

Future opportunities to work together with programmes managed from Iceland

The Women's Counselling

Personal Information

- Lawyer from Bifröst University 2009
- ML degree from Bifröst University 2011
- Vounteer for The Women´s Counselling since 2013

The Women's Counselling

- **Ngo**
- **Free legal and social counselling for women**
- **Founded 1985**
- **By women for women**
- **To provide expert advice free of charge for women**

The background

- **Part of a strong women's rights movement in Iceland, starting 1974**
- **Demand for changes of our society, from both women and men**
- **The will to change**
- What do we need to change?
- What tools do we need to do it?
- Both changes of legislation, official institutions and practice and as well the foundation of women's ngo's

The background

- **Results; Kvennalistinn started only 5% of the parliamentarians were women, after the first election this number rose to 15% and in 1995 they where almost 30%**

1983 - 1999



What do we do?

- Free legal and social counselling for women
- In interviews
- Over the phone
- Website;
kvennaradgjofin.is
- To answer all questions possible
- To give guidance in “the official system”
- To give support
- To assist everyone like you would assist a friend in need

What do we do?

- As counsellors for the official sector
- To use our experience gathered in our counselling for individuals to give advice to official institutions, like the police, ministries
- To have influence on law and regulations concerning women

What do we do

- Our clients are mostly women
- All ages
- Icelandic and foreigners
- All backgrounds
- All social classes
- Divorce
- Custody of children
- Child support
- Immigration
- Domestic Violence
- Financial problem
- Benefits

Our advantages

- Anonymity
- No appointment needed
- No records kept regarding the women coming to us
- Qualified experts and students
- Excellent combination
- Gives those in difficult situation the courage to come

Our disadvantages

- A ngo
- Volunteers
- Busy people
- Limited funds
- More assistance needed in many cases
- Small nation of 320.000 people
- Makes it difficult to give the service we want to give

Our field of expertise

- Equal rights as well as human rights
- Violence against women
- Women entrepreneur
- Various legal issues
- Organization and operation of a volunteer ngo
- For almost 30 years

Participation in legislative work and policy making

Participating in committees and workgroups on women's rights as well as in permanent committees as the Equal Rights Council in Iceland

- To promote our opinions
- To take "the know how" further and put it in use

Participation in the Women's Movement in Iceland

- Anti-violence campaign
- Pro-women in politics campaign
- To promote women in the media
- Constant struggle for equal pay
- Demonstrations and the women's day off
- Results made
- A lot yet to be done

Participation in EEA grants

- Rumenia
- Bulgaria
- Lithuania
- Poland

Future opportunities

- Advisors to other NGO's
- Share our experience
- Give guidance to the official sector
- Give guidance to individuals

Future opportunities

- Visits
- Organize visits to other organizations
- Organize visits to government authorities

■ Thank you