



**INCEST TRAUMA CENTER – BELGRADE**  
**Support Group for Child Sexual Abuse Survivors**  
**and War Survivors of Sexual Violence**

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*FIELD OF WORK*

<p><i>Mission, objectives and target groups</i></p>	<p>Incest Trauma Center – Belgrade is a women's professional service, a non-governmental and non-profit organization, officially incepted and registered in 1994, thus marked its 16th anniversary this year. We are a counseling and training-center, extending psychological assistance to child and adult survivors of sexual assault and also a training-center for education of colleagues working on the protection of women and children against domestic violence and sexual assault in every sector. Our staff is made up of women of different professions (predominantly from the sphere of mental health) specifically trained to work with survivors of sexual violence and their families. We are also an activist organization whose <u>mission is to enhance the position of sexual assault survivors by highlighting the societal aspect of the problem of sexual violence.</u> Our strategic plan for the period 2009-2013 is to move on from our primary function of crisis intervention center and develop a specific identity of the Center as a preventive center with the task to make an impact and push two topics high on the public agenda: sexual assault and the social position of women's human rights defenders in Serbia.</p>
<p><i>Field of work and activities</i></p>	<p>Our daily activities consist of psychological assistance for child and adult survivors of sexual violence and their supportive persons, in coordination with a multi-agency co-operation within the framework of the Network of Trust to Fight Gender-Based Violence, court appearances in the role of expert witnesses for cases that are subject to criminal procedures – and in the Women's Human Rights Defenders Coalition in Serbia. It is our daily task to create live dialog with the community and to intensely communicate with policy-makers. Our current activities involve: 1. Providing Direct Services to child and adult survivors of sexual violence and to persons who support them on a daily basis through personal contacts and the co-ordination of the Network of Trust to Fight Gender-Based Violence (intervention team of practitioners from 15 GOs and NGOs which was founded by the ITC in 2001 as a system of support for victims of emotional, physical and sexual violence and has been coordinating it to this day). 2. Community Education through specialist trainings of basic and advanced level for the expert public and prevention violence programs</p>

	<p>for women, adolescents and children. 3. Public Relations 4. 'Door-to-Door' Lobbying for the introduction of the topic of gender-based violence into the national school curriculum and syllabi and textbooks (ITC campaign "The Me Nobody Knows ").</p>
<p><i>Environment (local environment, competition, coalitions, media scene)</i></p>	<p>The average of 9 reported cases of sexual violence a weak to our service since 1994. We have trained 5,828 staff of 431 organizations / institutions so far (3/4 from GOs). 4,156 children and adolescents have participated in our prevention programs. We have recorded 607 media appearances of ITC.</p>
<p><i>Brief background and evaluation of achievements and results</i></p>	<p><b><u>ITC is a unique organization in the field of sexual trauma (survived in childhood) in Serbia. Please refer to <a href="http://www.incesttraumacentar.org.rs">www.incesttraumacentar.org.rs</a>.</u></b></p> <p><b>Mentioned here are some of the experiences and results of ITC that were of pioneer nature in this country at the time (unfortunately, most of them have retained this qualification as they have not been followed by other societal factors):</b></p> <p><b>A) (round-the-clock) hotline service specialized in gender-based violence; 2 years of operation of ITC as a non-stop citizens' service; B) The only women NGO in Serbia with continual supervision from abroad (Dutch); C) Founder and coordinator of the Network of Trust, as of June 2001 and of b) The Coalition of Women Human Rights Defenders in Serbia, as of July 2007 D) Creator of its own database on sexual violence (the only official representative statistics in Serbia) and uniform database for the organizations-members of the Network of Trust on emotional, physical and sexual violence; E) The first women NGO in Serbia who was entrusted with the task of systematically training members of the Police force in gender-based violence (256 trainees from 11 cities, including uniformed staff, delinquency inspectors for minors and the Department for sexual offences and also teaching staff in police education institutions, in the period 2001-2003; 42 effective working hours; in partnership with the Republic Ministry of Interior), training school personnel (35 Belgrade elementary schools in the school year 2005/2006; effective 21+21 working hours; in partnership with the Republic Ministry of Education) and personnel of four penitentiary institutions in 3 cycles of basic and advance level in the period 2006-2008 (Women's penitentiary in Požarevac, the Central Prison hospital in Belgrade, Correctional institutions for minors in Valjevo and Kruševac; effective 42+42+21 effective working hours; in partnership with the Republic Ministry of Justice) F) In 2003, we organized the only Regional Conference so far that gathered representatives of NGOs from the former Yugoslavia that extend direct services to children and women victims of violence</b></p>

(41 participants from 22 organizations) G) Authors and performers of the Community Theatre dealing with the topic of sexual violence against children committed by helpers working in institutions (performed in 2005 and 2006 in public squares, elementary schools, student campuses and women's prisons, will be continued in 2010). H) Through several campaigns, broached the issue of the right of survivors of sexual violence to choose their helper (drawing attention to the potential abuse of power by the helper in the helper - client relationship); I) ITC publications: issues mentioned below in the rubric: Printed Publications.

Some illustrative examples of ITC concrete work and impact in the social community:

In the course of preparation of the National Action Plan for Women in Serbia and harmonizing this document with the Beijing Platform, in 2006 – ITC was selected by the Council for Gender Equality, a government body that was established within the Ministry for social policy, labor and employment and as part of the task-force "Violence against women" ITC prepared the chapter of this document referring to sexual violence against women: an overview of relevant data, activities and institutions/organizations in the territory of Serbia and recommendations for a three-year period; concerning the Concluding remarks of the CEDAW Committee for Serbia, ITC directly contributed to the preparation of the Alternative CEDAW report for Serbia created by 5 NGOs – we participated by providing input on the topic of sexual abuse of women and girls for all the three Alternative CEDAW reports so far. In 2005, ITC statistics was recognized and integrated into the National Strategy for combating violence against women which was prepared by the Ministry for social policy, labor and employment and presented in 2007 by a government body, the Council for children's rights, as the only official data on the national level (based on the statistic results since the inception of ITC in 1994 onward). In 2003, ITC was engaged in the position of deputy co-ordinator of the Expert group against child abuse and neglect of the Ministry of Health of RS and this is the only ministry that has ever lent any financial support, however symbolic, to ITC, besides the Secretariat for Child and Social Protection. The ITC staff members worked within the task-force of the Ministry of Health of RS drawing up a Special Protocol on the behavior of health workers in cases of child abuse and neglect. It's our task to write a chapter concerning behavior in cases of sexual abuse. This Special Protocol is to be incorporated in the essential documentation for professionals in health care who work directly with the citizens and are confronted with child sexual abuse.

**Summary:** ITC sees as the most important aspect of its work the fact that over the 16 years of activity we have uncompromisingly developed our autonomy, being at all times an independent agency dealing with the problem of sexual violence hand in hand with public anti-war activism and both organizational and personal engagement of our staff in the process of confrontation with the past and alliance in the field of Diversities (especially sexual diversities) which has also made us a target of extremist groups and the media supporting them in Serbia.

	<p><u>ITC continues its activities with the same clear policy and values.</u></p>
<p><i>The most important projects and achievements over the past three years</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The confidence of the general and expert public that we received during the 2.5 years long ITC campaign against sexual violence „The Me Nobody Knows“ (will be resulting in submitting the Initiative for introducing the topic of gender-based violence in the school curriculum and syllabi and textbooks as one of its outcomes; <i>a detailed report on the campaign was approved by the Delegation of the European Commission in Belgrade (EIDHR program).</i></li> <li>- Prepared and broadcast the first two TV spots and radio jingles in Serbia on the problem of sexual abuse of children (can be viewed on YouTube).</li> <li>- in the period 2006-2008, we completed three cycles of training of the staff of 4 penitentiary institutions for women and minors (The penitentiary and correctional institution for women in Požarevac, the Central Prison Hospital in Belgrade, the Correctional Institution for minors in Valjevo and Kruševac; the total number of effective work hours on the basic and advanced level: 58; total number of attending staff: 61.). The above mentioned cycles constitute only a fraction of a total of 5,828 participants from 431 organizations that have attended the specialized ITC training sessions so far (3/4 from GOs).</li> <li>-2007, the ITC publication by author dr Ljiljana Bogavac „My secret as a fear, as a shame, as a pain... Case studies of the Incest Trauma Center – Belgrade“(can be downloaded and printed from the ITC web page), 48 pages.</li> <li>- ITC organized and conducted two Summits of women human rights defenders that resulted in the formation of the Coalition of women human rights defenders including leaders of 26 women NGO-s active in the territory of Serbia.</li> <li>- Membership of the professional ITC staff in the work group of the Ministry of Health of RS for the preparation of the Protocol on the behavior of health workers in cases of suspected or disclosed child abuse and neglect.</li> <li>- Production, organization and expert consultancy regarding ITC movie “Have I told you I’ve been abused?” First ever movie in Serbia based on true testimonies of female adult survivors of sexual assault who in previous period received psychological assistance at ITC and courageously decided to speak out. Copyright: Incest Trauma Center – Belgrade. Duration: 93 minutes. Head role: Ms Mirjana Karanovic. Broadcasted on RTV B92 (national frequency) in July 2009. Trailer available now on <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbzFcuJpGjM">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbzFcuJpGjM</a> During 33 days in period May-December 2009, in 14 towns was held premiere out of which 5 towns were in former-Yugoslavian countries (Kotor, Podgorica, Sarajevo, Zagreb, Split) and 11 tv channels in Serbia, Bosnia and Montenegro aired it for premiere and reprise. RTV B92 in Serbia, tv with the national frequency showed it for premiere and 3 reprise. The movie has been ongoingly offered to media for free broadcasting.</li> <li>- <b>In December 2009, the Serbian daily newspaper „Blic“ selected ITC director to appear on the list of 200 most powerful women in Serbia (140th place).</b></li> <li>- <b>Incest Trauma Center – Belgrade trainers work as the part of</b></li> </ul>

	<p>lecturers' team within two accredited programs of the Belgrade Women Health Promotion Center. Programs accredited by the Health Council of RS and titled: <b>1. Implementation of the Special Protocol, in health services, for protection and management with female survivors of gender-based violence 2. Respecting specifics, by health services, of the existence of double and multiple discriminated women in health care services.</b> More in detail available now on <a href="http://www.centarzdavljezena.org.rs">www.centarzdavljezena.org.rs</a></p> <p>- Received accreditation of two ed. programs of the Incest Trauma Center – Belgrade by the Ministry of Education, the Institute for advancement of education (basic and advanced level, each lasts 21 effective working hours).</p>
<p><i>Strategic plans (development, transformation, sustainability)</i></p>	<p><b>In the period 2009-2013, the predominant activity of the ITC was to operate as the Sexual Assault Prevention Center.</b> This direction was clearly traced during the above mentioned campaign we have been conducting since September 2007. This strategic direction marks the focus on preventive activities and the continuation of the volume of work of the training-center, whereas the identity of the crisis intervention center has been changing in proportions and volume (discretionary right in admitting clients for direct work in a defined volume and extending supervision services to other organizations-institutions (instead of the 15-year operation predominantly as a crisis center and dealing with 9 cases of sexual violence per week on the average, and two years of operating a round-the-clock crisis hotline, etc.)).</p>
<p><i>Ongoing projects</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Finalizing the documentation for submitting the Initiative for introducing the topic of violence against children and women into the school curriculum and syllabi and textbooks to the government of RS, the Committee for education of the Parliament of RS and the Ministry of Education of RS. This initiative requires a long-term engagement, because it constitutes a proposal concerning all levels of education on which we worked for two years together with a multidisciplinary counseling body that was specially appointed for this purpose. The Initiative will be submitted to the government of RS, the Committee for Education of the Parliament of RS and the Ministry of Education of RS. The document contains a prepared draft on how to introduce the topics into the school curriculum and syllabi and textbooks for different profiles, a suggested readings in the Serbian language and letters of approval and support that have so far been received from 112 GOs and NGOs in Serbia (pending is the final round of lending support prior to the submission of the Initiative, which will surely increase this number).</li> <li>- Promotional activities regarding ITC movie "Have I told you I've been abused?" in the whole territory of Serbia, in the region and internationally (on call of similar organizations/institutions). Journey targets citizens and, in particular, the youth. Open call for local, regional and international media to broadcast the movie.</li> <li>- Within the Campaign „The Me Nobody Knows“ and Sexual Assault Prevention Week that we carry out in partnership with the Belgrade Youth Office (operates as a part of City Administration), in October</li> </ul>

	<p>2009 we carried out the 1st Excellence Award Competition for primary and secondary schools in the territory of Belgrade. It is the first school competition of this kind in Serbia. Total process, including the realization of the Excellence Award and very significant Consolation Prizes, has its duration until July 2010. Achieved official partnership with the Belgrade Youth Office in the process of lobbying for adopting the Initiative to introduce GBV issue into the educational system on all levels. 2nd Excellence Award school competition will be announced in the fall 2010.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current partnership with the Republic Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Interior.</li> <li>- Carrying out two accredited educational programs (by the Health Council of RS) within the trainers' team of Belgrade Women Health Promotion Center. Programs target health care providers.</li> <li>- Carrying out two accredited programs of the Incest Trauma Center – Belgrade by the Ministry of Education of RS, the Institute for advancement of education. Programs of basic and advance level do target teachers, psychologists, pedagogues and management of educational institutions on all educational levels. Each ed. program lasts 21 effective working hours.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Promotion and advertising techniques</i></p>	<p>The telephone number of the ITC hotline appears in several daily papers, in the ITC website, regular guest appearances in the media, conducting awareness-raising campaigns of smaller or larger volume concerning the problem of sexual violence on regular basis over 16 years of operation.</p>
<p><i>Printed editions</i></p>	<p>Books /Manuals:</p> <p>2002, „I am afraid of that man“, translation from Dutch of a picture book for children by author Virginie Dumont (“Ik ben bang voor die Meneer”); 48 pages.</p> <p>2003, Techniques of interviewing children and women survivors of sexual abuse with a note on the interviewing techniques for perpetrators of sexual abuse”– a practical manual for police and judicial personnel by authors dr Ljiljana Bogavac and Dušica Popadić; 18 pages.</p> <p>2003, Suggestions for proper treatment of the problem of abused children intended for the judicial personnel “ – translation from English of an article by the National Center for criminal prosecution of child abuse cases and the Research Institute of DAs of America; 32 pages.</p> <p>2004, „Courage to heal “- A guide for women survivors of child sexual abuse; translation from English of the book by authors Ellen Bass and Laura Davis; 464 pages.</p> <p>2005., „A practical manual for trainers: Gender-based violence from the perspective of survivors“ by authors dr Ljiljana Bogavac and Dušica Popadić</p> <p>2007, „My secret as a fear, as a shame, as a pain... Case studies of the Incest Trauma Center – Belgrade“, by author dr Ljiljana Bogavac; 48 pages. (can be downloaded and printed from the ITC web page)</p> <p><b>2010, Three new publications announced!!!</b></p> <p>*the list of printed publications does not comprise the large number of educational leaflets printed over the 16 years of our work as well as the number of authors' professional articles published in various</p>

	professional journals and manuals.
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