

## Facilitating the exercise of rights by women victims of violence and their comprehensive assistance in Honduras

Gender violence is a central problem on the public agenda in Honduras and a priority for the current government. Official figures indicate that a woman is murdered every 13 hours, in the majority of these cases in a domestic setting; 95% of these crimes go unpunished. Although a legal framework for protecting women does exist, effective exercise of their rights is limited.

To address this problem, Honduras has started a process of inter-agency and inter-sectoral restructuring, which also involves civil society organisations, coordinated by the Judiciary. This is an important stage in the **articulation of a national policy on access to law**, particularly by **women victims of domestic and intra-family violence**.

As a product of this re-structuring process, in 2014 the first **Centre for Attention to Women and Protection Their Rights (CAPRODEM)** was opened as a result of the collaboration between EUROsocial and the Honduran Judiciary.

### Comprehensive attention service

This Centre is a **pilot project** which aims to strengthen the public policy on access to Law and **bring justice to women victims of gender violence** through attention and a comprehensive, immediate and no-cost approach, thereby avoiding the process of re-victimisation they are subject to given the geographic dispersion of the different institutions that exist to attend to them. It seeks to provide a **rapid response to women victims** through an effective system of referral and by providing them with legal assistance free of charge so that they can assert their rights. **Between March and October 2014, 160 women were served at the centre opened in Tegucigalpa, the capital.**



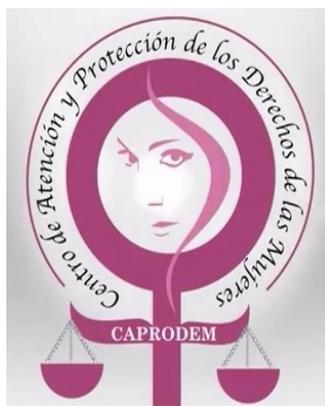
EUROsocial supported the roadmap for starting up the centre in all its stages, from design of the intervention to the communication strategy to make the centre accessible to the beneficiaries.

### Future perspectives

The initiative will enter its second phase, which means greater implementation and monitoring to better adapt it to the needs of citizens. Once consolidated, it will be replicated in other Honduran cities and, in a later phase, perhaps even applied to other vulnerable groups such as children within this circle of violence.

## First-hand

**Indira Ever, Gender Unit of the Honduran National Police:** “The National Police is part of CAPRODEM, and our role is quite important as it touches on various areas. In the first place, on an immediate basis, there will be training on protection measures for the victim of violence starting when she files a complaint at the Centre. In addition, we will be responsible for her safety in the Centre, and users will be given instruction so that they have personnel protection elements in their homes”.



## Complementary services:

CAPRODEM will be able to divert and refer victims to collaborating institutions and organisations for the following services:

- > Legal and judicial services.
- > Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (ADRM).
- > Forensic examination and medical or clinical care
- > Temporary protection in a safe house.
- > Psycho-social support.
- > Fostering of economic autonomy and support for entering the job market.
- > Individual and group therapy.
- > Social and recreational activities and play therapy.

## Promoting a comprehensive approach to gender-based violence

EUROsociAL supported the implementation of this pilot project in all its phases. In addition, the Programme collaborated with all the institutions in the sectors involved in the creation and implementation of a **comprehensive attention protocol for women victims of domestic and intra-family violence in Honduras**. This protocol establishes a system of standardised action guidelines to be followed by each professional service involved (judicial, police, prosecution, healthcare, social, and educational). These will make it possible to improve the response of public institutions in the prosecution and punishment of acts of violence against women and in comprehensive assistance and adequate protection of same to prevent them from being re-victimised. In coming months, EUROsociAL will continue accompanying the process for consolidation of the model and its systematic implementation in other cities in the country, thereby strengthening the national policy on access to law.

## Regional focus National implementation



This intervention illustrates in a **paradigmatic way** the **regional dimension of EUROsociAL** and how it makes **the regional logic converge with the national logic**. In effect, the action protocol for victims created and approved in Honduras represents the establishment, at the national level, of a regional protocol for coordinating stakeholders in gender violence issues. It also reflects **support for different strategic policies** which are priorities on government agendas. Additionally, it represents a comprehensive intervention model in which the different partners (IDLO, FCGAE, JCI), COMJIB and various EUROsociAL actions (access to law and justice and health) converge based on their different approaches to address a multidimensional problem.

## Roadmap



## Further information

### Video

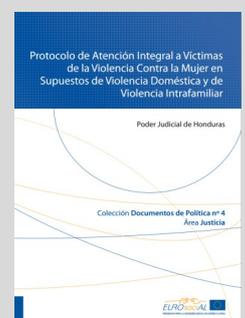


Centre for attention and protection of the women rights

### Publications

> Protocol for Comprehensive Attention to Victims of Violence Against Women in Cases of Domestic Violence and Intra-family Violence and training model for attention and assistance to women victims of violence

<http://goo.gl/xn3y3x>



Coordinating partner:



Operating partners:

