

CENTER  
FOR  
COURT  
INNOVATION

**Gender Initiatives Technical Assistance Case Studies**

**Armenia**

*Juvenile Justice and Probation Alternatives for Women and Children*

Client: Social Policy and Development Center and UNICEF

Location: Yerevan, Armenia

Project: The Center for Court Innovation is working with Social Policy and Development Center (SPDC), supported by UNICEF, on juvenile justice, alternative sentencing and probation alternatives for women and children in Armenia.

Specifically, the Center provided a two-day training program to police, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal and Social Affairs, social service agencies and NGO's and primary stakeholders on international standards on alternative sentencing, its applications for women and children, community sanctions, and the role of law enforcement bodies in an alternative sentencing system; worked with Armenian national experts to draft recommendations for the creation of a national system of juvenile justice in Armenia; and, met with local and international stakeholders individually to assess the current gaps in services and alternative sentences for women and children.

The Center continues to collaborate with SPDC and UNICEF by providing technical assistance on the creation of a national system of juvenile justice in Armenia.

**Australia**

*Domestic Violence Initiatives*

Client: Programs and Strategy Branch, Courts and Tribunals Unit of the Department of Justice Victoria; Crime Prevention Division of the Attorney General's Office of New South Wales

Location: Canberra, ACT, Australia; Melbourne, Victoria, Australia; and Sydney, NSW, Australia

Project: In May of 2008, Center staff assisted the Programs and Strategy Branch, Courts and Tribunals Unit of the Department of Justice in Victoria and the Crime Prevention Division of the Attorney General's Office of New South Wales, Australia by providing a week of hands-on technical assistance and training on domestic violence initiatives to the criminal justice and stakeholder communities in Victoria and New South Wales.

Specifically, the Center met with policy and planning representatives of the Attorney General's Office and Victim Advocate agencies in New South Wales to discuss specialized Sex Offense Courts and Integrated Domestic Violence Courts in Australia; conducted workshops on problem-solving initiatives and

domestic violence courts to Attorney General's Office policy makers, judges, executive staff and victim advocates in New South Wales; worked with the Department of Justice in Victoria to provide workshops on domestic violence initiatives and best practices for over 220 participants , including court employees, Department of Justice staff, judges and magistrates; designed and presented a workshop to Department of Justice executive staff in Victoria on how the Center for Court Innovation creates new programming; and, presented a plenary paper on domestic violence courts at national conference on Family Violence and specialist courts in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), Australia and participated on an international panel on specialized courts and domestic violence.

The Center continues to collaborate with and facilitate site visits from the Attorney General's Office of New South Wales, the Department of Justice of Victoria and the Victim Support ACT in Australia.

### **Azerbaijan**

*Azerbaijan's Community Development Gender Participation Project*

Client: CHF International

Location: Azerbaijan

Project: the Center assisted CHF International (<http://www.chfinternational.org>) in promoting participation of women in community development activities to further their mission of nurturing self governance and democracy in Azerbaijan. The Center participated in assessing southern Azerbaijan community development council activities in over 15 villages and offered recommendations and strategies to community outreach workers to increase and support the meaningful participation of women. The Center completed a short-term gender analysis of the program, conducted trainings on women's participation in community development, and assisted in the development of personal actions plans for all outreach workers along with a final report of future recommendations and linkages.

### **Canada**

*The Justice System's Response to Intimate Partner Violence*

Client: The Canadian Observatory on the Justice System's Response to Intimate Partner Violence, Funded by the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)

Location: Australia, England, Canada and United States

Project: In 2008, the Canadian observatory received funding to establish a research project with team researchers in Australia, United Kingdom, and the United States. This project will help Canada to create standardized international data sets of justice data on courts, including specialized domestic violence courts, coordinated domestic violence service delivery, and police and prosecutors' policies and procedures. The objective of this one year research project is to obtain a clearer international picture of intimate partner violence and how intimate partner violence cases are processed through criminal justice systems. The data collection grid will be piloted in Canberra and Wagga Wagga in Australia, led by Dr. Paul Mazerolle; in London, England, led by Dr. Liz Kelly; and in New York, led by the Center for Court Innovation's Michael Rempel.

## **Ghana**

### *Gender Justice and the Role of the Judiciary in Promoting Gender Justice in Africa*

Client: The International Legal Assistance Consortium

Location: Accra, Ghana

Project: The Center for Court Innovation was invited to participate in the UNDP-funded conference: Gender Justice and the Role of the Judiciary in Promoting Gender Justice in Africa. Hosted in Accra, Ghana, from November 19-21st, 2008, over 25 African countries participated, with the highest level judges in attendance. The Center for Court Innovation's role in the conference was to assist in the conversation of how the judiciary can work to improve women's access to justice and how the justice sector can partner with local community organizations and NGO's to improve services and access to justice for women. Center staff served as facilitators in workshops, and assisted in discussions on court reforms and violence against women. Center staff provided information on specialized Domestic Violence Courts and Sexual Offense Courts, identifying system gaps and harnessing the power of community stakeholders in addressing domestic violence and offering examples, tools and strategies of how the judiciary can and should draw upon system and non-system partners to improve court responses to domestic and sexual violence.

## **Trinidad and Tobago**

### *Judicial Sensitization on Issues of Gender-Based and Domestic Violence*

Client: Trinidad and Tobago Coalition against Domestic Violence

Location: Trinidad and Tobago

Project: The Center for Court Innovation partnered with the Trinidad and Tobago Coalition against Domestic Violence to implement a program on Judicial Sensitization on Issues of Gender-Based and Domestic Violence. The project's goal was to ensure fair and equitable treatment for victims of gender-based and domestic violence in the national judicial system. Specifically, the Center for Court Innovation provided training on gender-based and domestic violence, information on best practices in domestic violence courts and contributed to the production of a resource/training manual. The trainings focused on providing an understanding of domestic violence as well as best practices that courts, other justice system players and NGOs' could use to handle these cases. Participants included magistrates, Clerks of the Peace, police, prosecutors, attorneys, social workers, probation officers and NGO representatives.

## **United States of America**

The Center for Court Innovation has been an Office of Violence Against Women Targeted Technical Assistance provider since 2006. The Center has provided on-site technical assistance to over **twenty-five jurisdictions nationally**, from urban cities such as New Orleans, Chicago and Seattle, to rural towns such as Alexandria, Louisiana, and Sandy, Utah and tribal jurisdictions such as the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Tribal Government. In addition to technical assistance, the Center has conducted and disseminated research on domestic violence, including distributing a domestic violence court research report on court responses to batterer non-compliance to over 1,800 criminal

justice practitioners across the United State. Below are two examples of the Center's domestic violence national technical assistance:

New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

*Family Justice Centers and the Criminal Justice System*

Client: New Orleans Family Justice Center

Location: New Orleans, Louisiana

Project: The Center for Court Innovation is working with the New Orleans Family Justice Center, the Orleans Parish Municipal Court and the Orleans Parish County Court to strategize innovative ways to deal with misdemeanor domestic violence cases.

The Center participated in two day long meetings with stakeholders working to improve the way domestic violence cases, and the victims and perpetrators, are dealt with in Orleans Parish. The Center then hosted a site visit to the domestic violence courts in Brooklyn, New York to broaden the discussion about best practices and meet with a jurisdiction that has encountered and overcome the challenges faced when planning and implementing a model court domestic violence court. The Center then drafted recommendations with stakeholders and attended an all day best practice conference to help generate support for the recommendations. Most recently the Center helped draft and submit a grant application that will fund a designated domestic violence court to oversee perpetrators and ensure compliance with probation conditions.

The Center continues to collaborate with the New Orleans Family Justice Center and the Criminal Courts in Orleans Parish.

St. Cloud, Minnesota

Client: Stearns County Domestic Violence Partnership

Location: St. Cloud, MN

Project: The Center for Court Innovation is working with the Stearns County Domestic Violence Partnership to assist in the planning and implementation of a felony domestic violence court. Specifically, the Center created a detailed planning timeline, hosted a 2 day site visit to New York State domestic violence courts, facilitated two distance learning based webinars to assist in the planning of the felony domestic violence court, and assisted in the drafting of grant funding applications for the domestic violence court project.

The Center continues to provide on-going technical assistance to Stearns County through input on weekly planning meeting agendas and guidance on the creation of the Stearns County Felony Domestic Violence Court Planning Document.