



INCEST TRAUMA CENTER – BELGRADE

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BASIC INFORMATION ON THE INCEST TRAUMA CENTER - BELGRADE

The Incest Trauma Center - Belgrade (ITC; officially registered in 1994) is a women's non-governmental organization, a service specialized in the Sexual Assault issue. The professionals were originally trained in the sphere of health and mental health. More details about the activities of the ITC can be downloaded at www.incesttraumacentar.org.rs. We provide psychological assistance to child and adult survivors of sexual violence and their supportive persons (9 reported cases per week; the only representative statistical data on the national level on the social problem of sexual abuse of children for the period 1994-2009, which was published annually, has been incorporated in several national strategies and reports for the Republic of Serbia). At the same time, we work as a Training Center and in 20th year of ITC activities, our diverse training programs have been attended by 7,712 from 651 GOs and NGOs (4/5 from GOs). All the ITC educational and preventative programs have been conceived and realized on the grounds of our team's direct daily practical activities in the context of violence against women and children. (Illustration: over the period 2005-2011, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice of RS, for the personnel of 4 penitentiary institutions in the territory of Serbia working with women and minor perpetrators of criminal offences. Educational programs of basic and advanced level (42 + 58 effective hours of work).

In June 2001, the ITC started and has to this day been coordinating **The Network of Trust against gender-based violence** (an intervention team of trained practitioners from 15 GOs and NGOs, who in the course of their daily professional activities provide assistance to child and adult survivors to all forms of violence). We are experienced in public campaigns and lobbying (e.g. in the period 2007 - 2011, we were implementing a nationwide campaign against sexual violence entitled "The Me Nobody Knows", one of the specific aims of which is the introduction of the topic of gender-based violence into the school curricula, syllabi and textbooks; The Campaign "1 IN 5" in the period 2012-2014). We note 835 appearances in media.

In accordance with the ITC Strategic Plan for the period 2009-2015, our main identity is related to the Sexual Assault Prevention Center, and accordingly, some of the results have been: a) State Excellence Award 'for special contribution to awareness-raising concerning the unacceptability of sexual and gender-based violence" (The Ministry of Social Policy of RS, 2010) b) Finalist in 2011 and recipient in 2012 of the award "REWARD" of the National PR Society of Serbia in the category "Communication in the non-profit sector"; note:: ITC has been the only competitor that both years created and implemented its Campaign on our own, with no hiring marketing agency; c) Appointment by the Council of Europe in Strasburg as the official national partner in the Campaign against child sexual assault for the Republic of Serbia, the Campaign entitled "ONE in FIVE", based on the Lanzarote Convention (according to the signed agreement, in the course of the entire Campaign, 2012-2014) d) The official song "Stop the Silence!" of ITC Campaign in Serbia has been handed over to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and it has been designated as the official song of "ONE in FIVE" Campaign on European level to be used by the member-states e) In November 2012, the Parliament of the Republic of Serbia adopted our Initiative FOR the rescinding of the Statute of Limitations concerning sex offences committed against children. In this way, Serbia became second country in Europe, after UK, where the Law recognizes long-term effects of sexual trauma (comparing with earlier regulation when child sexual abuse offender could be prosecuted only six years after the last incident of sexual abuse occurred). Now, the survivor is provided the right to report and start up a criminal procedure when gaining psychic strength and social power necessary to act as a more equal participant in prosecution. ITC officially initiated and worked intensively toward this historical change of legislation.

June 2013