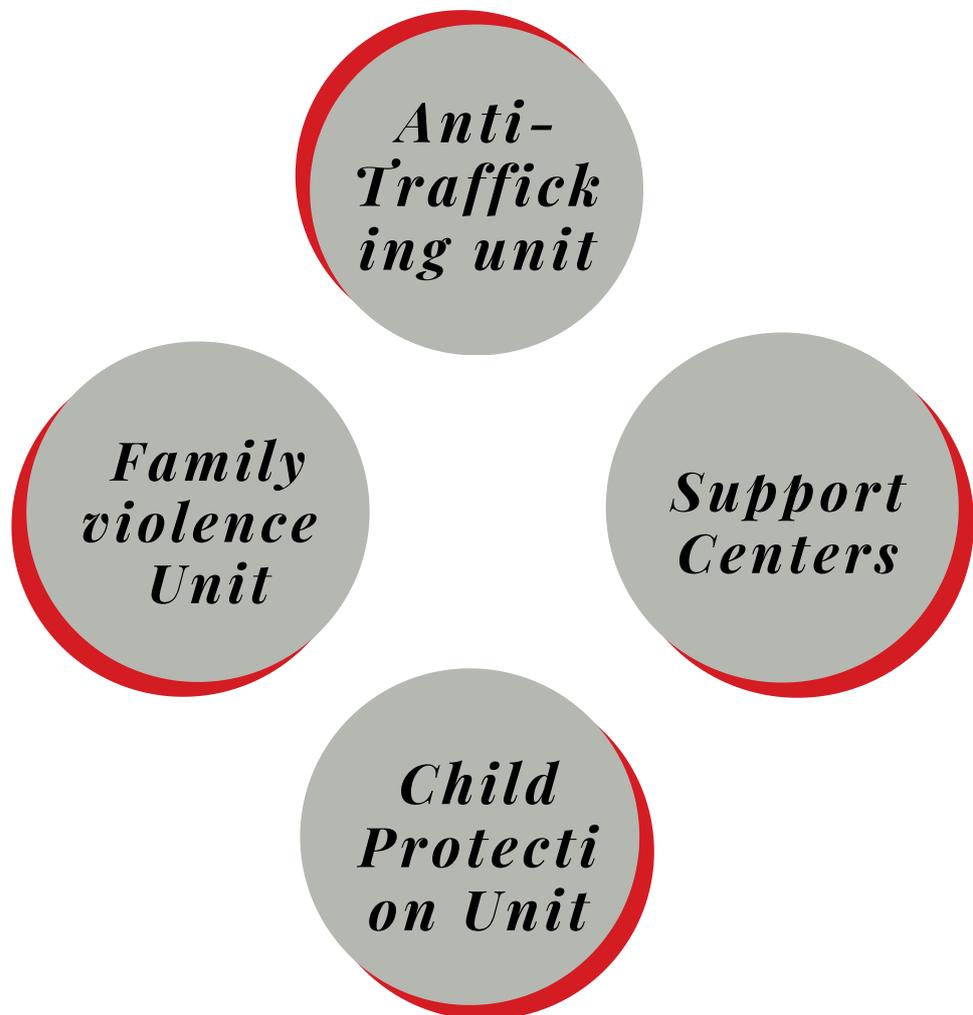
KAFA's main goal will always be to protect women in Lebanon, no matter their nationality, background, race or socioeconomic statuses. All women are subject to violence by laws who don't protect them, and KAFA's lifelong mission will always be to advocate for their freedom and ensure they are granted their rights. This is why we whole-heartedly thank these women for the trust they put in us to help them share their stories and make their voices heard.

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

KAFA is divided into four principal departments: the Child Protection Unit, the Family Violence Unit, the Anti-Trafficking Unit and the Support Centers. Each of the latter operates semi-autonomously, with activities coordinated and supervised by KAFA's director and core team.

Every department has a specific focus area, but they all work towards the same goal: to improve the lives of women who fall into these categories.

The departments operate a wide range of activities, namely: service provision, capacity-building, awareness-raising, research, and advocacy; embodying Kafa's theory of change in each of the areas of action.



FAMILY VIOLENCE UNIT

What we do.

The family violence unit's main focus is advocacy. We work hard on changing the governmental policies that discriminate against women in Lebanon. The main objective is to improve current laws or propose new laws. KAFA continues to work on several projects such as the amendment of law 293 and the internal security forces trainings on family violence cases. In addition to working on issuing a unified status law, since KAFA believes the existence of this law will contribute immensely in preserving women's rights. In addition to our activities that shed light on discrimination against women in the current laws.

Advocacy campaign for the passage of a Unified Personal Status law

Despite the ability of Law 293 to ensure protection of women from family violence, the latter is only granted temporary basis, providing short-term safety measures from danger women might be facing. Eventually, victims have to revert back to the religious courts for final verdicts on their cases. In Lebanon, family related cases are handled by religious courts, and the laws by which these courts abide all discriminate against women and keep them subordinate in many ways compared to men. Hence why KAFA decided to launch its own campaign for a Unified Civil Personal Status Law. The aim was to equate people in duties and rights and manage their lives fairly without discrimination, respect the interests of children, citizens of the future. More globally speaking, the law would contribute in helping citizen's integration instead of their secular fragmentation over the 18 religious sects, creating violence and hatred between them. This integration would be a source of richness, diversity and vitality; as all are equal before the same law and different in their spiritual, religious and intellectual affiliations.

• **Drafting the final version of the CPSL**

After the 1st version of the CPSL was drafted by legal researcher Maître Marie Roze Zalzal at the end of 2018, a legal committee was formed in early 2019. This committee comprised of two judges, lawyers from KAFA and other lawyers affiliated to different political parties; and was tasked with studying the draft version. After holding several sessions, the committee concluded the final version of the draft law. The proposed CPSL would apply to all Lebanese and non-Lebanese citizens who reside within Lebanon. All children would automatically have a right to inherit the Lebanese citizenship from their father or their mother. The legal age for marriage for both men and women would be 18 years of age. The custody of each child shall be joint between each spouse for the duration of the couples' married life and shall continue after any material separation, regardless of the reason. It is worth noting that two political parties (PSP and Kataeb party) announced their support to the CPSL.

Activities around the CPSL:

• Public Hearing:

In March of 2019, Kafa chose to celebrate Mother's Day by symbolically gathering in front of the Lebanese parliament and raising a voice with slogans illustrating the sufferings of mothers in Lebanon caused by the sectarian Personal Status law, and the way women are treated by the religious courts. The gathering was held on March the 23rd, at the Nejme Square in Beirut. Elham, Latifa, Pauline, Doha, Walaa and Ghada among many other mothers, stood firmly and proceeded to tell their painful stories, highlighting what the Personal Status law in Lebanon have made them go through. The gathering included an unprecedented number of women standing outside the parliament or sending voice messages remotely to talk about their suffering and demand their rights, which are guaranteed by the constitution. Some of these women's stories included being forcibly married as minors, others were prevented from seeing their children or even convicted of "disobedience" because they sought refuge at shelters. It is worth noting that these cases have already been tackled by Sunni, Shiite, Christian and Druze religious courts, whose laws are similar in discriminating against women.



Despite their anxiety and anguish, these women stood with loud and confident voices, crossing social and psychological barriers, and spoke up, demanding their rights to live: “I want a law that allows me to live”, said a woman whose children were taken away from her because she refused to handle her husband’s unrelenting abuse.

Another woman spoke about her son’s ‘repressed happiness’ when he saw her in court after a long absence and was unable to express how happy he was.

One of the participants described how she was finally able to take a glimpse of her son from behind a classroom’s door. Her husband, backed by the law, had forbidden her to see him, and even went as far as to demand that her son’s school prevent her from entering the premises.

The women concluded their testimonies by collectively stating: “We want a unified law on Personal Status that respects our rights and our children’s rights; a law that would make us all equal and end injustice against us.



Kafa's participation in Lebanon's October uprising.

KAFA had aimed to officially launch the draft of the Civil Personal Status law at the Bar Syndicate; but the event was canceled due to the uprising that the country witnessed in October of 2019.

Even if the official launch of the draft law was cancelled, many outreach activities were still conducted in the main revolution squares across the country.

- One of the citizens' vital demands throughout the Lebanese popular uprising was the endorsement of a Unified Civil Personal Status law.

Consequently, KAFA created a network formed by different groups across Lebanon and conducted a number of community-based awareness raising sessions on the Unified Personal Status law. These aimed at opening the debate publicly and at sensitizing the public at large on the benefits of this new law that would guarantee citizens are treated equally and their freedom is respected. These public discussion sessions aimed to create supportive networks and to lobby for the adoption of the draft Civil Personal Status law by the general public, which is essential to move towards the endorsement of the Civil Personal Status law in Lebanon.

A series of community-based awareness raising sessions on the Unified Civil Personal Status law were conducted and targeted more than 170 men and women.

The first one took place in Downtown, center of the protests in Beirut.



The second session was held in Jal el Dib.



The last one was conducted in Riyadh el Solh (Azariyeh) and in partnership with Daraj, an online media platform. In this session, women shared the stories they experienced with religious courts and the Unified Personal Status law was displayed.



Link to video:

<https://bit.ly/2RAengO>

Production of communication material illustrating both the demands related to women's rights during the uprising and the unfair reality they have to face.

- Three short videos were produced for the 16 days of activism campaign, highlighting the contrast between women's maturity, activism and demands during the October 17 uprising vs their actual situation.

<https://rb.gy/7iurgz>

<https://rb.gy/axpqom>

<https://rb.gy/g5p2s4>

- A mixed media video was also produced. The narrative tells the story of a mother whose child was taken away from her because of unfair child custody laws. While telling her own story, the mother also hints at other stories from people in the neighborhood who have experienced sexual and gender-based violence. The aim of this video was to highlight one of the many reasons that pushed people to take the streets on October 17 and raise their voices asking for equality, for a new Unified and fair Personal Status law.

Watch the video on the following link:

<https://rb.gy/qtceum>

Working on developing a draft law to criminalize all forms of violence against women and girls.

Another area of concern for KAFA was the fact that not all forms of violence against women were criminalized by the Lebanese law. Inspired by the Model Law that was drafted in 2018 by 28 women and human rights organizations from 14 Arab countries*, and that offers women and girls protection from violence in the Arab region, KAFA resolved to having a local version and lobby for its endorsement by the Lebanese Parliament.

A legal committee was formed in the beginning of 2019 in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, the ISF and NCLW.

The committee was formed by 5 Judges nominated by the ministry of Justice, one ISF representative, four members of the legal committee at NCLW and three lawyers from KAFA.

Taking the regional model law as reference, this committee's task was to draft a civil law that would eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

The legal committee conducted four meetings overall. But the judges' strike that lasted over a period of one month, along with the October uprising, hindered the possibility to hold meetings and pursue the work.

* Check the following link for more info about the regional model law: <https://www.kafa.org.lb/ar/node/129>

Activities around LAW 293/2014

Advocacy Campaign to amend the law 293

The Domestic Violence Law, which was passed on April 1, 2014, contained several loopholes that prevented its effective implementation. Some judges have relied for years on their own efforts to cover gaps in the laws and protect women, victims of violence. Three and a half years after the law was passed, Kafa worked on an analytical study about the laws put together by the judges; which led to the conclusion that the law needed to be amended.

The suggested amendments were based on practical experience in applying the law, which was accumulated by both the judges concerned and by Kafa's follow-up of the files of women who came forward and asked for help.

The suggested amendments were based on practical experiences in law application. These were collected from the judges concerned and from KAFA's case files on women who came forward asking for help.

A special committee composed of Kafa members in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice drafted a proposal to amend the law. The most prominent amendments to Law 293 are as follows:

- Redefining the meaning of family in the law to include the spouses even after their separation, because separation does not prevent the abuser from continuing with the abuse.
- Redefining family violence to also reflect the use of power within the family through physical or other forms of force.
- Compulsory rehabilitation sessions are mandatory in the protection law.
- Activating the mechanism of implementing protection decisions so that implementation becomes through the public prosecution.
- Including children in the protection law, regardless of their age at custody.

In addition to the above, a proposal to amend the Women Protection Law was submitted by ten parliamentarians to the parliament at the end of 2018.

On the 10th of January 2019, the submitted amended draft to amend Law 293 was listed on the agenda of the joint parliamentary committee – article number 9. A sub-committee was formed to study the proposed law and the amended draft was finalized in September of 2019.

The next step in this process would require being listed on the agenda of the joint committee in order to be referred to the general assembly for a final voting.

Activities related to the Implementation of Law 293

Partnership with ISF



- In partnership with the ISF and operating on a customized curriculum and a training video, KAFA conducted a TOT and a training day targeting municipal police at the ISF academy.

- Three 5-day trainings targeting 45 ISF officers have been conducted at the ISF academy between the 29th of July and the 2nd of August, 2019.

These were also carried out during the month of November on the following dates: 4th-8th/ 11th-15th/ 22nd-29th.

- A joint committee has been formed between the ISF and KAFA with the aim of updating the existing software on reported family violence cases and developing the 1745 software. The outcome of the conducted meetings resulted in completion of the software.

- Equipping the 1745 emergency unit: the 1745 emergency unit has been equipped with computers and a central.

.A field trip was conducted by an assigned expert to draft the implementation plan aiming at equipping the unit with a new and efficient central based on their needs. The central was delivered to the ISF HQ on the 30th of December, 2019.

Collecting/analyzing protection orders

Because of the loopholes in Law 293, the beliefs of the judges (and hence the judicial formations) have an important part to play in the protection of women and children against violence.

Therefore, after each judicial formation, and until the amendments to Law 293 are approved by the parliament, workers in the field of protecting women from domestic violence will need to think of the following questions:

What will be the impact of these formations on the application of Law 293?

Will the new judges adopt the same path as their predecessors, particularly in filling the gaps in Law 293?

Will the trust built between women and the judiciary system remain unchanged or will it be shaken?

Kafa was able to obtain 380 protection orders out of 391 issued by the judges in urgent matters during the years 2018 and 2019. Data was collected and analyzed in a report in order to determine what the general features of these decisions are and how it includes comprehensive protection and responds to the requests of victims regardless of the fear and caution they express.

<https://www.kafa.org.lb/ar/node/419>

SUPPORT CENTER

What we do.

KAFA's Support Centers (SC) available in Beirut and the Bekaa, provide women, whether they are victims or survivors of GBV, with a wide range of services such as psycho social support, legal consultations, court representations, referral to temporary safe-housing, forensic medical reports and an emergency 24/7 support line. All these services are essential in helping women affected by domestic violence and abuse feel empowered, overcome the consequences of the abuse, and rebuild and regain control of their lives. We engage with and empower women to overcome abuse and to move forward with their lives. All our services are provided in a safe environment ensuring confidentiality to the victims, where the latter can share their experiences and express their feelings with specialized therapists. In addition to the services and activities provided to the beneficiaries, the support center also organizes staff-care activities for the team that is constantly in contact with victims/ survivors. These are aimed at relieving work-generated stress and improve productivity in the workplace.

The support center in Badaro has organized many activities for disadvantaged women:



1. English language learning sessions:

Divided into two groups, women of different nationalities were offered 48 sessions to work on strengthening both their written and spoken language through social interaction.

2. Crocheting:

12 sessions were conducted for a group of 14 women from different nationalities. At the end of the sessions, participants had gained a new skill: the techniques of crochet. This was intended to help them start businesses and make an additional revenue. Two of the participants were called for a remunerated work from home job.

3. Craft Sessions and Drama Therapy.

It comprised of 12 sessions for a group of 12 women of different nationalities. The main objective of this activity was to enable the ladies to express themselves and their daily issues, through theater and through choosing the shape of the puppet that would represent them. A play/puppet show was prepared and presented by the participants at the end of the sessions.

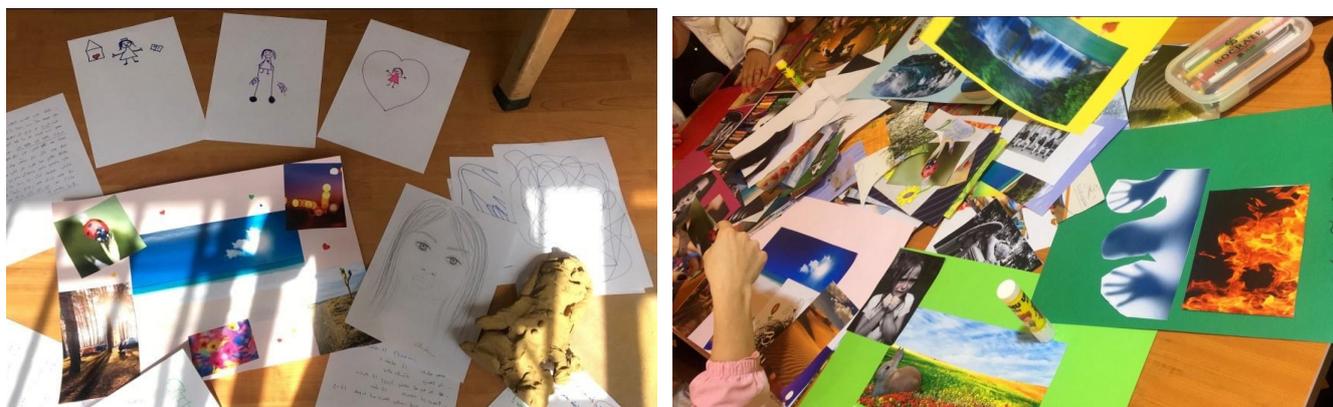
4. Legal awareness sessions:

Lebanese and Syrian women were invited to 4 sessions aimed at providing legal awareness about laws, especially Law 293 and the other laws that KAFA is working on, in addition to a general introduction about gender-based violence.

5. Art therapy:

Women of different nationalities were divided into two groups. The activity comprised of 8 sessions per group. The aim of this activity were to discover oneself, reconstruct their identity from the shattered pieces of themselves, and develop self-confidence.

The women felt safe in the group and were able to express their feelings, share their stories, and listen to each other. They were also able to engage in visual expression, reflect on their work, and work with the guidance of the art therapist.



6. Support groups:

12 sessions for a group of 12 women of different nationalities. The main goals of this activity was to help struggling women cope with their problems, provide moral support, and assist them in developing new skills. The women were eager to overcome their troubles and enthusiastic at the idea of improving their self-esteem and regaining confidence.

7. Focus Psycho-social Sessions (FPSS):

8 sessions were conducted for a group of 10 Lebanese children (boys and girls). As a consequence of their resilience, the activity was a success in teaching participants how to protect themselves and face challenging circumstances.

8. Expressive therapy:

10 sessions were conducted for a group of 9 women of different nationalities. A safe space was created as a result of the bonds between the women and friendships were built during this activity. Women were invited to tackle different genres to express themselves and found out they were able to share their most dramatic stories through humor.

Women were relieved when speaking up about the difficulties they were experiencing in their married life; and discovered that with encouragements and perseverance, they could achieve anything.

9, Parenting skills sessions:

14 sessions for a group of 15 women, and 12 sessions for another group of 11 women from different nationalities were held. The aim of this activity was to encourage women to emotionally protect themselves and their children from violence.

10. Public speaking sessions:

13 women of different nationalities were invited to 12 public speaking sessions. At the end of the activity, women were each invited to present a speech to an audience that would ask questions. The activity resulted in women gaining confidence and being able to speak publicly under pressure.

Women Center (Bekaa Support Center)

This Bekaa community is comprised of Lebanese and Syrian activists trained on GBV, SGBV, Personal Status law and other important issues, was established in 2018. The community's future plans include putting together a launch campaign centered around the Personal Status law in 2020.

1. Art therapy sessions:

Art, music and drama therapy were conducted in these sessions. Through the latter, participants were able to achieve different goals, namely: develop communication skills, work on capacity building, learn new life skills, improve interpersonal relationships, overcome anxiety and mild to moderate depression, express their feelings and emotions in a safe environment, and finally boost their self esteem.

2. Hakawaty and Doma shows.

With the aim of raising awareness around GBV, the scripts of these sessions were centered around Kafa's mission and mandate: to decrease gender violence, abuse and exploitation among all communities; in particular among the Syrian refugee community. These sessions communicated several key messages in line with KAFA's mission: the existence of a hotline to report any type of violence, the importance of reporting harmful people, the establishment of a law that protects women from family violence.



3. Business management courses:

This course was designed to cover a great majority of contemporary management and marketing topics. Course handouts were provided in advance, and participants were encouraged to go through it before attending the class. At the end of the course, participants were able to draft a coherent business plan, prepare a marketing mix to promote a good or service, work in groups, monitor, evaluate and assess different activities.

4. Training on GBV and Law 293:

The topics revolved around safe identification of cases of violence within their area of residence and how to deal with disclosure of violence from women, as well as guidelines about consent. These included information about KAFA services and information about family violence, sexual violence, child violence from within and from outside the family. The lawyer in charge introduced law 293 to protect women and other family members from family violence, law 422/2002 on juvenile protection, personal status law, age of custody and alimony and the rights of women from the legal residence.



Services provided in both Beirut and Bekaa KAFA centers in 2019

1- Psychological assistance services for women victims of violence.

KAFA conducted 1766 sessions of psychotherapy for 312 women. These women were referred to a psychotherapist by the social worker assigned to their case.

Furthermore, 401 sessions of psychotherapy evaluation were conducted to assess the psychological status of all beneficiaries following the initial social counseling. Based on these evaluations, the therapist was able to build a customized action plan and decide whether or not the women needed psychological follow up.

2- Legal aid and court representations.

1180 legal consultations were provided to 737 women by a team of professional lawyers collaborating with the SC. Additionally, 1403 court representations for 228 women and 39 legal authorizations took place during 2019.

3- Support line.

Two operators are tasked with answering KAFA's support line. 4703 phone calls were handled by KAFA operators, with 719 calls identified as reporting calls.

KAFA's Self Care for it's Employees

1.Coaching Sessions:

31 coaching sessions were given by social workers, psychotherapists and psychologists working at the support centers in Beirut and Bekaa. These sessions improved the knowledge of participants on GBV and SGBV related issues and improved agency to deal with beneficiaries with special cases.



2. Individual therapeutic sessions for KAFA's staff

125 individual sessions were given to social workers working at both the support center and the shelter. During these sessions, participants were invited to express their feelings and share their experiences, lightening the weight they'd be carrying from their engagement with victims/survivors. These sessions were a way for participants to feel relieved from stress and anxiety, an opportunity for them to learn new tools to better express and manage their emotions.

3. Team building activity for workers at KAFA

This was intended to foster a sense of community and to create a strong culture of communication within KAFA to improve staff's well-being, create a positive workspace and improve efficiency.

4. First aid training

Two first aid training sessions were given by the Lebanese Red Cross at the support center in Beirut. This was intended to provide KAFA staff with the needed skills to administer basic medical treatment or CPR as needed. It also gave them the confidence and capability to react immediately to an incident, injury, or illness.



5. Art classes:

15 sessions of art classes were given for all interested staff from different units. These sessions provided a gateway for relaxation and reducing stress levels which enhanced the communication between participating employees from different units.



6. Information sessions

The sessions started off with a general introduction of Kafa and an overview of its central activities; which gave attendees more background of GBV types and manifestations. Participants were also informed they could visit Kafa's enter for private counseling, therapy or any other support they might need.

The 12 sessions also covered the following topics: decision-making, self-esteem, self-confidence enhancement, negotiation skills, social networks, social support, social roles and gender.

What we do.

The Anti-trafficking and Exploitation Unit at KAFA works on building public opinion against the trafficking and exploitation of two of the most vulnerable groups of women to these forms of violence in Lebanon: female migrant domestic workers (MDWs) and Lebanese and migrant women in prostitution. The Unit also fights for the establishment of a national legal and social protection framework for victims and women and girls at risk of exploitation.

- The Anti-Trafficking Unit (ATU) at Kafa works on building a public opinion against the trafficking and the exploitation of two of the most vulnerable groups of women to these forms of violence in Lebanon: migrant domestic workers (MDWs) and women trapped in prostitution and sex trafficking. The ATU also fights for the establishment of a national legal and social protection framework for victims of exploitation and for women at risk. During 2019, the ATU maintained the provision of holistic protection and assistance services through its anti-trafficking shelter and pursued legal representation and strategic litigation on behalf of prostituted persons and MDWs victims of abuse and exploitation. The ATU also sustained its capacity building program for law enforcement agents at the Internal Security Forces and the General Security. For the third year, KAFA secured a regular presence at the Anti-Trafficking and Morals Protection Bureau and offered socio-legal counselling to women survivors of prostitution and trafficking detained at the Bureau. After the economic crisis that hit Lebanon in the fall of 2019, the ATU established an emergency committee to address the urgent needs of MDWs and pressure authorities to alleviate the impact of the crisis on them.

Advocacy

KAFA is active in the anti-trafficking field in Lebanon. One of the first steps towards reaching the goal of ending human trafficking is advocacy.

1. International advocacy for the abolition of prostitution

Kafa has been active in international advocacy efforts for the abolition of prostitution. Kafa, a member of CAP International, participated in April 2019 in CAP-International's third Congress in Mainz, Germany which gathered 400 activists from around 30 countries. The congress brought around 40 speakers and addressed the realities of prostitution and sexual exploitation in the world and their severe impact on women and girls. The congress was preceded by a 200 kilometer march from France to Germany and was led by prostitution survivors.



2. Advocating for the rights of MDWs in Lebanon International Domestic Workers Labor Day March:

voicing out MDWs demands in collaboration with other NGOs, Kafa supported migrant domestic workers to organize and conduct a public protest on May 5, 2019.

The protest reiterated the demands that domestic workers and NGOs have been advocating for the past 10 years:



- 1- Abolishing the sponsorship system, and put in place fair immigration laws;
- 2- Including domestic workers in the Lebanese labor law;
- 3- Stopping the administrative detention of domestic workers who are victims of violence and exploitation and stop detaining and deporting those who start a family and have children in Lebanon;
- 4- Monitoring, holding accountable, and sanctioning abusive recruitment agencies and all violators and abusers of domestic workers' rights; and
- 5- Conducting serious investigations into the deaths of MDWs and prosecuting those behind these deaths.

The story of Tina: a journey for justice that demonstrates the failure of the kafala system

In its efforts to bring justice to domestic workers and abolish the Kafala system, Kafa initiated a case based advocacy for Tina, a MDW victim of abuse and exploitation by her employer. Tina is a domestic worker from Togo who, throughout her five months of employment in Lebanon, was subjected by her employer to various forms of physical and psychological violence including detention, degrading treatment, humiliation, shouting, beating as well as the denying of her wages. Consequently, Tina left her employer's household and was received by Kafa who supported Tina holistically and is working on different levels to ensure her access to justice. Tina's case is a clear reflection of the negative repercussions of the sponsorship system. It shows that despite severe abuse and exploitation, she is required to get from her abusive sponsor a signed notarized "waiver" allowing her to work for another employer. Otherwise, under the law, she is forced to return home or become undocumented in Lebanon.



Dismantling the sponsorship system

Kafa was nominated by the Minister of Labor to take part in a small working group that will work on the developments of practical recommendations aimed at dismantling the sponsorship system. Since then, Kafa has been active in these meetings where an alternative Standard Unified Contract for domestic workers in Lebanon was developed and submitted to the MoL for revision and approval. Additionally, the working group has been lobbying with the MoL to push for its adoption without making modifications that deny MDW their rights.

Emergency coordination committee: A response to MDWs needs in light of the crisis

Following the financial crisis and the economic collapse in Lebanon in late 2019, KAFA established an emergency coordination committee to determine the impact of these crises on MDWs and determine the appropriate actions to support them. This committee consists of NGOs, MDW community leaders, and embassies and consulates who directly assist and support MDWs in Lebanon. The emergency committee prioritized the need for voluntary repatriation of MDWs from Lebanon. Accordingly, advocacy actions have been addressed to General Security (GS) to facilitate the repatriation and the committee has succeeded in obtaining a conditional waiver from the GS to facilitate the repatriation of migrant workers.

Capacity Building

Training workshops for law enforcement officers:

For the fifth year in a row, the Anti-Trafficking Unit in Kafa delivered capacity building trainings for law enforcement officers on the issues of sex trafficking and prostitution. The purpose of the training is to build the knowledge of officers on the anti-trafficking legal framework and to train them on investigation techniques based on victim centered and human-rights approaches. During 2019, KAFA delivered 4 trainings targeting 29 ISF and 31 GS members. The workshops had a positive impact on the participants:

92% of participants stated that the training had filled the gaps in their knowledge related to sex trafficking, prostitution, investigation, and enlightened them with new interviewing techniques for victim evaluation.

86% of the participants stated that the training contributed in changing their views on the topics related to women in prostitution, including human trafficking, root causes of prostitution and investigative procedures.

For the second year in a row, Kafa delivered capacity building workshops to law enforcement officers on MDWs issues. The purpose of the trainings is to strengthen the role of law enforcement authorities in addressing MDWs who are victims of violence, exploitation, and labor trafficking. During 2019, KAFA delivered 7 trainings targeting 55 ISF and 42 GS members.

Seminars on “Prostitution and Trafficking for sexual exploitation with Humanitarian Actors”

The seminars targeted 26 staff in managerial positions as well as case workers, social workers, and other frontline personnel. The participants were mainly GBV focal points, CP/GBV Case management managers/supervisors, as well as protection officers among others positions. A variety of local and international NGOs specialized in protection were represented. The seminar provided the participants with baseline knowledge on prostitution and trafficking for sexual exploitation and safe identification and referral process to enable the participants to better identify, assist and/or protect a potential victim.

21 out of 26 participants stated that the training helped them better understand the issue of sex trafficking and prostitution, and among the 21 participants, 11 participants noted that their knowledge, perceptions and views have changed.

23 out of the 26 participants confirmed that the seminar was up to their expectations.



Awareness-Raising

Kafa conducted a number of awareness raising sessions on sexual exploitation, prostitution and sex trafficking in collaboration with other NGOs. The sessions targeted 53 Syrian refugee women and adolescent girls.

Kafa conducted awareness sessions on MDWs in universities on the rights of migrant domestic workers and the abuse they face in Lebanon. In 2019, three public sessions were conducted at the American University of Beirut and Notre Dame University, and reached in total 50 students. The sessions provided a general overview of the migration cycle of MDWs to Lebanon, the legal framework of MDWs, and the roles and responsibilities of sponsors/employers, as well as the reforms needed to protect the rights of domestic workers in Lebanon.

Service Provision

Support and assistance to women victims of prostitution and sex trafficking

Kafa conducted weekly visits to female detainees at the Anti-Trafficking and Protection of Public Morals office to meet with women arrested for prostitution charges and provide them with socio-legal counseling and ensure safe identification, referral and follow-up. During 2019, KAFA encountered 86 women arrested for prostitution related charges (including trafficking victims).

- **72%** of the female detainees arrested for prostitution related charges were Syrians.
- Out of the **59** Syrian women at the center, **83%** had no legal residency or papers in Lebanon.
- **50%** of the women were young adults, aged between 20 and 29.
- **64%** were victims of an early/forced marriage.
- **64%** of the women had a pimp/trafficker and were exploited by them.
- **77%** of the encountered women were suffering from harsh economic conditions:
 - 49%** were in debt,
 - 70%** were jobless,
 - 48%** experienced homelessness
- **37%** of the women were victims of domestic violence and **41%** victims of child abuse.

24/7 helpline and shelter operations for the assistance of victims of trafficking and physical and sexual abuse

Kafa operates two 24/7 helplines and a safe shelter aiming at providing support to MDWs exposed to physical and sexual abuse by their employer, and to women in prostitution. The helplines and the shelter offer socio-legal information and counseling, legal representation, safe shelter and return assistance.

During 2019:

- Over 260 cases had reached or contacted the organization, with over 60 receiving comprehensive support by Kafa.

Helpline for domestic workers: +961 76 090910
Helpline for women in prostitution: +961 76039313

- The safe shelter received 61 women victims of exploitation and abuse, namely migrant domestic workers exploited in domestic labor, sexually exploited women in prostitution, and women victims of domestic violence for emergency placement. Women at Kafa shelter were from different nationalities; in addition to Lebanese women the shelter supported women from Syria, Morocco, Ethiopia, Ghana, Togo, and Ukraine. The shelter provided a safe place for the beneficiaries as well as case management services (including legal, social, psychological, and medical support), rehabilitation programs and empowerment and leisure activities.

Publication

A training handbook on prostitution and trafficking for sexual exploitation was produced. This handbook aims at providing trainers and facilitators' information and facilitation methods when conducting awareness sessions targeting youth. The purpose of the handbook is educating youth in general and men and boys in particular, about prostitution and sex trafficking, and to encourage them not to contribute to sex trafficking and sexual exploitation by purchasing sex.

What we do.

The Child Protection Unit (CPU) works on fighting 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 CPU is contributing to the creation of a safer future, free of gender-based violence and discrimination. The CPU's 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 adopting a child participatory approach and combining different tools and strategies to succeed.

- During 2019, the CPU focused on enhancing, developing and documenting its community-based approach in order to disseminate experiences considered as “best practices”. The CPU also prioritized its advocacy work through the development of the Child Protection Policy for media institutions. Along with the implementation of its activities, the CPU also started capacity development trainings for youth partners based on the emerging need to mainstream GBV prevention and CP risk mitigations with non GBV actors.

Resource Development

1. Training sessions for trainers

Two training sessions were implemented with members of Kafa. These revolved around rhythmic and relaxation techniques that can be used with children, techniques aiming at developing self-discipline, enhancing social skills, and simulating the brain to create balance, synchronization, and focus.

2. Development of a curriculum for the emotional support group sessions.

The success of the emotional support group sessions that KAFA has been conducting with women, men, and adolescents; combined with the positive changes in behaviors that were observed after the sessions, have led KAFA to develop their own emotional support group curriculum with the expertise of the psychotherapist who designed and created the program.

This curriculum is intended to train other psychotherapists and may be used as a tool on emotional support groups. Additionally, KAFA is developing a Child Protection Policy For media usage. This is mainly due to a great number of Lebanese TV shows interviewing children survivors of violence and asking about their trauma without taking into consideration confidentiality or making use of appropriate child-friendly interviewing techniques, which is harming the victims further.

This Child Protection Policy would need to be applied by TV stations, online newspapers and related websites, in order to protect children and ensure confidentiality and privacy of their cases. This IEC Materials development has yielded results, such as having 3 CP/GBV tools developed and endorsed, as well some success stories.

Capacity Building

1. Full day training by CPU

Two full day trainings were conducted with 35 social workers/case managers from different organizations around Lebanon and were centered around the practical guide on interaction between Law 293/2014 that “Protects Women and other Family Members from Family Violence” and Law 422/2002 that “Provides judicial protection for the child”

2. Five-day training on the “Citadel of Protection” toolkit:

These trainings were held with 9 staff members of OXFAM in the Beak region. This initiative aimed at enhancing participants capacities on following up on protection services within their areas of implementation in terms of GBV and CP prevention. In addition, a five-day training on the “Citadel of Protection” toolkit was also held in Bekaa with 28 frontline workers who assist people with disabilities. This initiative aimed at enhancing participants’ knowledge on topics related to child protection and GBV.

3. Two-days trainings on GBV and CP core concepts as well as safe identification and referral

These were held in collaboration with UNICEF’s youth partners: ANERA, Makhzoumi Foundation, LebRelief, Mada,etc; and targeted 192 services providers working with youth in all areas across Lebanon. This capacity building trainings resulted in 264 trained institutional actors and university students demonstrating increased knowledge of SGBV and Child Protection.



The CPU unit also offered community-based protection and safe spaces for women and girls. Since 2014, KAFA has been working on strengthening the resilience of vulnerable children by increasing their awareness on GBV/CP. With the aim of creating a sustainable mechanism, KAFA started working through a community-based approach in 2016. This approach had different goals, of which:

- Engage different community groups to reduce vulnerabilities of boys, girls, and caregivers, mainly through peer education, safety identification and referral mechanisms.
- Engage different community groups and encourage them to identify risks that women and girls are facing or are at risk of facing inside their community and be a part of the risk mitigation.

KAFA continues to conduct activities revolving around GBV and Child Protection risk mitigation within the organization's safe spaces. These aim at strengthening victims' resilience to SGBV and build their confidence and capacities.

KAFA safe spaces are:

- Support center in Badaro and Chtaura
- Adolescent- friendly space in Chtaura
- 22 Informal settlements and households in Central and West Bekaa
- 3 SDCs in Bekaa: Kab Elias, Jeb Janine and Marj
- 2 SDCs in Beirut/Mount Lebanon: Borj El Barajneh and Mazraa
- Sabra and Chatila

Community Building

Many activities were provided to children, adolescents, and caregivers, such as:

1. Sensitization sessions on CP risks and GBV prevention.
2. Focused psychosocial support sessions based on the IRC and the interagency's curriculums. These include yoga, self-defense and theatre.
3. Structured psychosocial support sessions based on the "Citadel of Protection" toolkit and "Arab Women Speaking Out" curriculum.
4. Emotional Support Groups for women, men and adolescent girls.
5. Caregivers program including parenting skills, crochet and crafts sessions.
6. 20 protection committees established in the Informal Settlements and Households in West and Central Bekaa
7. Trainings on safe identification and referral.
8. Peer-to-peer trainings.
9. Literacy courses.
10. English courses.
11. Case management to children survivors of domestic, GB and sexual violence.
12. Art therapy sessions.



These activities and safe spaces have proven to be successful based on the results they yielded:

- **278** girls and boys received specialized/focused psychosocial support activities.
- **1,241** women and girls accessed mobile and static safe spaces.
- **132** boys and girls were assisted through child protection case management and specialized services.
- **105** boys and girls participated in community-based child protection activities.
- **154** caregivers engaged in activities to promote well being and protection of children.
- **2** communities actively engaged in child protection/GBV activities.

CHOICE, A PROGRAM FOR MEN

With the purpose of increasing the protection of women and children from sexual and gender based violence; and in response to the increasing number of referrals of perpetrators of violence to its premises for rehabilitative sessions through law 293, KAFA developed a “Working with Perpetrators” program in collaboration with international experts. This program is entitled “CHOICE, a Program for Men” and is based on KAFA’s belief that being violent is a CHOICE and that stopping the violence is also a CHOICE. A dedicated team of professionals followed a modular structured program and worked with men in a supportive environment for a period of 6 months with the aim of helping them develop non-abusive relationships. Progress reports have been established to evaluate the men’s progress by both the experts and the participants’ partners.

Some of the results observed included changes in participants’ attitudes towards their partners/children. They were becoming more aware of their behaviors and looked for alternative ways to deal with anger during an argument. The program has yet to be completed but Kafa believes this is on the right track to yield positive results and drastic changes.

However, we do have a little success story. One of the men, T.N., has improved. Even though T.N. and his wife still pick rights, the arguments seem to be contained and therefore don’t escalate and lead to screaming and verbal abuse anymore.

Brief Description

CHOICE is making use of multiple communication tools with the men in the program to ensure effectiveness of both individual and group sessions. Six men were referred to CHOICE from KAFA’s support center but due to different reasons, KAFA is currently working with three men.

It is worth noting that recent events in Lebanon combined with the COVID-19 lockdown, prevented the implementation of the sessions on a weekly basis as previously scheduled. New remote ways of communication through WhatsApp or Zoom have therefore been adopted instead.

Results

When it came to group sessions, the men were placed in two groups. The first group met in Beirut and was formed of 5 taxi drivers that KAFA was familiar with. The men were invited to share deep and intimate issues, reconsider the concept of masculinity, and learn how to become violence up standers.

The second group met up in the Bekaa region and included men from the Syrian refugee community who were selected by the Child Protection Unit at KAFA as committee members within the Syrian refugee settlements. The Child Protection Unit has been working in the settlements for almost 4 years and has conducted awareness raising sessions on SGBV, parenting workshops, as well as emotional support groups to these communities.

The participants invited had attended all these sessions and had therefore already broken some traits of the rigid patriarchal mentality that is prevalent in their communities. These sessions yielded satisfying results. The focus group discussions with both groups showed very positive feedback about the sessions.

Of the major improvements that were observed in participants after the sessions: they were able to understand the origins of their behaviors; they reflected on different ways they could have dealt/will have to deal with their children, they were able to better understand their partners and finally act as up standers.

Based on a selected number of participant's pre and post-test results, it is worth noting improvement in the latter's perception and behavior towards gender discrimination and gender roles.

A good success story to come out of these sessions is about the partner of one of the men who participated in the group sessions in the Bekaa group, who is actually a beneficiary at KAFA. During one of her social follow up sessions with the social workers, she reported that the communication between the couple has improved and that her partner is actually showing her more care.

This program requires continuous tireless work to ensure its success. But we will not stop until every participant has a success story to tell the world.

Special Thanks: KAFA's Employees