



S.O.S. LEI was built in collaboration with Assolei, with the unconditional support of WINDTRE

The Gemelli Anti-Violence Centre marks its one year anniversary: 61 women taken-in

- **425 telephone calls, 195 encounters, and 61 women taken-in over twelve months of activity**
- **WINDTRE has once again reaffirmed its support for the project in 2024, in keeping with its unwavering commitment to inclusion and gender equality**

Rome, 1 March 2024 – The **S.O.S. LEI Anti-Violence Centre** of the A. Gemelli IRCCS University Hospital in Rome reports on its first year of activity. Created thanks to a partnership between **WINDTRE**, the **Agostino Gemelli University Hospital Foundation IRCCS** and the **Assolei Association**, the centre is located within the Percorso Donna (Women's Pathway) of the Gemelli Emergency Ward, and is open to all women who have suffered violence or abuse.

A summary of the main intervention data is provided below. Since 2 March 2023, the **S.O.S. LEI Anti-Violence Centre** has handled over 425 telephone calls and over **195** in-person encounters, and **61** women have been taken-in and provided with legal assistance and/or mental health care to help them escape the violence they have suffered. The 12 specialised operators at Assolei APS, who manage the Gemelli AVC, offer reception services free of charge, both by telephone and in-person. S.O.S. LEI is also managed in full compliance with the guidelines of the Lazio Region and the State-Regions Agreement of 2014.

The Centre can be accessed through a dedicated entrance located outside the Emergency Ward of the Gemelli Hospital, and is open to all women who have suffered violence, guaranteeing assistance on a daily basis and in complete confidentiality. The Centre is open Monday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and on Wednesday afternoons from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., with 24-hour phone assistance available at the number +39 320-346-4044, which can also be contacted by SMS text message and through WhatsApp. For the other days of the week, reception and counselling are available at the other Assolei locations, thus ensuring the availability of services, even in-person, all throughout the week for women who come to the Hospital seeking assistance.

In 2023, **120** women were victims of homicide in Italy, most of which resulted from domestic violence: in more than half of the cases, the perpetrator was the victim's current or former partner, as reported by the Ministry of the Interior.

"Once again this year, we have reaffirmed our unwavering commitment to combating violence in all of its forms, and to promoting a cultural change that can only be fostered through an alliance between men and women. Our support for the S.O.S. Lei Anti-Violence Centre is a tangible initiative aimed at providing prompt and concrete assistance to women who have suffered violence. And our commitment even goes beyond this public endeavour. In fact, at WINDTRE we promote a culture of gender equality, and support the empowerment of women through awareness-raising initiatives and training and development courses dedicated specifically to women" **Rossella Gangi**, Human Resources Director of WINDTRE, said.



“The cases taken on by the Association concern a diverse range of individuals in terms of age, nationality, and social background. Among them, we have taken in young women, students, and workers, who, despite having the benefits of education and independence, have nevertheless found themselves trapped in cycles of violence. S.O.S LEI is a safe place where all women in need can find people who will listen and help them, in their own time, and with maximum respect for their privacy and their choices. It is also important to remember that the AVC works in close contact with Law Enforcement Agencies, with whom it collaborates to file the relevant reports and, where necessary, to find safe accommodations.” **Dalila Novelli**, president of Assolei APS, said.

Just a few months after the S.O.S LEI Anti-Violence Centre was opened at the Gemelli Hospital, the Response to Gender-based Violence committee (**RiViGe**), of which several experts at the Gemelli Hospital are members, was also set up to promote interventions and activities aimed at preventing violence in general. The RiViGe committee has two objectives: the first is to rework the procedures for handling cases of violence, and to train the hospital staff so that every professional is able to provide patients with appropriate support. The second, long-term, objective, is to raise awareness and provide education on the issue.