



WAVE Working Group on Gender Neutrality

Malta

22-24 October 2018



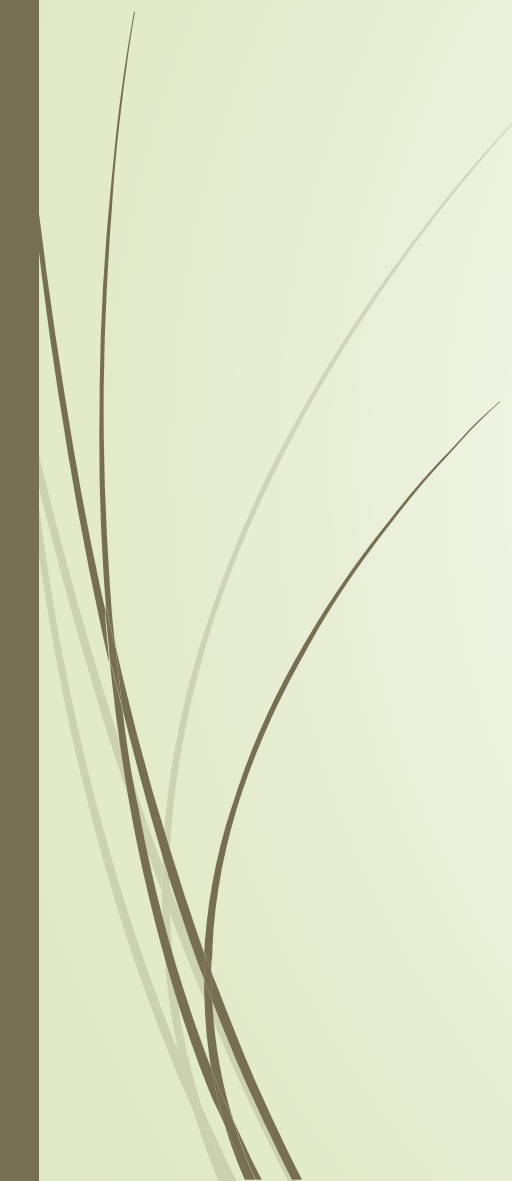
About the Questionnaire

The questionnaire covered the following areas:

- Definition of gender neutral
- Overview of the impact such policies were having
- Implementation and enforcement of gender neutral policy and practice
- Issues regarding the sustainability of existing provision
- Key pressures and concerns women's specialist organisations were facing
- Priorities to address gender neutral policy and practice



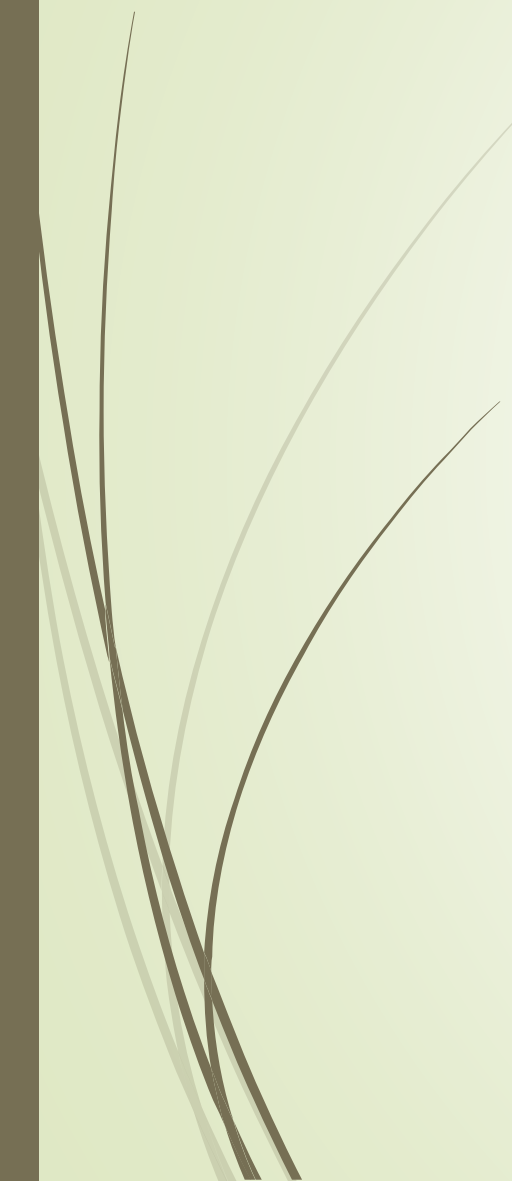
Definition



Gender neutral is those sets of policies and regulations governing funding as defined by the state and governments that require public services to be provided to both men and women.



The Problem with Gender Neutral Policy




Gender neutral practices and policies hide or diminish the root causes of gender inequality and gender-based violence by placing women only services under threat.

The Impact of Gender Neutral Policy



Gender neutral is a way of thinking that specifically targets women only organisations to provide access to services to both men and women without consideration of historically unequal power relations between men and women.





Top Line Results





Level of Concern

- ▶ 33% said they had gender neutral policies and/or legislation in the country affecting the way services were being developed and delivered. The example of a gender neutral policy is that women only services will have to become gender neutral to access funding.



Policy Concerns



- No specific law on VAWG.
- No state funding to women only organisations and NGOs.
- In implementing the Istanbul Convention, gendered references were removed. This meant that services were required to be gender neutral and gender neutral language was found in policies.
- Use of the term 'natural person' by social services with no distinction of the needs of women subjected to violence and their specific needs.
- Lack of gendered approach to trafficking and the need for gender specific response given the risk of violence to women who are trafficked or have insecure immigration status.
- Lack of gendered approach on specific laws including domestic violence.

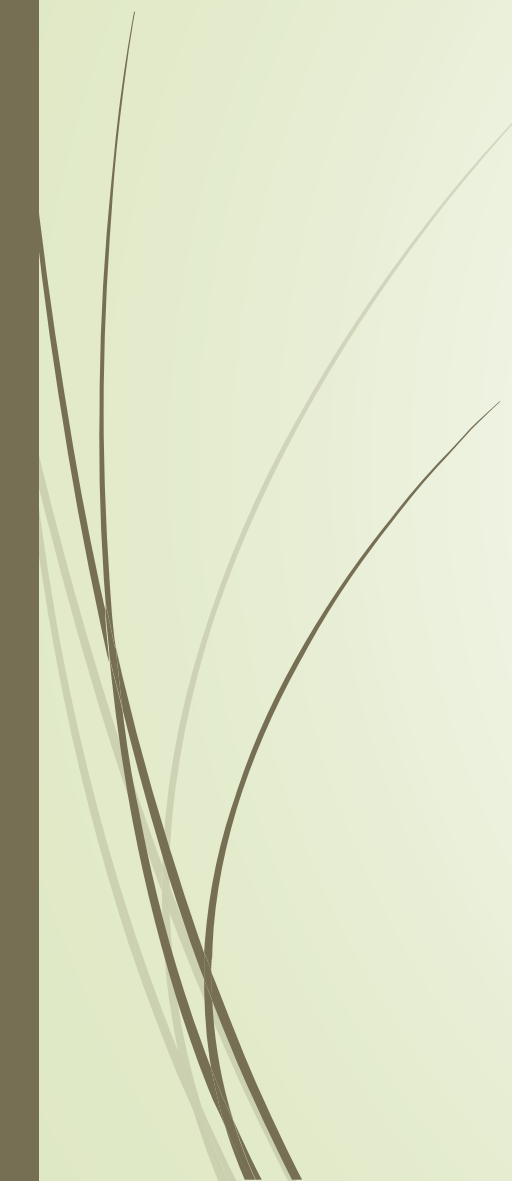


Funding Concerns

- Funding and resourcing the women only specialist sector.
- 90% were concerned now about securing funding in future to run women only refuge services
- 93% secure funding for women only services
- 62% concerned about sustaining current funding levels for women only services
- 55% said they will experience funding pressure to move from dedicated focus providing services to specific groups of women to become more generic women only providers

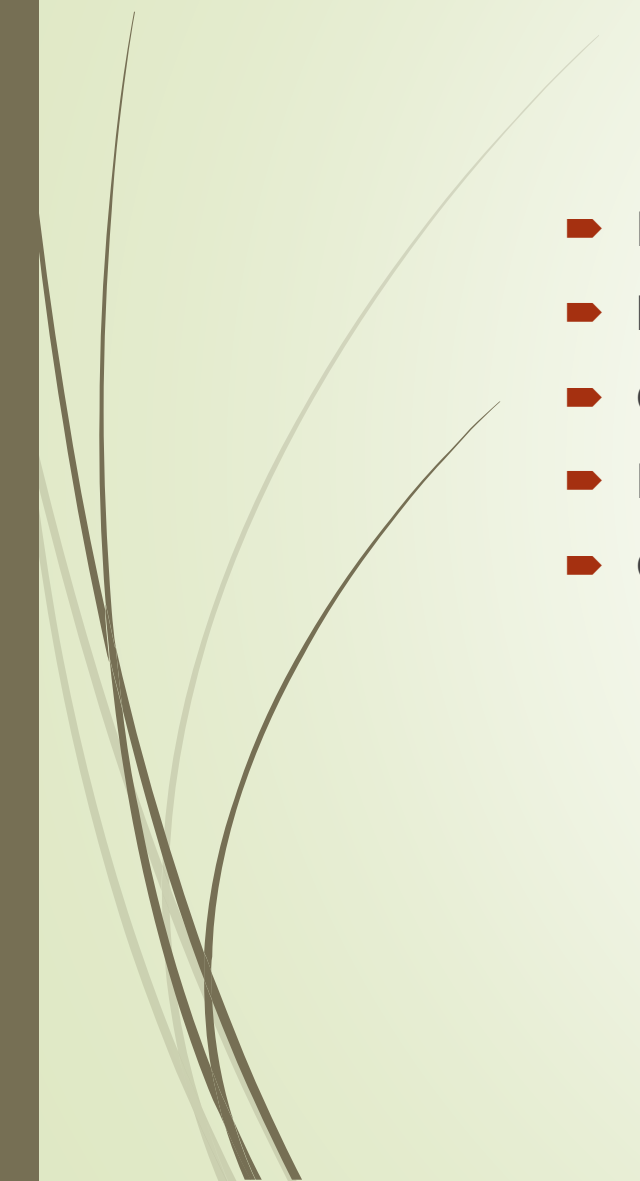


Addressing Need and Making the Case

- ▶ Justification of need
 - ▶ Making the gendered case for services
 - ▶ Public awareness of gendered provision
 - ▶ Addressing multiple complex intersectional need
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Structural Arguments

- Funding as a structural issue regarding equality
 - Insecure funding cycles – short-termism
 - Competition
 - No additional resources being made available
 - Challenge by commissioners
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Shift from Gendered Approaches and Vision

- From VAW or GBV to DA
- Move away from rights-based and equalities focus in policy
- Policy failures to recognise the need for by women, for women VAW services
- Systemic institutional and structural discrimination against women
- Policy failure to recognise the scale of VAW
- Risk to women's lives