

The Women and Girls Safe Space of Palermo as approach against Gender Based Violence

Who we are

Centro Penc is a non-profit organisation founded in 2015 that pursues exclusively social solidarity aims and advocates for effective mental health-care policies and accessible services for vulnerable people, with a special focus on migrants, through the ETHNO-PSYCHOLOGICAL approach.

- The approach combines psychology and anthropology to better understand the needs of migrant people.



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ETHNO-PSYCHOLOGICAL CENTERS

In Milan and in Palermo

Providing specialised psychological support and psychotherapy free of charge for vulnerable and traumatized people with migratory background as refugees, survivors of GBV and Human Trafficking, survivors of torture and shipwreck.

Our patients are unaccompanied minors, women and girls at risk or survivors of violence, men and families fleeing war torn countries, as Ukraine, Palestine, Iran, Afghanistan, Syria, just to name a few.

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Psychologist and Cultural mediator together provide mental health support

Patients decide in which language they want to speak

Empowered women Empowering women

The WGSS was inaugurated in 2020, it is a place dedicated to migrant girls and women and their children aimed at protecting and promoting their mental health and psychological well-being.

Within the WGSS, women can attend dance or sewing classes, learn Italian, have fun with their sisters or simply take a nap.

There is a children's area equipped with games and reading.

The team is composed of a psychologist, four cultural mediators, 3 educators and 1 case worker.

WGSS

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WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACE

- it allows girls and women to feel at home,
- it promotes empowerment through peer-to-peer discussion and mutual support,
- it allows girls and women to feel safe and open up experience of domestic violence or risks of human trafficking,
- it supports girls and women to improve their self-esteem.



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The girls of the WGSS



by
an Union



Focus group discussion around the concept of domestic violence



The Child Care



WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACE
Palermo

What is a WGSS?

- A space for women and girls only
- A place where women and girls can feel physically and emotionally safe
- A space where women and girls are supported through a process of empowerment



WOMEN AND GIRLS SAFE SPACE
Palermo

«a structured place where the physical and emotional safety of women and girls is respected and where, through a process of empowerment, they are supported to seek, share and obtain information, use services, express themselves, increase their psycho-social wellbeing, and above all to fully realize their rights»

The WGSS were created as part of the fight against and prevention of gender based violence

-> To prevent

Assess risk factors

-> To bring out

Maintain a high level of empathic communication

-> To respond

Managing «disclosures» and working in networks (refer)

TO PREVENT: Look



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FIND OUT THE RISK SIGNS

- Isolation/non-participation
- sadness
- irritability
- Lack of decision-making power
- Migration history



TO BRING OUT: Listen

Manage «Disclosures»



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Disclosure is the moment in which the woman or girl suddenly reveals a private experience of relevant and painful suffering

- The disclosure occurs at an unexpected time
- The disclosure is accompanied by an intense emotion
- The disclosure is told as a secret
- Often the disclosure causes an intense emotion even in those who listen to it

TO RESPOND: Link



Following Key Principles

Dignity/self
determination

Non
Discrimination

Do No
Harm/Safety

Participation

DO

- Listen
- Orient
- Inform
- To support
- Believe
- Assess risks

DON'T

- Make decisions on behalf of survivor
- To suggest
- Report
- Disbelieve
- Minimize
- Judge



Guaranteeing **Choice & Control**

Transforming Mental Health and Psychosocial Disability Support

Thank you!



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