

Report of Activities

September 2014, Rome

BeFree Social Cooperative against human trafficking, discrimination and violence against women has been conducting frontline work for many years. Our work often takes place in locations and situations in which the abuse, violence, ill treatment and violation of human rights is dramatic.

In years of fieldwork, we have heard thousands of stories from victims who endured violence in fear, shame, silence and solitude. They were surrounded by friends, family, and neighbors who could see the abuse, but failed to recognize it, who could understand, but feigned ignorance, who could intervene, but who did not come forward.

Because of this, because we understand violence against women in all its aspects, nuances and consequences, because we know that society as a whole must take responsibility and action, we strive to counter the culture of discrimination and inequality that fuels gender violence.

As I write this letter, three women in Italy were killed by their partners in the past 48 hours. These tragic outcomes are not exceptional. They are in line with the statistics. Every two days in Italy we read reports of yet another femicide. This violence is classless and ageless. It knows no geographic boundaries. It happens in wealthy neighborhoods and crowded peripheries, in cities and villages, in the prosperous North and well-off Centre of the country, and the struggling South; along heavily trafficked highways and quiet streets, in public places and at home.

Despite decades of struggle by the women's movement and its allies, despite laws that purport to protect and respect women, Italy remains a country in which women are portrayed and treated in a demeaning, hyper sexualized manner. It is a country in which the economic crisis has increased the feminization of poverty. The progressive expulsion of women from the labor market did not raise public indignation and protest, nor did it spur remedial action.

In this country, change is hard to achieve and each gain is readily challenged, when not altogether undermined. Yet we are not discouraged. We keep our focus and meet the challenges skillfully. The work we do is what we know, what we love, and what we will continue to do with commitment and passion.



Oria Gargano
President

INTRODUCTION

BeFree Social Cooperative Against Violence and Discrimination was launched on February 27, 2007 to counter violence against women, gender-based discrimination, inequality and trafficking in human beings. To this end, BeFree's provides services, advocacy, training, education, and outreach activities.

BeFree's objectives are the promotion and protection of women's human rights, as well as the empowerment of both victims and protection actors. The cooperative aims at ensuring that gender rights are mainstreamed in policies and actions. BeFree works to change social perceptions of gender roles and dynamics in order to promote a culture of respect for diversity.

BeFree quickly rose to prominence and succeeded in providing a wide spectrum of services. This positive outcome and BeFree's high profile are due to the inherent soundness and social value of its projects and initiatives, which are spearheaded and managed by staff with long-standing and recognized experience in countering violence and discrimination.

BeFree is structured as a permanent "workshop" to develop and implement methodologies and practices of research, fieldwork, support, and assistance to victims in a non-judgmental way. It operates with the conviction that victims cases represent living evidence of societal malfunctions which need to be addressed by the

society as a whole and that demand to put the interests of the victims first in the respect, protection, and promotion of their human rights.



BeFree Members

BeFree is funded prevalently by government institutions through the adjudication of competitive grants. It is highly regarded and prominently consulted and featured by such institutions and the media as an indispensable interlocutor, and a source of expertise and excellence. Its permanent staff is composed of 21 members. BeFree also avails itself of a roster of consultants including auditors and quality control specialists on an on-going basis.

THEMES

Violence against Women (VaW)

Violence against women is one of the main areas identified in the Beijing Platform for Action (1995). Laws and services in Italy address VaW, but there is no uniform and comprehensive political and law enforcement strategy to effectively prevent VAW and protect victims. According to the Casa delle Donne of Bologna, 117 women were

Report of Activities

killed by men in 2013. A study conducted by the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union found that 34% of women aged 15 and over in Italy are victims of physical or sexual violence perpetrated by men. Another study, based mainly on 2006 data, estimated that VaW extolled an economic and social cost of Euros 17 billion that year. In Italy, there is no system for collecting reliable and comprehensive qualitative and quantitative data on VaW nor does it exist a plan of action to stem it. Male violence and gender discrimination therefore remain the main obstacles to the achievement of women's human rights and equality.

Trafficking in Human Beings (THB)

Italy is one of the front-line recipients of migrant flows in Europe. The lack of a national centralized database makes it virtually impossible to gather a complete idea of differences in patterns and characteristics of migration/refugee/trafficked persons flows. A 2012 study related that of the 23,878 trafficking victims contacted by governmental and nongovernmental actors, 21,491 were women and girls, 781 men and boys, and 1,606 transgender people. It is has become increasingly frequent and expedient for the government to conflate refugees and THB victims under the same rubric as migrants. Prolonged administrative detention is frequently the only answer the government is able or willing to provide to THB victims. In the Centers for Identification and Expulsion (CIE) there are many female victims of violence and ill treatment whose access to protective services and assistance is routinely hampered if not altogether curtailed. They are often

deported regardless of reports of their THB status and of violence against them.

COUNTERING VAW, THB, AND DISCRIMINATION

BeFree's objectives and practices are outlined in its "Charter of Services" and include:

- Countering human trafficking and the culture of violence against women in a holistic and participative manner;
- Empowering victims to claim their rights;
- Improving mechanisms of protection and integration of, and assistance--including legal counsel--to victims by studying, conceptualizing, and implementing innovative best practices, recommendations, and guidelines for governmental and non-governmental actors;
- Creating, developing, and managing services, training, and outreach activities with the goal of holistically counteracting the culture of violence, discrimination, and denial of difference;
- Developing models of intervention and training grounded in field work, research, and the active involvement of victims of violence and discrimination;
- Creating networks involving government institutions, the judiciary, law enforcement, civil society, and the media at the local, national, and international levels to foster change;
- Protecting the psychological wellbeing of BeFree operators who are constantly exposed to

Report of Activities

interaction with severely traumatized individuals and narratives of violence and discrimination.

BeFree holds management and legal leadership meetings at least once a week to assess the effectiveness of interventions and projects; evaluate new directions; address and overcome shortcomings; and study emerging good practices and innovative tools at home and abroad.

MAIN SERVICES

SoSDonna: 24/7: (2010-present)

This drop-in center, funded by the Comune di Roma (Municipality of Rome local government), supports women victims of human rights abuses and human trafficking and encourages them to discuss their cases when willing to do so either on their own initiative or because of the intervention of social services and law enforcement. The center is equipped to host women and eventually their children for a few days.

Anti-Trafficking Support Center Off-side: (2009-present)

BeFree manages a drop-in support center for women detained in the CIE of Ponte Galeria in Rome. In the course of its work in the CIE, BeFree has enabled more than 300 women to be accepted and to participate in programs of social protection. This is supported by the Italian Dipartimento delle Pari Opportunità (Department of Equal Opportunities at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers' office) and by the Provincia di Roma. The experience in Ponte Galeria is documented in *Storie di Ponte e di Frontiere* (Stories of a Bridge and Frontiers), a book published in 2010 in Sapere Solidale,

the publishing house of Be Free. This book has been very well received by the public, the media, and government authorities.

Sportello Donna 24/7: (2009-present)

This is a drop-in center located in the Emergency Department of the San Camillo–Forlanini Hospital, the largest hospital in Rome. It provides support to victims of gender-based violence and human trafficking. To this end, BeFree also trains medical staff and other health providers, including training based on indicators pointing to cases of human trafficking. More than 3,000 women have been assisted by this service.



The President of the Chamber of Deputies Laura Boldrini and MP Celeste Costantini at the Sportello Donna of the San Camilo Hospital

In these three facilities staff includes professionals, such as experts on gender-based violence and human trafficking, social workers, lawyers, psychologists, ethno-anthropologist, and cultural mediators fluent in Chinese, Romanian, Spanish, Portuguese, Albanian, Nigerian English, and Slavonic languages.

Legal Assistance and Litigation

BeFree legal assistance is offered with a view to ensuring that women actively and pro-actively participate in all phases of their coming out of violence, are empowered to claim their rights and undertake a process of re-organization of their lives on the basis of strengthened self-determination. BeFree's lawyers are trained in, provide counsel for, and litigate cases pertaining to civil, criminal, labor and immigration law. They work as a team in order to build an effective protection net and responses tailored to clients' needs. The team also studies, identifies and strives to correct gaps in legislation to better prevent, protect, and deliver justice to victims of violence.

Services

The team manages two innovative service: "*L'avvocata in tasca*" (Walk-in legal desk). Once a week, a BeFree lawyer is available to offer legal counsel and thus establish a relationship with the assisted women on an on-going basis to break the climate of isolation that often surrounds the experience of violence, to prevent abuses and their recurrence, as well as help women to seek justice. Legal counsel is free for women who cannot afford to pay. "*ARGA*" *Sportello anti-stalking e anti-mobbing* (Legal help desk against stalking and harassment) Similarly to the Walk-in legal desk, this service aims at assisting women in cases of stalking, as well as sexual and work-related harassment.

Litigation

BeFree successfully litigates cases on behalf of victims of VaW and trafficking in human beings. In one groundbreaking instance BeFree's lawyers were instrumental in winning compensation for victims of THB concomitantly with criminal proceedings against perpetrators thereby ensuring that their seized assets accrued to the victims rather than, as customary, the State. This spared the victims expensive, lengthy and potentially re-traumatizing civil action to obtain compensation.



Department of Detention Facilities, completion of the project "Parlare con Lui"

AD HOC PROGRAMS

Coming Out Dalla Violenza: (2011-2012)

(Coming out of violence)

This service provided assistance and legal, psychological, and social support service to homosexual women who had experienced violence, ill treatment and abuse in and/or outside their relationships, including with their partners. The project was supported by the Dipartimento per le Pari Opportunità.

Report of Activities

Parlare con i Lui: (2011-present)

(Talking with him)

An educational project directed toward violent men with a view of uprooting gender roles and stereotypes that underpin violent behavior. It was carried out with convicted sex offenders. The project was conducted in partnership with Maschile Plurale and the Istituto di Specializzazione in Psicoterapia (ISIPSE), and in agreement with l'Ufficio del Garante dei Diritti dei Detenuti della Regione Lazio (Detainees' ombudsman) and with L'Ufficio di Esecuzione Penale Esterna del Ministero di Grazia e Giustizia (Ministry of Justice).

Bullo..Ma de che?, Bulli non si nasce: (2010)

(One is not born a bully)

The project encompassed research and educational activities against bullying in middle and high schools, and for the prevention and counteraction of aggressive behavior. It was financed by Solidea - Istituzione di Genere femminile e di Solidarietà della Provincia di Roma.

Nessuno Tocchi Eva: (2009-2010)

(Do not touch Eve)

A project aimed at the prevention of violence against women, financed by the Dipartimento per le Pari Opportunità. It created three regional help desks for female victims of violence in the towns of Bracciano, Cerveteri, Ladispoli, and Managesa (Province of Rome) and 160 hours training programs for local healthcare and social workers.

Civitas3: (2008-2012)

In partnership with the Regione Lazio and with Cooperativa Sociale Magliana

80, this project provided psycho-social support services to people (men and women) held at the CIE Ponte Galeria. It was financed by the Dipartimento per le Pari Opportunità.

Italy, Albania, and Greece Against Trafficking of Women and Minors: (2008-2010)

This was a multi-national project co-financed by the European Union for the creation of cultural and linguistic mediation services for female victims of trafficking in human beings.

Prendere il Volo: (2008)

(Taking off)

This project for interventions in favor of migrants was carried out in partnership with the Provincia di Roma, and financed by the Dipartimento per le Pari Opportunità.

Corpi Consapevoli: (2007-2008)

(Knowledgeable Bodies)

This project aimed at preventing and countering female genital mutilation. It was conducted in partnership with the Istituto per gli Studi sui Servizi Sociali (I.S.T.I.S.S.S.) and financed by the Dipartimento per le Pari Opportunità.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Training the Operators

On an ongoing basis, BeFree trains students in different fields of undergraduate and postgraduate studies in violence prevention, gender education, law enforcement, and social and healthcare. These programs are carried out in partnership with academic institutions, such as the Università degli Studi Roma Tre, Università degli Studi Sapienza,

Scuola di specializzazione in
 Psicoterapia Istituto Skinner, Centro
 Informazione ed Educazione allo
 Sviluppo CIES.



A BeFree training course

Courses

August 30 - September 3, 2014:
 “Questions on Power,” an intensive
 summer course on women and power,
 women in power, and women’s
 counterpower. Convent of the
 Madonna del Giglio, Bolsena.

January 2014 - April 2014:
 Course for anti-violence workers
 already active at the “Casa delle Case”
 of Monterotondo (Rm) financed by
 SPES associazione di promozione e
 solidarietà (Rome).

February 2014 - June 2014:
 Course for forty aspiring anti-violence
 and anti-trafficking workers held at the
 International House of Women
 (Rome).

February 2014 - May 2014:
 Course for anti-violence workers from
 the “Aquilone” association that has its
 headquarters at Rocca di Papa
 (Rome).

December 2013:
 Intensive preparatory training course
 for the opening of an anti-violence
 service in Paestum (Salerno) financed
 by the Associazione Artemide.

August 30, 2013 - September 4, 2013:
 “Love’s Seduction: An Unconventional
 Narrative of Violence Against Women”
 - a summer intensive course on the
 politics of women, at Casa di Martino,
 San Martino al Cimino (Viterbo).

February 2013 - April 2013:
 Professional course for anti-violence
 workers in collaboration with the
 Scuola Sociale della Provincia di
 Roma.

September 2012 - November 2013:
 Pilot Training Program “Competence
 and Consciousness for First
 Responders to Victims of Violence and
 Stalking” at the Azienda Ospedaliera
 San Camillo Forlanini, financed by the
 Dipartimento per le Pari Opportunità.

September 3 – 7, 2012:
 “Works, Working, Genders,
 Generations” summer intensive course
 on the politics of women, sponsored by
 the Scuola Sociale della Provincia di
 Roma and the Università di Roma Tre
 and endorsed by the Università di
 Roma Tre and the Osservatorio

Report of Activities

Interuniversitario di Genere, Centro Ecumene, Velletri (Roma).

financed by the Provincia and the Prefettura di Latina.

August 29 – September 4, 2011:

“Tales of a Bridge and Frontiers”- A summer intensive training program on human trafficking sponsored by the Provincia di Roma and the Università di Roma Tre, as well as the Osservatorio Interuniversitario di Genere, Centro Ecumene, Velletri (Roma).

November 7 – December 19, 2007:

“Presences Near and Far: the Gaze of Writers and the Path of the Literature of Women” – A course led by Italian contemporary writers and experts in the field of Gender Studies centered around the most prominent figures in 18th century women’s literature. Funded by the Commission of the Elette of the Comune di Roma.

2010:

“Sexual and Domestic Violence: Methods of Intervention” – A specific course at the Facoltà di Scienze della Formazione di Roma Tre, in collaboration with the Master’s program in equal opportunities policies of the Terza Università di Roma and with the sponsorship of the Commission of the Elette of the Comune di Roma (local government policy makers).



Summer Intensive Course in San Martino al Cimino (Viterbo)

March 21 – May 9, 2009:

“Spirals of Violence” an eight-day workshop centered on the topic of violence against women. This workshop took place at the Facoltà della Formazione di Roma Tre, in collaboration with the Master per Formatori ed Esperti in Pari Opportunità of the Terza Università di Roma, financed by the Commission of the Elette of the Comune di Roma.

Social inclusion: Training for the Underprivileged Sectors of Society

2011:

Training project in partnership with RISCOSSA for the inclusion and employment of adults over 40, funded by the Provincia di Roma.

2008 – 2009:

A workshop on sexual abuse, including training in legislation, intervention and outreach strategies attended by more than eighty law enforcement officials, social, and healthcare workers,

September 2011:

In partnership with the Accademia dell’Orologia and with funding from Fondazione Roma – Terzo Settore. This program placed victims of domestic violence in a professional watch-making course.

CAMPAIGNS

Fall 2014: (in progress) "BeFree from Violence"

Italian and International artists against violence with the sponsorship of the Comune di Roma and the collaboration of Oglivy & Mather and Minerva Auctions.

2013: "Wounded, Sometimes Killed"

A campaign on VaW in collaboration with the Chiesa Valdese (Valdese Church).

2013: "NoiNo: Uomini Contro La Violenza Contro le Donne"

(Not Us: Men Fighting Violence Against Women) Rome promoter of the campaign in collaboration with the Comune di Roma.

2013: "Fatti Gli Affari Nostri"

(Mind Our Own Business) - a campaign created by BeFree for Ipercoop Tirreno (a supermarket chain) exhorting neighbors, parents, and friends of victims of violence to denounce abuses. The educational materials of the campaign were distributed and discussed at the supermarkets' cashiers, in schools, trade unions' headquarters, and among the general public.

2011-present: "LasciateCIEntrare"

This campaign aimed initially at obtaining access to the media to Centers for Identification and Expulsion and the Centers for refugees. Once this objective was attained, the campaign moved on to

call on the government to address the increasingly deteriorating conditions of the detainees and close the CIEs all together.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

October 2013: Notte Rossa Sulla Violenza Contro Le Donne

(A red night against VaW) - a week of performances on the theme of violence sponsored by BeFree at the Lo Spazio theater (Roma).

February 7, 2013: Se non vuoi ascoltarmi, urlero'

(If you don't want to listen, I will scream): a night of theatrical performances to promote awareness of violence against women: in collaboration with artists from the theatre COMETAOff – Roma

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED BY

BEFREE

December 5, 2013: "Stupro dell'Aquila: un Banco di Prova per L'Attuazione dei Principi della Convenzione di Istanbul"

(Rape in l'Aquila a Test Case for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention) organized in collaboration with the Italian branch of the European Women's Lobby, European Parliament (Roma).

November 8, 2013: "Per Aiutare – Davvero – La Ragazza che Sbatte nelle Porte"

(How to Really Help Women "Who Walked into Doors") – a meeting of governmental and nongovernmental experts to analyze and discuss good

Report of Activities

practices in fighting violence against women.

January 13, 2013: “No, Non Sono Scivolata nella Doccia”

(No, I Did Not Fall in the Shower)– the presentation of the results of four years of activity of “Sportello Donna,” the helpdesk at the San Camillo hospital, and of the book documenting this work.



BeFree campaigning for “NoiNo”

November 30, 2011: “Storie di Ponte e di Frontiere”

(A History of Bridges and Frontiers)– a debate on BeFree’s activities and investigations on human trafficking. Palazzo Valentini (Roma).

June 8, 2010: “Codice Violenza”

(Code: Violence), Conference on the activities of the “Sportello Donna” helpdesk – Ospedale San Camillo (Roma).

BeFree Members have attended and will continue to attend many important Italian conferences on the themes of

trafficking, violence and discrimination. Moreover, our members routinely hold lectures and conferences at prestigious Italian universities.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

17-18 February 2014, Vienna:

“Not for Sale – Joining Forces Against Trafficking in Human Beings” Council of Europe - OSCE.

November 25-26, 2013, Vienna:

“Eliminating Violence Against Women in Europe” – Intersectional Approaches and Actions.” The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), the World Health Organization Europe and the City of Vienna.

July 2013, Miami:

Biennial Conference of the Society for Community Research and Action, 27a US Division of the American Psychological Association

March 5, 2013, New York

New York Commission on the Status of Women – CSW 57th Session Elimination and Prevention of All Forms of Violence against Women and Girls Panel Event Italy: Violence Against Women – Femicide.

June 20-22, 2013, Lisbon:

“LGBT Psychology and Related Fields – Coming out for LGBT Psychology in the Current International Scenario.”

June 5, 2013, Geneva:

UN Human Rights Council – 23rd Session Side Event: “Femicide: The Strategic Role of NGOs in Making States Responsible for the Implementation of the Due Diligence Obligation.”

April 2010, Vienna:

“Development through Football – sustaining the potential of the first African World Cup”

October 9, 2009, Rome:

“Trafficking from Nigeria to Italy – Where We Stand – A View Point from Social Workers,” (in the framework of the program “Preventing and Combatting Trafficking of Minors and Young Women from Nigeria to Italy), Save the Children.

MEDIA PROFILE

BeFree’s leadership and members are frequently interviewed and consulted by major Italian media outlets, as well as foreign publications and broadcast programs. Recently, BeFree was featured internationally by:

Lisa Bjurwald, “Investigative Series on Human Trafficking”, Published in English at *EUObserver.com* as well as in *Der Spiegel Online* (Germany) and *Svenska Dagbladet* (Sweden); January-February 2014; available at *euobserver.com*.

European Women Lobby, *Ewl Barometer on rape 2013*.

Ursula Froese, “When I Get Angry, I Get Good Ideas – Victim Compensation,” *Security Community – OSCE Magazine Issue 2* (2013)

Regina Kermer, “Nie Aus Liebe“ *Frankfurter Rundschau*, 25-09-2013.

Elisabetta Povoledo, “A Call for Aid, Not Laws, to Help Women in Italy,” *New York Times*, 18-08-2013.

THE PUBLISHING HOUSE

The BeFree publishing house – “Sapere Solidale” (Knowledge and Solidarity) – is one of the newest activities of the cooperative. This project issues publications, reports and manuals drawn from field experience, as well as books that stimulate understanding, discussion, advocacy, and action to counter persisting or emerging gender discrimination and gender-based.

Titles from Sapere Solidale

Gargano, O. (2013)- – *Seduzioni D’Amore per una narrazione non convenzionale della violenza contro le donne*.

Gargano, O. (2011)– *No, Non Sono Scivolata Nella Doccia Due anni di attività di Sportello Donna h24 nel pronto Soccorso dell’Azienda Ospedaliera San Camillo Forlanini di Roma*.

AA.VV. (2010) *Storie di Ponte e Di Frontiere*.

Other Publications

Gargano, O.; Esposito, F., Verdelocco, A., & Petricone, A. (2014). “Coming out from violence: An help-desk for women victims of violence by their same-sex partners.” In H. Pereira & P. Costa, *Comingout for LGBT Psychology in the current international scenario*

Esposito, F. (2012). “Self-help groups for women victims of intimate partner violence.” *FunzioneGamma*, 29

Gargano, O. (2012). “Women victims

of violence: Taking charge and impact of the work on the professional helpers.” *Funzione Gamma*, 29

Esposito, F., & Tomai, M. (2012, October). “Usar a ajuda-mútua para promover o empowerment de mulheres sobreviventes de violência nas relações íntimas.” *Proceedings of the II Encontro Comunitária*.

Esposito, F., & Quinto, R. C. (2011, June). “Physical and legal geographies of the trade of Nigerian women in Italy: views and stories from C.I.E.s”. *Proceedings of the ECAS4 4th European Conference on African Studies. African Engagements: On Whose Terms?*

Esposito, F., Quinto, R. C., & De Masi, F. (2011, June). “Contrastare le ingiustizie sociali all’interno dei Centri di Identificazione ed Espulsione (C.I.E.): un’esperienza di lavoro con le donne immigrate vittime di tratta”. *Proceedings of the 8th National Conference The prevention in the school and in the community: “Quality in action”*.

Gargano, O., & Esposito, F. (2010, July). “Manual das boas práticas para o acolhimento às mulheres vítimas de Tráfico de Seres Humanos ao escopo de exploração sexual.” *Proceedings of the II Encontro Internacional de Ética, Pesquisa Social e Direitos Humanos*.

Esposito, F., Ljubisavljevic, B., Forteschi, A., & Quinto, C. R. (2009). “Violenza domestica in Italia: Analisi e prospettive.” *Olympe: Feministische Arbeitshefte zur Politik*, 29, 128–137.



BeFree’s presentation on the Istanbul Convention, European Parliament, Rome

OUR STAFF

Angela Ammirati

Graduated from the University of Rome – La Sapienza with a degree in Political Philosophy and a thesis on Axel Honneth’s theory of recognition. She then pursued a PhD in Gender Studies at the University of Roma Tre, presenting a dissertation on “Universalist Political Theories: A Contemporary Feminist Debate.” Currently, she is an associate professor of Political Theory and a BeFree member, where she works in the Sportello Donna. She also is part of the anti-mafia organization daSud. A Journalist since 2008 she has published various articles and essays on feminism, her most recent publication is *Genealogie Materne: I nodi del conflitto (Maternal Genealogies: the knots of conflict)*.

Report of Activities

Lucia Beretta

Lucia Beretta holds a Bachelor's degree in Intercultural Mediation and a Master's degree in languages, cultures and international communications. Soon after university, she worked for a Italian NGOs mainly dealing with fundraising and communications. Subsequently she worked as an assistant for the Dean of the School of Agriculture at the University of Milan, regarding international cooperation. In 2011, she went to Bolivia where she spent almost a year as International Community Service volunteer. In Bolivia, she worked for a local NGO whose main purpose is to promote women's rights. She took part in almost every activity carried out by the team she was working on advocacy for equal opportunity and gender perspective in departmental institutions; workshops addressed to teenagers on sexual and reproductive rights, domestic violence and sexism; broadcasting of a radio programme aimed at education on women's rights. In 2012, she attended a course held by BeFree on gender violence and did an internship at SOS Donna. Since 2013, she has been working with BeFree as a social worker at the CIE of Ponte Galeria supporting girls and women who have been trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. In February 2014 she became a member of BeFree.

Loretta Bondi

Loretta Bondi is Director of International Projects. Previously, she was a senior officer with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as the speechwriter for two High Commissioners and the head of the investigative team of the UN

Commission of Inquiry on Syria (Geneva). As a scholar, she directed the Cooperative Security Program at the Center for Transatlantic Relations of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (Washington DC). She has been an advocate for international nongovernmental organizations, such as Human Rights Watch and American Near East Refugee Aid (Washington, DC); She co-created the Arms and Conflict program at the Fund for Peace (Washington, DC) and was a co-founder of the International Action Network on Small Arms. In her earlier career she has been a journalist for leading Italian publications, such as Corriere della Sera, l'Espresso, and l'Europeo, as well as a broadcaster for RAI Radiotelevisione Italiana (London, various locations in South East Asia). She joined the women's movement at age 16 and was a journalist with Quotidiano Donna. She has published a book on Mexico's foreign and human rights policies, dozens of scholarly articles, as well as more than 1,000 journalistic pieces and commentary. She graduated University of Rome -- La Sapienza summa cum laude with a degree in literature and philosophy and holds a Master's degree in International Public Policy from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

Gaia Brunetti

A trained educator since 1997, she began her professional experience in the field of substance dependence and abuse. Gaia worked for many years with disadvantaged children both in terms of education and prevention. She also conducted peer education programs in middle and high schools. Currently, Gaia is the coordinator of

the BeFree training programs and summer intensive courses.



BeFree's conference on VaW, International House of Women, Rome

Carmen R. Carbonaro

Graduated with a degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of Roma Tre in 2004. In 2010 she received a specialized degree in psychotherapy. She is a founding member of BeFree Social Cooperative and currently works in the SOS Donna H24 service provided by the cooperative.

Giusi Ciccì

One of the founding members of BeFree Ciccì holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology with a focus in social anthropology and development studies and a Master's degree in Theatre with a focus on social work and performance therapy. She now works on gender violence and the promotion of human rights. She studies other methods of performance therapy with Oliver Malcor, Hector Aristizàbal and Roberto Mazzini. She completed a training course for performance therapy in prisons and leads training courses on prevention

and education against gender violence.

Francesca De Masi

Graduated in 2003 from the University of Rome – La Sapienza with a degree in Sociology. In 2006 she completed a Master's degree in "Politics of Mediation" at the University of Roma Tre. Francesca has been working with women victims of violence since 1999. She was the deputy coordinator of the Antiviolence Center of the Comune di Roma (the Municipality of Rome Anti-Violence Center). She joined BeFree in 2007 as deputy director of the Sportello Donna H24, and has since begun directing the helpdesk at the CIE Ponte Galeria, co-written *Stories of a Bridge and Frontiers* and *Libeccio d'oltremare: The Winds of Revolution in North Africa Extend to the West*. Currently, Francesca also collaborates with the NGO InMigrazione.

Emanuela Donato

Graduated in 2005 with a degree in psychology from the University of Rome – La Sapienza, she then went on to receive a specialized degree in group-analysis psychotherapy from the Istituto Terapeutico Romano with the thesis "Gender Violence as a Question: A proposal of reading and clinical psychological intervention." She is one of the founding members of BeFree Social Cooperative. Since 2010 she has been the director of the SOS Donna H24 anti-violence service. She also serves as an expert consultant in gender violence for the ASL of Rome.

Francesca Esposito

Francesca Esposito is a community and health psychologist, and a

Report of Activities

researcher. She is a summa cum laude graduate of the University of Rome – La Sapienza, Dynamic and Clinical Psychology for the person, group and organizations. She is currently a PhD candidate in Community Psychology at the ISPA University Institute of Lisbon with a project on migration-related detention and its human costs. Since 2007, Francesca has been a member of BeFree Social Cooperative against trafficking, violence, and discrimination. From 2008 to 2012, she worked as psychological consultant for women who suffer intimate partner violence, and for migrant women victims of trafficking and exploitation in the CIE of Ponte Galeria, Rome. She taught several courses on gender-based violence, and participated in projects aimed at preventing aggressive behavior in adolescents. Since January 2011, she is a consultant of a self-help group of women survivors of intimate violence. Currently, Francesca is a member of the research division of BeFree. In 2013, she worked as the Italian expert in a study, commissioned by EIGE, on the implementation in the EU Member States of the objectives formulated in Area H of the Beijing Platform for Action, and she participated in the working group on the CEDAW Shadow Report-Italy.

Federica Festagallo.

Received a degree in East Asian Studies at the University of Rome – La Sapienza. In 2009, she began working with BeFree and eventually became a member. Since then she has worked with the SOS Donna H24, as a Chinese language mediator, Federica lived in Peking from 2005 to 2008, is

fluent in Chinese and teaches English at the Confucius Institute in Rome.

Oria Gargano

Graduated with a degree in Political Science at the University of Rome – La Sapienza, received a specialized degree in Communications at Università LUISS and completed a Master's degree in "Gender Studies and the Politics of Equal Opportunity." Oria has worked in and directed antiviolence centers, is a journalist and has written various books and essays on gender violence and trafficking. She is the Italian expert for the Observatory of Violence Against Women of the European Women's Lobby. She is one of the founding members and current president of BeFree Social Cooperative.

Marta Mearini

Completed a degree in Anthropology in 2000 at the University of Rome – La Sapienza and received a Master's degree the following year with the thesis "Immigrants and Refugees: Social integration and formation." Marta has always worked with the themes and problems of immigration and trafficking both in the public and private sectors. Currently, she is a member of BeFree Social Cooperative where she works as an operator within various projects.

Antonella Petricone

Received a degree in the Humanities and a thesis on the correspondence between writers Sibilla Aleramo and Lina Poletti. She then completed a PhD in the History of Female Writings, in 2008 with the thesis "The Memory of Bodies and The Faces of Violence; experiences and stories, a dialogue between Etty Hillesum and the women

Report of Activities

survivors of the Shoah.” Antonella has been a contributor to various projects and published several scholarly articles, including the for project “Figures of Complexity: Gender and Intersectionality” with Liana Borghi and Clotilde Barbarulli (2004) and the article “The Desire we Tell” published in *Leggendaria* in 2007. She is also a member of the staff of the Campo Donne d’Agape of the “Le Acrobate” collective, and she organizes and promotes BeFree’s Summer intensives courses. She is one of the founding members of BeFree Social Cooperative and currently works as the co-director of the BeFree service SOSDonna h24.

Sara Pollice

She received Web Designer certification from the CEFI and in 2013 she completed a diploma as a Web Marketing Specialist at the Madri Internet Marketing Agency. She works as a volunteer at the “Città dell’Utopia” where she teaches Italian to migrants of all nationalities and coordinated various seminars on Italian history with historian Davide Conti. In 2013 she attended a BeFree training course at the San Camillo hospital and in 2014 she became a BeFree member.

Carla Quinto

Carla is the director of BeFree’s legal office. After receiving a law degree in criminal defense, Carla specialized in gender violence. Carla also completed two Master’s degrees in judiciary psychology and in rights of family and minors. She has been a legal consultant for the associations “ATS” And “Fiore del Deserto”. She also teaches in the BeFree training programs and is a writer of the CEDAW shadow report.

Federica Ruggiero

Graduated with a degree in Sociology. She has worked for the CENSIS Foundation of Rome and the National Institute of Agrarian Economy for various years. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Migration and Cultures at the University of Genoa. As a BeFree member she conducts research, leads training courses, and coordinates both national and European projects on immigration, development and social policy.

Maria Silvia Soriato

Maria Silvia is a psychologist and psychotherapist specialized in emergency and trauma psychology, Maria Silvia has worked for nine years in programs for women and minors victims of domestic violence and trafficking. A founding member of BeFree, she currently is active in various BeFree projects and is a teacher in the BeFree training programs at the San Camillo Hospital as well as other BeFree training courses.

Anna Verdelocco

A professional educator and expert in gender themes, Anna has specialized in women’s shelters since 2001 and interventions with minors since 1993. She is an educator in training courses on gender violence and she is a consultant for social programs involving minors.

Acknowledgments

BeFree would like to thank all of the partners mentioned in this report as well as countless individuals, institutions and organizations that have

Report of Activities

supported and continue to support the cooperative.

Additionally, BeFree would like to thank Lucrezia Sanes from Brown University who contributed to this report.

Cover photograph by Valentina Villani

