

# Bjarkarhlíð

## Family Justice Center

- for survivors of violence

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# Why Bjarkarhlíð?





## Preparation

A visit to the Family Justice Center in New York City inspired the former Minister of Social Affairs, Chief of the Reykjavik Metropolitan Area Police and a Councillor from the City of Reykjavík to launch a similar project in Reykjavík.

They brought together the leading organizations that fight against violence and started to work on the establishment of Bjarkarhlíð, which opened 9 months later.

Partner's contribution:

- ✓ Ministry of Welfare: Financial contribution ensuring two social workers.
- ✓ City of Reykjavík: Housing facilities and management.
- ✓ Metropolitan Area Police: Criminal investigator located in Bjarkarhlíð full time.
- ✓ Grassroots organizations – Professional advisors.



- Bjarkarhlíð is a Family Justice Center for survivors of all violence.
- Our goal is to offer support and counseling about the nature and consequences of violence, in addition to send a clear message that violence is not tolerated.
- Bjarkarhlíð offers lectures and courses about the different manifestations of violence and the effects they have on survivors.



# Bjarkarhlíð

- The center was formally opened the 2. mars 2017
- The Family Justice Center model comes from the USA
- Iceland is the 8th country in Europe
- Pilot project
- Interdisciplinary cooperation
- All services in Bjarkarhlíð are free of charge



# The waiting room



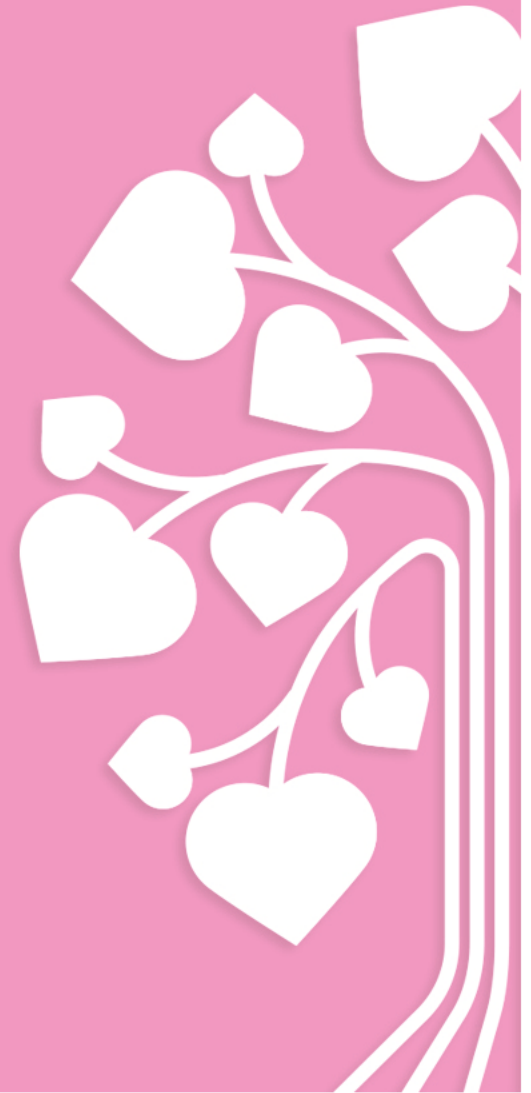


## Partnering with Bjarkarhlíð

- City of Reykjavík
- Ministry of Welfare
- Ministry of Justice
- Metropolitan Area Police
- Stígamót, center for survivors of violence
- Drekaslóð, center for survivors of violence
- Women's Shelter
- Icelandic Human Rights Center
- Women's counseling



**What do we do?**



- Assistance for individuals, 18 years and older, of all sexes that are survivors of all kinds violence.
- Individuals that have suffered from domestic violence, sexual violence, violence against the elderly, or human trafficking, can get comprehensive services that focus on their needs.
- Coordinated services and professional consultation and counseling.
- Individual interviews for survivors of violence.
- Legal consultation.
- Consultation with social workers and help with the process of applying for other resources, such as financial support and housing benefits.
- The police provides information about the justice system and charge process.
- Assistance from the police in assuring safety for survivors and risk assessment.
- Education and courses about the nature and consequences of violence.





# Therapy room



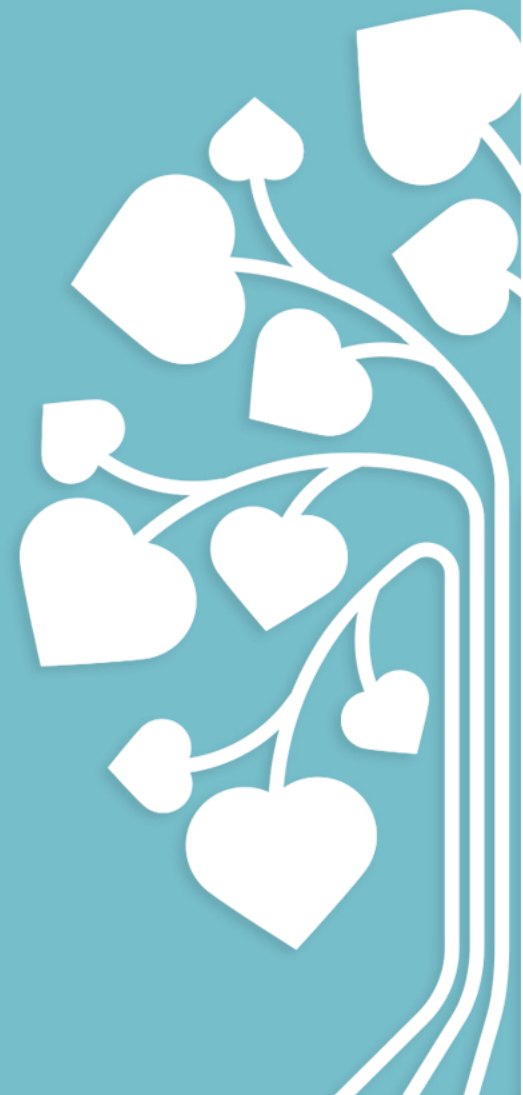


## How we do it!

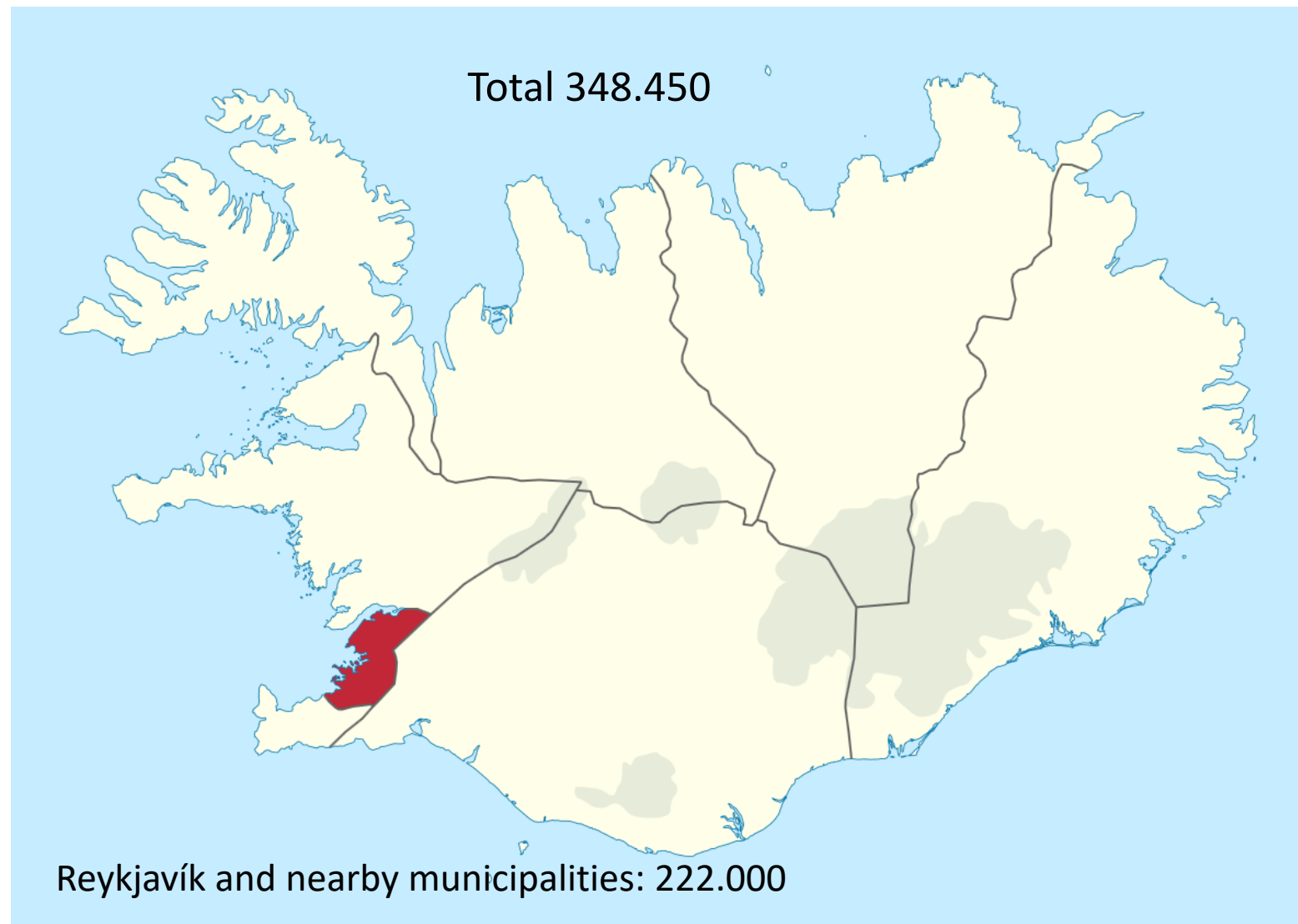
- Coordination of multiple local providers from 6 sites to establish support and justice services in one physical location.
- Providing „one stop shopp“ for victimnes in need of services.
- First client interview with a social worker
- Assessmennt of the need for service
- Matching the client need to the support that is offered



**Bjarkarhlíð is for everyone**



# Iceland's population



## The data from 2017

Total number of cases	<b>316</b>
Women	91%
Men	9%
Reykjavík	67%
Kóp, Hafn, Garðabær og Mos	21%
Other	12%



## Police cases Bjarkarhlíð

Total number of cases in Bjarkarhlíð	316	%
Total number of interviews	184	58
Domestic violence cases	88	48
Sexual abuse cases	67	38
Other cases	29	13
Press charges	<b>62 or 34% of 184</b>	
Domestic violence	31%	
Sexual abuse	64%	
Other charges	5%	



# The Police facility



# Nationality of clients in Bjarkarhlíð

Nationality of clents	316
Icelandic	89%
Inside Erope	6%
Outside Erope	5%
Total	100%



# What is the experience of our clients? What was most helpful for you?

- The most helpful thing, in my case, was calling the FJC on a friday afternoon and making an appointment the following Monday. When I got there, I felt no pressure at all. I took all the time I needed to talk about my situation and after having talked to the social worker and telling her that I was going to leave my partner, I was able to talk to the police in order to press charges against him.
- Being able to get all the help needed at the same location is very helpful. Instead of having to make appointments with many different people all over town. No matter who I talked to at the FJC, everyone was very understanding and told me over and over again that I was making the right descision by leaving my partner





# What is the experience of our clients? What was most helpful for you?

- To find that there are people who treat you with respect and really want to help you. Invaluable psychological support, every single week over a long period of time.

- **What do you need from the FJC, what do you need from us to help you?**

Psychological support and guidance to how and where to find financial support.

- **Which suggestion would you give to persons starting a FJC?**

Make sure that people are treated with kindness and respect.



# Women's empowerment: support network for female migrants in Iceland

- Individual initiate of Magdalena Kowalska (psychologist), Jagoda Optolowicz (social interpreter) and Anna Wojtynska (anthropologist).
- In cooperation with **Bjarkarhlíð** and at Bjarkarhlíð premises.
- The project was supported by, The Equality Fund of Iceland and the City of Reykjavík Prevention Fund.
- 15 months project, until end of 2018.
- Open house: every Tuesday, 17:00-19:00
- Workshops



# THANK YOU!

