

D.i.Re Donne in Rete contro la violenza

The Italian National Women's Network against Violence

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S HOUSE

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D.i.Re's support services are free of charge,
guarantee anonymity and are available to all women.



**FREE
FROM
VIOLENCE**

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The Italian National Women's Network against Violence

D.i.Re Donne in Rete contro la violenza, the Italian National Women's Network Against Violence, is the original and sole Italian network of independent Women's Shelters and Women's Centres (Centri Antiviolenza) managed by women's associations to promote the prevention of violence against women and to provide counselling and support services to women victims of violence.

The **D.i.Re** network includes almost eighty Women's Shelters and Women's Centres throughout Italy. This network has supported thousands of women for over thirty years, helping them to escape violence and build new lives.

D.i.Re coordinates and promotes activities to change cultural and societal attitudes about violence against women in Italy. These activities aim to challenge dominant patriarchal notions of family and society, gender and sexuality and other dominant cultural values and power inequalities that exist in Italian society.

WOMEN'S SHELTERS AND WOMEN'S CENTRES

Women's Shelters and Women's Centres are places of security and support for

women victims of violence. The majority are funded privately and partly with public funds, but some have too little funds to have both services and therefore can not run a shelter. Support services provided by **D.i.Re** are free of charge, guarantee anonymity and are available to all women.

WHAT DO D.i.RE WOMEN'S SHELTERS AND WOMEN'S CENTRES OFFER TO WOMEN?

A woman who seeks help at a **D.i.Re** centre is not encouraged or obliged to report her situation to the police. Her free choice is always respected and she is offered the support and time necessary to rebuild her life and to pursue new and safe ways of living. Women's Centres provide a wide range of support services and activities for women and their children. These services include shelters and counselling services, legal and psychological advice, support groups, workshops, awareness and prevention groups, data input and processing and career guidance. Our housing support programs include confidential addresses to ensure safe and secure accommodation during emergency periods.

ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

D.i.Re cooperates with all public and private organisations, networks and institutions that are active in their work to prevent violence against women in Italy. **D.i.Re** also works at the international level to highlight

the serious nature and extent of violence against women in Italy and the violence and injustice prevalent in broader Italian society.

D.i.Re initiates and participates in national and international projects that aim to stop violence against women and to empower women to escape from gender violence situations.

D.i.Re conducts training courses for shelter staff to consolidate and strengthen their practitioner skills and support and advocacy strategies. Our NGO is vigilant in its work to promote cultural change and to raise public and political awareness about the serious problem of violence against women in Italy.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The **D.i.Re** international group pursues ongoing collaboration with European and worldwide associations that are active in their work to prevent violence against women. This collaboration includes work to promote **D.i.Re**'s work at the international level and to highlight the extent and seriousness of violence against women in Italy.

In the European context, **D.i.Re** is the Italian focal point for WAVE: Women Against Violence Europe, the umbrella association comprising 47 European countries. For over twenty years, **D.i.Re** has been an active participant at the annual WAVE Conference, collaborating in working groups, meetings and campaigns

and contributing to WAVE's Country reports and its newsletter on the Italian situation.

Since 2009, **D.i.Re** has been a member of the European Women's Lobby (EWL). The **D.i.Re** international group is also keen to participate in the EWL European Observatory on violence against women.

At the international level, **D.i.Re** is an active participant in the Global Network of Women's Shelters (GNWS). GNWS was established in 2008 during the first worldwide NGO conference of women's shelters in Edmonton, Canada. **D.i.Re** delegates also attended the second GNSW Conference in Washington in 2012 and the third conference in Amsterdam in November 2015. **D.i.Re** contributes to the Global Shelter Data Count, along with 44 other countries.

D.i.Re also contributes to the UN Commission on the Status of Women, having gained in 2014 the status of ECOSOS as an NGO. **D.i.Re** cooperates with other Italian NGOs to prepare the Shadow Report for the CEDAW.

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