GBV Sub-Sector Working Group
Meeting Minutes
Date: 10 December 2025
Online

Group Coordinators: Karolina Fabirkiewicz (UNHCR), Katarzyna Szczepaniak (Feminoteka)

Agencies present: IRC, IOM, Zustricz, Plan International, Krakow Spokesperson for Counteracting Violence, Feminoteka, UNHCR

Agenda:

- **16 Days of Activism campaign:** Conclusions and summary of your activities and events
- **General updates on current GBV-related programs and projects**
- **The future of the GBV Sub-Sector:** Ideas for incorporating GBV topics into the Protection Sector meetings, future activities, ideas for engaging national actors
- **AOB / Other updates**

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Points
16 Days of Activism campaign: Conclusions and summary of your activities and events	• Member organizations and representatives of local authorities under the GBV Sub-Sector conducted activities as part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign. These included individual but also joint activities, such as the social media information campaign (a series of posts with graphics are available here). The working file containing a list of all mapped activities is available here. • Participants shared updates and reflections on selected activities: - IRC organized a debate online on cyberviolence with panelists Sylwia Spurek (former MEP, lawyer and activist) and Ewa Dziemidowicz (FDDS). 79 people registered and around half of them attended (all women). Very active participation reflected a need for increased awareness raising and for organizing similar events in the future. - Many activities took place in Krakow, including WenDo and GBV-related trainings and workshops. The anti-harassment 5D training is also planned after the 16 Days Campaign. - IOM organized meetings in collective centers on GBV, including separate discussions for women and men. The meetings were very well received and there is a need to continue them. - Zustricz organized online trainings for social workers from both big and small cities on cultural differences and discrimination based on background and gender.	Organizations who would like to share their reflections and updates on 16 Days activities are encouraged to reach out to Karolina (fabirkie@unhcr.org) and update the Excel file.

	- Feminoteka conducted several activities and provided a special offer for 16 Days of Activism on their social enterprise's website Samo Dobro. - UNHCR conducted a GBV training for legal professionals and police in Grojec, including judges responsible for detention cases from Lesznowola detention center. ● The challenges identified by the group included insufficient participation and involvement of men in 16 Days and GBV-related activities, and the difficulties of organizing activities given limited human and financial resources. Next year, the organizations would like to start preparations for the 16 Days earlier. It would be worth using the information screens on public transport.	
General updates on current GBV-related programs and projects	● There is a notable increase of 200% in the number of calls received by Feminoteka's hotline for survivors of GBV after the premiere of the "Dom dobry" film by Wojciech Smarzowski. Members suggested placing information materials about GBV services in the cinemas in which "Dom dobry" is played, including in smaller cities. Some cinemas reportedly did not give consent to do that. ● Members are in the process of planning GBV activities for 2026. IOM will continue their self-defense workshops in partnership with the City Guards (Straz Miejska) every Saturday. ● Members were reminded about our joint GBV Sub-Sector Google Drive. A new folder was added for communication and promotional materials and organizations are encouraged to upload their resources.	Members are encouraged to approach local cinemas and inquire about the possibility of placing information materials on GBV services.
The future of the GBV Sub-Sector: Ideas for incorporating GBV topics into the Protection Sector meetings, future activities, ideas for engaging national actors	As of January 2026, the GBV Sub-Sector will adopt a new meeting format, with GBV Sub-Sector meetings merged into the broader Protection Sector meetings. It is important for the GBV-focused actors to remain active in the discussions, share challenges and raise awareness on GBV topics. Feminoteka (Kasia Szczepaniak) will step down from her role of a Co-coordinator of the GBV Sub-Sector. All organizations interested in co-coordinating the GBV component of the Protection Sector are encouraged to reach out to Karolina Fabirkiewicz at fabirkie@unhcr.org While all communication with members will most likely be conducted through the Protection Sector's email, the Google Drive of our GBV Sub-Sector will remain active.	Next Protection Sector meeting will take place most likely in the third week of January. Information will be shared via email. Members of the group are encouraged to reflect on the inclusion of GBV in the Protection Sector and fill in the survey shared with them via email. Organizations interested in co-coordinating the GBV component are encouraged to reach out to Karolina

	It is crucial for members to share their priorities and ideas on how to ensure an adequate and safe space to discuss GBV topics. In an initial brainstorming during our meeting, the following points were raised: ● It is necessary to continue meetings in Polish. ● The group is concerned about how best include GBV in the current Protection Sector meetings, which has lately focused predominantly on the legislative changes, including the Special Act amendments and impact on refugees staying in collective centers. While it is crucial to discuss these, there also needs to be space for actors to focus on other topics, including GBV. The challenge also relates to the structure of the meeting. Members highlighted that the Protection meetings mainly focus on presentations by members, while the GBV Group offers an open forum for discussion. It remains a question how to maintain this safe space for GBV actors in the general Protection Sector meetings. ● Some suggestions included setting up a meeting agenda with strict timeframes for each thematic agenda item. Those actors who are mostly interested in GBV would join the meetings at a dedicated time and leave for those agenda items that are less relevant to their work. Another idea is for each monthly meeting to focus on a different thematic area (e.g. a topic related to accommodation, child protection, GBV). ● A survey will be distributed via email with all GBV Sub-Sector members to share their views and ideas, including on possible increased engagement of the national actors, as well as group priorities for 2026.	(fabirkie@unhcr.org).