What is a risk assessment?
A risk assessment tool assesses the frequency, severity, and patterns of domestic violence, using victims’ responses to narrative questionnaires and available data on a particular case. Risk assessment tools enable law enforcement, the justice system and community actors to identify lethal offenders and those most likely to re-abuse in domestic violence cases.
Meeting with Tbilisi and Gori Police Managers and Officers

GRW traveled to Georgia to work with stakeholders to gather input from those who had worked directly with the current risk-assessment tool. Talking with police officers, supervisors and management allowed us to gather and address issues present in the existing system – weaknesses and successes.

Process

1. Had group discussions and individual interviews with police patrol officers, supervisors and police leadership to understand their usage and implementation of risk-assessment tools.

2. Collected and assessed training methods, guides, policies and protocols in use pertaining to domestic violence risk-assessment. By examining a set of random police reports related to risk-assessment, GRW evaluated the follow through and effectiveness of existing policy.

3. Had group discussions and individual interviews with representatives of community crisis agencies, private and state-run shelters.

4. Conducted focus groups with victims of domestic violence whose partner does not have a criminal case pending to identify where gaps in reporting and assessment may exist.

The number of beneficiaries [of police and shelter services] have increased, not because the incidence of domestic violence has increased, but because detection has increased.
Decades of learning has shown us that to effectively respond to offenders and evaluate the likelihood of their repeated violence, we need input from victims and community partners.

For this project, GRW sought input and contributions from victims in Georgia, UN Women, community members, justice system practitioners, agency leaders, and experts.

In working across agencies, social spheres and institutions, GRW’s goal was to facilitate linkages and interactions among institutions and break down boundaries that undermined victim safety and offender accountability.

- Survivor focused: Responds to their experience with the criminal justice response in Georgia
- Standardized: System practitioners will be able to count on a consistent, effective, and fair response.
- Transcendent: Requires a strong response and effective coordination from many agencies that will engage with victims from their initial call for help through case discharge.
- Knowledge based: Interventions are adequately tailored to circumstances based on severity, duration, and frequency of abuse.
GRADA

Georgia Risk Assessment for Domestic Abuse (GRADA) tool developed for law enforcement in Georgia.

We incorporated input from victims and practitioners in Georgia and combined it with years of research on the risk factors for further abuse or lethal force.

GRW collaborated heavily with UN Women and the ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia to develop this tool.

*we were able to compensate victims and NGO organizations for their time thanks to individual donations from GRW donors
Many organizations and individuals came together to support the improvement of the Georgia Risk Assessment for Domestic Violence

European Union
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Kay Arola, Executive Director, US Arrowhead Regional Corrections
Marcus Bruning, US retired law enforcement officer
Ministry of Internal Affairs Georgia
Rhonda Martinson, consultant
UN Women Georgia

For specific questions about this project or about future workshops, please contact Melissa Scaia, Director of International Training at mscaia@grwomen.org.
To learn more about Global Rights for Women, please visit our website at www.globalrightsforwomen.org.