



<b>Albania</b>	<b>Tirana</b> <b>Email: ywca@abissnet.com.al</b>
<b>Prevention &amp; Education on HIV and AIDS in Baldushk</b>	<p>180 trained on HIV and AIDS problems (64% of the participants were women and girls and 30% had a husband living abroad in Italy, Greece, Germany).</p> <p>Case history: Dile Mussa (27 years old) - Lives with her parents in law and three children, her husband was working abroad for four years in Italy and sent funds home to keep the family. Since the last visit of her husband she has had an infection, but was ashamed and did not see the doctor. The doctor was a man and she was ashamed to see him as a wife without a husband. After the training and information gained she saw the doctor, took the therapy and decided to use condoms with her husband. During the role play she acted out the discussion between a man and a woman on agreeing to use condoms.</p> <p>Impact on the YWCA: Working with this community helped to increase our capacity. We now understand the mentality and issues of the community. We have made successful contacts that we will use in the future and we have passionate volunteers and partners in these areas now. We have increased the good image of the YWCA of Albania, we were the first to enter in the Baldushk area and people trust us. There is a need for follow up in this isolated community, there is a lot to do there to facilitate the women's lives. The local authorities have asked us to organise meetings and trainings on Human Rights and Women's and Children's rights. We would also like to extend the HIV and AIDS training to a Mullet village close to Baldushk where we have operated before.</p>

<b>Belarus</b>	<b>Minsk</b> <b>Email: ywcabelarus@telecom.by</b>
<b>Human rights advocacy - 2004 Shadow Report at CEDAW</b>	<p>Democratic transformation pursuing to change the existing authoritarian system, promotion of economic reforms, and the creation of a strong civil society must become the main condition for improvement of women's lives in Belarus," stated the YWCA of Belarus in the shadow report on their country's implementation of the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The shadow report, which was prepared with the Women's Independent Democratic Movement (WIDM), was presented to the CEDAW Committee in January 2004. Gender stereotypes, trafficking of women, and violence against women are some of the issues covered in the shadow report which argues that, "true respect of women's human rights has usually been substituted by some sort of financial assistance (by the government).</p>

<b>Belarus</b>	<b>Minsk</b> <b>Email: ywcabelarus@telecom.by</b>
<b>Trafficking prevention and counselling</b>	<p>Recognising that trafficking in women is one of the most urgent problems facing women in their country, the YWCA of Belarus began the La Strada hotline in January 2001, which aims to provide women with information about international marriages, and working or studying abroad. Qualified psychologists, sociologists and social workers staff the hotline, which is available from 9am to 9pm. Since its inception, the La Strada hotline had received over 4000 calls from women exploring options for leaving Belarus, and more than 60 calls from trafficked women or relatives looking for missing women.</p> <p>In 2002, the YWCA of Belarus expanded the La Strada programme to include advocacy and awareness raising, preventative education and counselling. The association's advocacy campaign concentrates on increasing public understanding and discussion about trafficking in women, and has included almost 40 television and radio interviews over the past two years and significant newspaper coverage. Rather than trying to prevent women from leaving Belarus, the prevention and education component of the programme aims to inform vulnerable groups about the risks of trafficking and how to avoid the various traps. The hotline provides women wanting to work abroad with information about legal opportunities for such work, as well as the rights and duties of migrant workers. Those interested in marrying foreigners are advised to take the time to get to know their future husband, and are given advice about marriage and divorce procedures and children's rights. In addition to the hotline service, the YWCA has organised more than 100 educational lectures to reach larger audiences. The La Strada programme also provides an invaluable service to survivors of trafficking and their families, providing social, legal, medical and psychological assistance to assist with reintegration and coming to terms with their trauma.</p>



<p><b>Belarus</b></p> <p><b>Counteraction of HIV/AIDS Spread among young people in Belarus</b></p>	<p><b>Minsk</b>      <b>Email: ywcabelarus@telecom.by</b></p> <p>To counteract the spread of HIV/AIDS through improving the decision making skills of young people and showing them how to lead a positive life with responsible sexual habits. Projects in the area of sustainable development including women's economic justice and the environment.</p>
<p><b>Belarus</b></p> <p><b>Increase Women's Employment in the Labour Market</b></p>	<p><b>Minsk</b>      <b>Email: ywcabelarus@telecom.by</b></p> <p>Trainings were held in English language and computer technology and use, as well as training in self esteem and social skills. A booklet was produced on how to write a CV, presentation of self, interviews, etc. and given to participants at the end of the course.</p> <p>Case studies          Oksana Narkevich was employed in a bank.          Antonina Golybeva found work abroad and went to work in Africa.          Marina Belevich believed in herself after the trainings on psychology and wrote a project "Helping in social women employment" and got the grant.</p> <p>YWCA of Belarus          We fulfilled the aims of this project but we get requests to continue studying English and computer. Many requests concern psychological trainings. In future we'd like to pay much attention to physical, psychological and reproduction health of jobless women.</p>
<p><b>Belgium</b></p> <p><b>Services for refugees and asylum seekers</b></p>	<p><b>Antwerpen</b>      <b>Email: clejeune_ywca@compuserve.com</b></p> <p>The YWCA of Antwerp in Belgium has worked extensively with refugees and asylum seekers. Their programmes have included language lessons and assistance in adjusting to Belgian life, training in income generating skills, and facilitating social gatherings. The YWCA is also working to ensure that policy makers listen to the voices of refugee women in determining the programmes and policies that are meant to serve them. Based on interviews conducted with 40 refugee women from 23 countries, the YWCA of Antwerp has released a report on the living conditions and status of refugee women in Belgium. It calls for a gender-based response to the needs of refugees and asylum seekers, and discusses the unique challenges and needs of female refugees. The report asserts that 'their participation, both as a means and as an objective of any initiative, is a prerequisite for the success of every project.' A lobby kit, including research outcomes and recommendations for improved support for refugee women, is now available in English, French and Dutch from the YWCA of Antwerp in Belgium.</p>
<p><b>Georgia</b></p> <p><b>Help for single mothers</b></p>	<p><b>Tbilisi / Georgia Georgia</b>      <b>Email: georgia_ywca@yahoo.com</b></p> <p>To be a lone parent is never easy, and in Georgia single mothers are one of the most marginalised groups in society. Eliso Machavariana, a single mother, was on the verge of suicide when she first came to the YWCA. Abandoned by her boyfriend and desperate to hide her pregnancy from her family, Eliso was forced to move into a maternity home, where the manager restricted her freedom and threatened to sell her baby. Eliso turned to the YWCA for help, joining their club for single mothers. The club enabled her to share her experiences, and provided information and support to turn her life around. Eliso has now moved into her own flat and set up a small business to provide a family income. With the YWCA's support, she is also negotiating with the maternity home for the return of her baby and has contacted the baby's father to assist with child-raising expenses. The single mothers in the YWCA Women's Club in Georgia, all have similar stories to Eliso. The Club has restored their dignity and security, and with plans underway to provide computer and language training in future, hopefully it will also expand career options.</p>