# Guidelines on the information package 'The Right to Live without Violence'.

The scope of this information package is to raise awareness on the right of every blind and partially sighted girl and woman in geographic Europe to live without violence. It is oriented towards professionals in victim - support services, health-care, violence - prevention and other relevant areas, the blind and partially sighted women and organizations for persons with visual impairments.

The information package that was produced, with the financial support by the European Union Program for Employment and Social Solidarity - PROGRESS (2007-2013), consists of one poster and two brochures entitled “The Right to Live without Violence”.

The poster can serve as campaign material for sending out a strong message to all and calls for action. It is editable and can easily be translated into your national language. There is also a printable version that is ready to print in an A3 size.

The brochures were created in a format that is printable and editable at the same time. There are links that allow you to easily navigate within the text as well as a back to contents button at the end of each chapter. The first brochure aims to raise awareness among professionals in services and programs that support victims of violence. Increasing the professionals’ understanding of the high risk and specific needs of women with visual disabilities, enables them to better support, protect and assist (potential) victims in an efficient way. The second brochure aims to raise awareness among girls and women with visual disability and their organizations, on the fundamental right to live without violence. It stresses the importance of how to recognize signs of violence, what can be done and ways to support women with visual impairment through cooperation with support services and prevention programs.

We strongly encourage you to support this initiative and take action by downloading the poster and the brochures. We ask you to widely share all of the information or even parts of it in an attempt to combat violence. Below you can find a checklist that will help you either to set up or improve your campaign for the right to live without violence:

# Share the information and material

* Use all your existing communication channels to share information and the campaign material to reach all your contacts (website, social media, newsletter, email, telephone information line of your organization, gatherings, radio or internet radio, magazines, audio-downloads etc.).
* Include information of victim support help-lines and other places where victims of violence can turn to, like the family-doctor.
* If you have a national information line on visual impairment, ensure also information on violence and information on support and help is available and safe-houses social services and police can be contacted.
* Disseminate the brochures and the poster to service providers, centers of victims of violence, social welfare, health care, the police department and women’s organizations, etc.
* Ensure that all contact details of your organization is included with the brochures.
* Invite professionals from health and social services, police, service providers and centers to awareness workshops on visual impairment, disability-based violence needs. Include also sighted guide techniques and raise accessibility issues.
* Organize awareness sessions in schools on violence and its many forms, in particular disability based violence, and how to seek help and report.
* Disseminate the information and material throughout your national organization,
* All affiliates to your organization, and to blind and partially sighted girls and women of all ages. Ensure that your local branches are aware of this campaign.
* Organize workshops on informing blind and partially sighted of their rights.
* Organize awareness sessions on violence and its many forms, in particular disability based violence, and how to seek help and report. These workshops can be directed towards blind and partially sighted girls and women, schools for the blind and general educational settings. The aim of the workshops will be to familiarize the participants of the various forms that violence can undertake in to recognize it for themselves or their loved ones.

# Cooperate

Cooperate with relevant services related to prevention of violence and victim-support to:

* Develop joint activities and campaigns related to visual impairment and prevention of violence and victim support;
* Share and exchange expertise on visual impairment on the one hand, and violence on the other;
* Ensure that joint activities and campaigns are in accessible formats for blind and partially sighted;
* Ensure that the rehabilitation programs of your organization, or by external rehabilitation providers, include programs on self-defense, self-esteem, self-respect and, assertiveness;
* Ensure that information provided in your country / district for victims of violence is accessible to your members. Contact the producers to ensure that the information is also available in a variety of accessible formats;
* Promote and lobby for research on violence to include persons with (visual) disability, as well as urging for specific research on violence and disability.

# Internal Policy

* Adopt a culture within your organization of respect to the diversity and equality.
* Include awareness and prevention of violence, and victim-support in your agenda.
* Appoint a board member to be responsible for developing action.
* Set up a network of women.
* Ensure that the rehabilitation programs of your organizations include programs on self-defense, self-esteem, self-respect and, assertiveness.
* Start keeping a record of the incidents of violence that your organization comes across. Research and findings are ways to make the problem really visible!
* Encourage the organization of groups that aim to empower women.
* Stress the importance of the use of technical aids that allow a greater independence and /or by improving the attention given by others. And to concentrate on the abilities that lead to independence.
* Map the available centers or support services for victims of violence and ensure that these are accessible by women with visual disabilities.