

Court Response to Violence Against Women During COVID-19

Webinar Series: Adapting Legal and Systemic Responses During COVID-19 Addressing Violence Against Women

April 3, 2020

Webinar Logistics

- Please keep microphones **muted** and webcam off.
- Type questions into the chat box throughout the presentation
- Moderators will pose questions from your comments and questions from the chat box.
- A recording of the presentation will be sent to all participants

Global Rights for Women

Global Rights for Women works with leaders around the world to advance women and girls' human right to live free from violence through legal reform and institutional and social change.

Panelists

Moderator: Cheryl Thomas, Global Rights for Women Executive Director

Lori Flohaug, former prosecutor / Leech Lake Tribal Court Judge currently practicing family and criminal law

Natia Merebashvili, Deputy Prosecutor General of Georgia

Scott Miller, Executive Director of Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs ("the Duluth Model")

Erin Osborne, Staff Attorney, Central Minnesota Legal Services

Referee John Schulte, Presides over all protective order and harassment restraining order court hearings in Duluth and Carlton County

Domestic Violence in the Context of COVID-19

Women's access to safety will depend on:

- Community's commitment to intervening in domestic violence
- Accessibility of advocacy services, police and court during lockdown
- Resources for women struggling financially
- Availability of safe shelter for women and children, or removal of perpetrator from home

Protective Orders

Orders from a court or law enforcement prohibiting a perpetrator of violence from having certain types of contact with the victim.

May include:

- No acts or threats of violence
- No contact in person, by phone, electronically, etc
- Barring perpetrator from the home
- Stay a certain distance away from home, work, etc
- Custody, parenting time, child or spousal support

Protective Orders

Protective Orders vary significantly around the world:

- Who can issue an order (Police or Court)
- Whether protective orders are part of a criminal or civil case
- Whether a hearing is required
- Duration of the order
- Specific protections provided
- Who can access a protective order (spouse or also other intimate partners, family members, roommates, etc)
- How the order is enforced, and whether there are criminal consequences for violation

Assistance for Victims

Different Models Around the World:

- Some police have authority to issue emergency orders
- Some communities have Service Centers that help victims file petitions
- Some courts issue protective orders as part of criminal cases of DV

Expert Insights

How has your work shifted and
changed in the courts because of
COVID-19?

Expert Insights

How has the court process for Protection Orders changed due to COVID-19? What has shifted in your practice?

Expert Insights

How are you addressing
victim safety and
offender accountability,
while also addressing
the risks to all parties
posed by COVID-19?

Expert Insights

What have been the challenges to **victims** during COVID-19?

How have **court and advocacy** practices shifted to try to address the challenges victims face?

Questions?

Contact Global Rights for Women

www.globalrightsforwomen.org

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