



Media Release for March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012

## **NEW GLOBAL DATA COUNT SHOWS HOW MANY WOMEN AND CHILDREN SEEK HELP TO ESCAPE FROM VIOLENCE**

Today, on International Women's Day, we, the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, are joining the Global Network of Women's Shelters to release the results of the *2011 Global Data Count*.

On just one day around the world 56,308 women and 39,130 children sought refuge from domestic violence at women's shelters.

Not everyone received help: 7,608 women and 4,734 children were turned away. A total of 12,342 women and children were subject to continued risk.

The *2011 Global Data Count* is a snapshot of one day in the lives of women seeking refuge at women's shelters around the world. It is the third census conducted by the Global Network of Women's Shelters. **It represents information provided by 2,636 participating shelters and 25 shelter networks from 36 countries.**

In our Alberta our shelters helped 744 women and 606 children. And this, we know, is just the tip of ice berg. Most violence is unreported; many women and children suffer alone; and there are limited resources available.

The data count also enabled the voices of survivors to be heard from around the world: As we heard from a women in a shelter in Estonia, "If I were not here, I would probably be dead."

From a shelter resident in the Netherlands: "It sounds funny perhaps, but to me those first days in shelter were like heaven. A room for myself and my children. No eyes staring at me, wanting to control everything I did. A safe place, were people were caring and took interest in me as a person and mother."

The Data Count shows that violence against women is truly an international issue that demands a response from every country in the world.

For further information go to: your website information  
To download the full report go to <http://www.gnws.org/>