In Spring 2017, Global Rights for Women hosted its second annual Minnesota workshop for international participants to learn about and experience firsthand the coordinated community response to domestic violence, also known as “The Duluth Model.”

**WHY CCR?** Coordinated community response is a method of implementing laws and policies that prioritizes victim safety and offender accountability for domestic violence within a social change framework. CCR guides communities to build systems interventions that respond effectively to victims’ actual experiences.

The workshop provided an extraordinary opportunity for country teams, each consisting of NGO advocates, law enforcement officers, legal professionals and/or policymakers, to learn how communities in Minnesota are implementing laws and policies that address domestic violence through a coordinated community response (CCR). In a CCR, agencies such as police, prosecutors, probation, courts, and victim advocates work together to create policies and procedures for collaboration and communication. Through CCR, victims are kept safer, their needs are more effectively understood and met and offenders are more likely to be held accountable for abuse, often resulting in a reduction of re-offense rates.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

- **13** attendees representing 4 countries: China, Armenia, Bulgaria and Georgia, all with relatively new domestic violence laws that are experiencing challenges with implementation.
- **17** U.S. and international experts/trainers and 10 policymakers and legislators
- **50+** observation opportunities including police department ride-alongs, 911 dispatch center tours, a county jail tour, batterer intervention program group observations, and Domestic Abuse Service Center Observation.
- **53** hours of training, convening, observing and peer-to-peer exchange over 7 days.
TRAINING SPECIFICS

Participants in Minneapolis and St. Paul had 3 days of learning opportunities including lectures from GRW staff on governments’ legal obligations to effectively implement domestic violence laws, panel discussions with local experts involved in CCRs in larger cities and systems, and exercises with GRW trainers on building a CCR in their home countries.

The numerous trainers and experts shared their own experiences on how they coordinate their response to domestic violence within their communities and criminal justice systems. These presentations were reinforced through over 50 opportunities to observe various systems’ responses to domestic violence reports. Participants directly observed emergency dispatch response and tracking of calls; police responses to reports of violence; procedures in a county jail; prosecutors and probation officers tasked with monitoring offenders’ compliance with court orders; and men’s non-violence group courses. Extensive conversation occurred allowing participants to ask questions and compare experiences, challenges and solutions.

SAMPLE AGENDA

Day 7 in Minneapolis
- Domestic Abuse Service Center Observation
- Debrief from Observations
- Wrap-up by GRW, Introduction to International Law
- Implementing and Refining CCR in Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia with Delegation Presentations
- Presentation of Certificates of Completion

FEEDBACK

92% of participants chose 'excellent' when asked to rate the workshop including content, process, and logistics.

“I would definitely recommend this workshop to my colleagues, as we got aware of very practical issues and would be helpful for them too.”

“Yes, I will recommend it. Coordination is very important and this type of coordination doesn’t exist in our country.”

“It would be good if you trained state employed prosecutors, police officers, and judges in our country.”

NEXT STEPS & VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Participants left the United States with a renewed sense of purpose and deeper understanding of how to implement domestic violence laws through a CCR in their home countries. Some plan to conduct small-scale pilot projects to begin to build the foundation of CCR within the various agencies involved in domestic violence response. Global Rights for Women is continuing to support and connect participants with the resources and information they need to succeed at establishing a CCR and putting their laws to work to help victims of violence.
WORKSHOP PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Many organizations and individuals came together to support the Spring 2017 Global Rights for Women CCR Minnesota Workshop. Thank you to all the financial and in-kind contributors who were a part of this workshop!

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Vernona Boswell, Domestic Abuse Service Center, Hennepin County
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To learn more about Global Rights for Women, please visit our website at: www.globalrightsforwomen.org.

For specific questions about the Spring 2017 and future workshops, please contact Melissa Scaia, International Training Director (mscaia@grwomen.org) or Amy Lauricella, Director of Outreach and Legal Reform (alauricella@grwomen.org).