Mexico: domestic violence in the Federal District and the state of Jalisco, particularly in Guadalajara, including state protection and support services

1. Statistics

Sources report that, according to the National Commission for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women (Comisión Nacional para Prevenir y Erradicar la Violencia contra las Mujeres), in 2010, the state of Jalisco and the Federal District were among the seven states with the highest number of cases of violence against women (The Yucatan Times 17 Aug. 2011; CNN Mexico 8 Mar. 2011).

Sources report that in the first seven months of 2011, there were 67 women killed in the Federal District between 28 and 40 years of age (El Universal 26 July 2011; La Jornada 27 July 2011; Milenio 26 July 2011), and whose main activity was housework (ibid.; El Universal 26 July 2011). Media sources report that, according to the Human Rights Committee for Women in Latin America and Caribbean (Comité de América Latina y el Caribe para los Derechos de la Mujer), in Jalisco, 96 women were reportedly killed in 2011 as a result of domestic violence (Milenio 4 Mar. 2012) and 98 women were killed in the first eight months of 2012 (La Jornada Jalisco 14 Aug. 2012).

2. Government Services

2.1 Federal District

According to the government portal of the Federal District, there are 16 Domestic Violence Prevention and Assistance Units (Unidades de Atención y Prevención de la Violencia Familiar) in the Federal District (Federal District n.d.c). These units provide general information about domestic violence and offer, among other services, psychological and legal assistance to women who are victims of domestic violence (ibid. n.d.b). In addition, the Assistance Units provide insurance against violence (Seguro contra la Violencia) (ibid. n.d.g) and run the Program for Social Reintegration for women in shelters in Mexico City (ibid. n.d.h). The insurance provides monthly financial assistance in the amount of approximately 1,500 Mexican pesos [C$112 (XE 10 Sept. 2012)] to women in public shelters or those who received assistance from a civil organization because of the [translation] "extreme violence" in the family (Federal District n.d.g). The insurance is granted for one year (ibid.). The Program for Social Reintegration for women victims of [translation] "extreme violence" offers psychological, legal and medical services, support finding housing or a shelter, employment training and scholarships (ibid. n.d.h).

The Institute for Women in the Federal District (Instituto de las Mujeres de Distrito Federal, InMujeres DF), the government institution charged with promoting equal rights between men and women (Mexico n.d.d), runs 16 Assistance Centres (Centros de Atención) in the Federal District, such as Centro de Atencion "Alaide Foppa," "Marcela Lagarde," "Benita Galeana" and "Tina Modotti," among others (Federal District n.d.d). These Assistance Centres offer psychological and legal assistance to women who are victims of domestic violence (ibid. n.d.e).

The website of InMujeres DF indicates that the following government centres provide social, psychological and legal assistance to women victims of violence in Mexico City:

- Assistance Centre for Domestic Violence (Centro de Atención de la Violencia Intrafamiliar, CAVI);
- Therapy Assistance Centre for Victims of a Sexual Crime (Centro de Terapia de Apoyo a Victimas de Delitos Sexuales, CTA); and
- Legal and Social Assistance Centre for Victims of a Violent Crime (Centro de Apoyo Sociojurídico a Víctimas de Delito Violento, ADEVI), among others (ibid. n.d.f).

The website of the National Institute of Women (Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres) of the Federal Government also provides the contact information of 229 public and civil society institutions that offer services to women victims of violence in the Federal District, such as psychological, legal, social and medical assistance (Mexico n.d.b).

According to the portal of the Federal District, the government operates one shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic violence in the Federal District, which has the capacity to house 95 people (Federal District n.d.a). The shelter provides temporary accommodation for up to three months and offers legal, medical and social assistance to women (ibid.). Women are referred to the shelter by the following organizations: Domestic Violence Prevention and Care Units, the Office of the Attorney General of the Federal District, the Human Rights Commission of the Federal District and the Assistance Centres of the Institute for Women throughout the Federal District (ibid.). Further information on the shelters and the evaluation of the programs offered to the victims of domestic violence in the Federal District could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

2.2 State of Jalisco

According to the government portal of the Federal District, there are 16 Domestic Violence Prevention and Assistance Units (Unidades de Atención y Prevención de la Violencia Familiar) in Jalisco (Jalisco n.d.c). These Assistance Centres offer psychological and legal assistance to women who are victims of domestic violence (ibid. n.d.e).

In the state of Jalisco, 96 women were reportedly killed in 2011 as a result of domestic violence (ibid. n.d.e). These Assistance Centres offer psychological and legal assistance to women who are victims of domestic violence (ibid. n.d.e).

The website of InMujeres DF indicates that the following government centres provide social, psychological and legal assistance to women victims of violence in Mexico City:
Media sources report that in August 2012, the Congress of Jalisco approved an initiative to modify the State Penal and Procedural Codes to make femicide a crime punishable by imprisonment for 20 to 40 years (El Universal 15 Aug. 2012; Azteca Noticias 15 Aug. 2012; El Informador 15 Aug. 2012). Further information on the initiative to modify the State Penal and Procedural Codes could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

According to the website of the government of Jalisco, the Women’s Institute of Jalisco (Instituto Jalisciense de las Mujeres) was established in March 2002 (Jalisco n.d.a). The Institute’s purpose is to improve the overall conditions of women and to promote their rights (ibid.). The website indicates that the Institute has a phone line (lineamu) that provides psychological support, legal assistance and general information to help women make better decisions (ibid. n.d.b). The Institute has 111 statewide municipal centres for assisting women living in the state of Jalisco (ibid. n.d.c). The website lists the contact information for each centre, such as the address, telephone number and e-mail address of the contact person (ibid.).

The website of the Comprehensive Family Development Agencies of Guadalajara (Desarrollo Integral de la Familia Guadalajara, DIF Guadalajara) provides information on the services and programs offered to women in Guadalajara who are victims of domestic violence (Guadalajara n.d.a; ibid. n.d.b; ibid. n.d.c; ibid. n.d.d). For instance,

- Family Mediation Centres (Centros de Mediacián Familiar) offer comprehensive support, including legal services, mediation and conciliation services as alternative mechanisms to resolve conflicts (Guadalajara n.d.b).
- The Women Entrepreneurs (Mujeres Emprendedoras) program offers women work training programs in the tourism sector in order to facilitate their integration into the workforce and achieve financial independence (ibid. n.d.c);
- the Comprehensive Care for Families in Domestic Violence Situation (Atención Integral a Familias en Situación de Violencia Intrafamiliar) program provides psychological, legal and social services (ibid. n.d.d);
- the Centre of Comprehensive Care for Families in Domestic Violence Situation (Centro de Atención Integral a la Violencia Intrafamiliar) offers psychological and medical assistance, as well as guidance on how to prevent cases of extreme violence (ibid. n.d.a).

The website of the National Institute of Women (Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres) of the Federal Government has a list of the phone numbers and addresses of 41 public and civil society institutions who provide services to women victims of violence (Mexico n.d.a). For example, the following services are available in Guadalajara:

- the Mexican Red Cross of the state of Jalisco (Delegación Estatal de Jalisco, Cruz Roja Mexicana) offers psychological, legal and medical assistance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week;
- the General Support Centre for Victims of Crime and Community Services (Coordinación General de Atención a Victimas del Delito y Servicios a la Comunidad) provides information about shelters and offers psychological, medical and emergency assistance to women;
- the National Human Rights Commission, Family Assistance Program for Domestic Violence (Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos, Programa de Atención a la Violencia Familiar) offers psychological, legal and medical assistance, as well as information about shelters (ibid. n.d.c).

Information on the shelters for victims of domestic violence in the state of Jalisco could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within time constraints of this Response.

According to the Human Rights Committee for Women in Latin America and Caribbean (Comité de América Latina y el Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer, CLADEM), in Jalisco, women do not report domestic violence because of the lack of follow-up by the authorities, mistrust in the judicial system or lack of information (CLADEM 2010). Corroboration on the above-mentioned topic could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References


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Additional Sources Consulted

Oral sources: Attempts to contact representatives of the following organizations were unsuccessful: Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos, Programa de Atención a la Violencia Familiar, Guadalajara; Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, Distrito Federal; Coordinación General de Atención a Víctimas del Delito y Servicios a la Comunidad, Guadalajara; Departamento de Justicia, Guadalajara; Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres; Red por los Derechos de la Infancia en México; Observatorio Ciudadano Nacional del Feminicidio.

Internet sites, including: Advocates for Human Rights; Albergue Fray Antonio Alcalde de Guadalajara; Amnesty International; BBC; Change for Children; Comité de América Latina y el Caribe para los Derechos de la Mujer; Cornell University Law School; Diario al Momento; Ecoi.net; Factiva; Freedom House; The Hague Domestic Violence Project; Human Rights Watch; Insightcrime.org; LaNeta; Mexico – Cámara de Deputados, Comisión Nacional para Prevenir y Erradicar la Violencia contra las Mujeres, Diario Oficial de la...
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