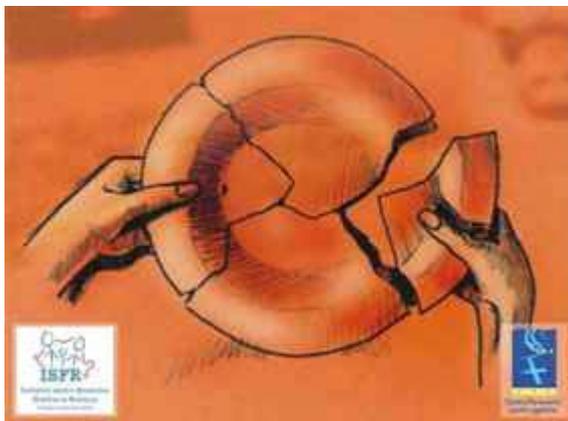


## Addressing Domestic Violence through Collaboration

The Consultative Meeting on Domestic Violence convened in Sinaia on March 18 – 21, 2004 marked the culmination of RFHI' planning. The meeting brought together all the major stakeholders in Romania to collaboratively address the issue of domestic based violence in Romania. The Deputy Director of the Ministry of Labor, Social Solidarity and Family began the conference by stating: "It is one thing to have a law in place but what is truly important is to change behavior." Present at the conference were representatives from the Ministry of Labor, Social Solidarity and Family, all the relevant nongovernmental organizations, the Orthodox Church, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration, the local administration, the Ministry of Justice, UNFPA and EEU.

RFHI initiated the project with an assessment of all the nongovernmental organizations in Romania; facilitated the formation of the National Coalition, provided technical and logistic support to the Ministry of Health and assisted with the transfer of responsibility for domestic violence to the Ministry of Labor, Social Solidarity and Family, and provides on-going

*The Domestic Violence Consultative Meeting is just one success story of the Romanian Family Health Initiative (RFHI), a bilateral USAID-funded project implemented by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. The RFHI is designed to increase the availability and utilization of high quality client-oriented services at the primary health care level and to assure sustainability of reproductive health services in Romania, including family planning, safe motherhood, early detection of breast and cervical cancer, and HIV/AIDS and STIs prevention.*



*Logo of the Conference on Domestic Violence*

technical support to this Ministry.

The goal of the conference was to draft the national strategy as a collaborative process of negotiation between all key stakeholders in the field of domestic violence in Romania. The conference also identified the proposed next steps for 2004. These included:

- press conference to disseminate meeting results
- common celebration of the International Day of the Family (May 15) to mark the consensus among all stakeholders
- establishment of working groups to refine and detail specific objectives of the national Domestic Violence strategy

- design and implementation of several pilot projects in target areas in Romania

The European Union representative shared the following quote from Kofi Annan:

*“Violence cuts short the lives of millions of people across the world each year, and damages the lives of millions more. It knows no boundaries or geography, race, age or income. It finds its way into homes, schools and the workplace. Men and women everywhere have the right to live their lives and raise their children free from the fear of violence. We must help them enjoy that right by making it clearly understood that violence is preventable, and by working together to identify and address its underlying cause”.*

Kofi Annan

Source: WHO -World report on violence and health including violence by intimate partners. 'Milestones of a Global Campaign for violence prevention', organized by the World Health Organization, Geneva, 2004.