



Annual General Meeting with SPAVO, October 2023

Second Swiss Contribution

Swiss–Cypriot Cooperation Programme

[Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family \(SPAVO\)](#)

Domestic violence can be experienced by anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender. Couples who are married, living together or who are dating could be exposed to it. Domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels.

Abuse involves a repetitive pattern of behaviour to maintain power and to have control over an intimate partner. These are types of behaviour that physically harm, arouse fear, prevent a partner from doing what they wish or force them to behave in ways they do not want.

Abuse includes the use of physical and sexual violence, threats and intimidation, emotional abuse and economic deprivation. Many of these different forms of abuse can be going on at any one time.

The Goals of the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family (SPAVO) are:

1. Prevention of domestic violence.
2. Provision of direct help to people experiencing or exercising domestic violence.
3. Provision of shelter and protection to victims of domestic violence.
4. Provision of information and support to battered women through counselling.
5. Provision of theoretical and practical training to people who are interested in offering their voluntary help.
6. Provision of information and raising awareness to competent authorities and citizens about the social phenomenon of domestic violence.
7. Locating shortcomings and weaknesses in legislation and formal procedures, as well as submitting suggestions to the related national services in order to undertake correctional measures and develop a wider policy of domestic violence.

The Swiss contribution aims to promote the numeric and regional expansion of the Association's support services for victims of domestic violence, through new infrastructure facilities in the towns of Nicosia, Limassol and Larnaca.

Switzerland is contributing CHF 2 Mio. to SPAVO for the period 2024-2027.

For more information on the implementation of the Swiss-Cypriot Cooperation Programme

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www.eda.admin.ch/nicosia

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