

Pangea Foundation and the work on violence against women during the Covid for the Reama anti-violence network project

During the Covid-19 crisis, the Italian Government asked the entire population to stay at home. However, for some women, staying at home meant being trapped because of living with their abusive man. Domestic violence, which has always existed, in conditions of forced and compulsory cohabitation can become devastating.

Even the UN has declared that with isolation for Covid-19 the level of domestic violence has increased.

The data on the requests for help received at the online counters of Pangea speak for themselves: since the beginning of 2020, 45 women have followed the online help desk on various forms of violence, 36 of whom contacted us from March 1, 2020 to May 20. A total of 175 requests for help since October 2018.

The Help Desk Mia Economia, specific on economic violence against women, has taken charge from January 2020 to today 33 women, of which 16 have contacted us from March 1 to May 20, during the Covid. Since the opening of the Mia Economia counter (October 2018) 97 women have been followed to date.

As for the REAMA anti-violence network, made up of 24 associations of anti-violence centres, help desks and shelters all over Italy, they received between 800 and 900 requests for help during the period from the 1st of March until the 20th of May.

"In general the first lockdown period represented for the majority of the REAMA anti-violence network a generalized moment of setback, requests decreased especially in the first two weeks. During this period, work was reorganized throughout Italy to guarantee meetings with women who were already on an exit path and to help those who called for the first time in order to guarantee support both online and by phone or in presence in the anti-violence centres. All the professionals in the anti-violence centres have taken the necessary precautions, masks, space sanitization, gloves and the like. The situation is different for the shelters because they have kept the work in presence at all times.

In a short time, a national information campaign on violence against women was requested to the Equal Opportunities Department by Pangea and other civil society associations involved in the fight against violence against women. The message that the anti-violence network throughout Italy continued to be operational and access to anti-violence centres and shelter homes was authorised, and that women could also ask for help from the national public utility number 1522 (help desk telephone number H24 anti-violence national number of the equal opportunities department) definitely contributed to the emergence of violence, many more women started

calling for help," says Simona Lanzoni, vice president of Fondazione Pangea Onlus and coordinator of the Reama network.

The online anti-violence counter methods designed from the beginning of the Reama anti-violence network by Pangea, during the period of restrictions due to the Covid-19, have shown to be at the forefront of the work to be done and precisely for this reason our counters have recorded an increase in phone calls, because it was easier for women to write than to talk. This made it possible to break the double psychological isolation created on the one hand by the abusive man and on the other by the restrictions of Covid-19.

How we work:

The Reama national anti-violence network of the Pangea Foundation (www.pangeaonlus.org) was born in September 2018. it is composed of anti-violence centers, shelters, information desks, (here the link:

<https://www.reamanetwork.org/2018/10/04/la-rete/>) of lawyers and psychologists specialized on the subject, women who have experienced violence or feminicides and now want to help others get out of similar situations

The online anti-violence desk (sportello@reamanetwork.org) to which women can write, acts as coordination, welcomes and directs women who write based on specific needs and their area of residence. The service is therefore personalized and makes use of that dense network of professionals, anti-violence centers, shelters, associations and people who have joined the Reama network.

Pangea also offers a help desk for women who suffer economic violence (miaeconomia@reamanetwork.org) which, thanks to the presence of expert operators, helps women to make an analysis of their judicial or extrajudicial debt situation to understand how best to resolve their situation .

Why Pangea Foundation?

Over the years Fondazione Pangea, a non-profit organization, has welcomed and listened to many voices, has collaborated with associations and supported women with and without children. This experience gave rise to the possibility of creating a network of people who work in various capacities to combat violence against women, a Network for the Empowerment and the Self Mutual Help (REAMA).

This network is promoted by Pangea together with other organizations in order to support women who experienced violence to get out of their situation and put its expertise at the disposal of other women. To do this, REAMA uses a dense network of professionals, lawyers, psychologists, social workers, anti-violence centers, shelters, associations and realities engaged for years on this front. And then?

The issue of violence against women was an emergency in the emergency: today we are seeing out of it, but what effects will result on women imprisoned during the covid tomorrow? The major consequences of this upsurge in violence during isolation will be later: in terms of public health, for all women who have suffered violence in this period without being able to report its effects, in terms of rebirth because for many it was difficult to continue the path of escape from the violence they had painstakingly undertaken.

www.reamanetwork.it