**Call for Contributions II: The Human Rights of Older Women**

As aforementioned in the information for Annex I, the legislation and treatment of senior citizens and their rights are universal without gender differentiation.

The services provision by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Social Services involves specific treatment programs, and less focus on the legal and legislative part, which is the operating field of the Ministry of Justice.

Concerning **discrimination, abuse and neglect**, the following services and protective mechanisms are offered.

The treatment of abuse and neglect of senior citizens is given unitarily, without gender differentiation.

The service is provided through the Units for the treatment and prevention of abuse and neglect of senior citizens, by a designated social worker who is an expert in the field (a so-called Unit Coordinator).

There are currently about 115 units operating in 100 local authorities across the country.

**The Units for the treatment and prevention of abuse and neglect of senior citizens**

Goals/objectives of the service:

• Raising awareness of the phenomenon

• Detection and identification of cases of abuse and neglect

• Treatment, accompaniment, support and mediation

• Reducing harm from violence, exploitation and neglect of senior citizens

The service includes interventions on 3 levels:

• Legal-legislative/judicial/enforcement level - operating through existing laws for the purpose of protection and prevention of abuse.

• Protective/therapeutic (treatment) level of the elderly person and his/her family

• Educational /preventive/community level

**Activities of the Unit Coordinator, a designated social worker with expertise concerning the prevention of violence**:

• A variety of interventions to treat the phenomenon of abuse and neglect in old age. This occurs through individual, couple or group therapy.

• Defensive intervention through a social worker for the Protection of Wards Law,

such as removing of the offender or finding a suitable framework for the victim

(shelter, respite, old-age/nursing home, etc.), or forwarding a report to the police regarding injury to a ward/dependent.

• Initiation of a round table with services in the community, initiation of seminars on the subject, training for staff and services, etc., to raise awareness of the phenomenon and ways of approach/coping.

• Formation of a unified, multi-disciplinary professional team to treat the abuse and neglect. The multidisciplinary team includes: the elderly person and his/her family, a designated treating social worker, a social worker for the Protection of Wards Law, a Department Director/Head, a legal advisor, a psycho-geriatrician/geriatrician, and various frameworks in the community such as an HMO, police and more, in accordance with each particular case and need.