



Madara Mazjane,
MARTA Centre



The story of MADARA MAZJANE is a story about luck, love, courage, justice, and struggle. Madara’s good fortune has been to grow up in a family that has loved, understood, and supported her in every moment of her life. Growing up in a household in which relations are based on love and mutual respect gave her the possibility to be the self-confident, sensitive and brave woman that she is today, but more than everything it gave her a healthy and optimistic vision of interpersonal relationships. “In my world everything is possible, I’ve never been victim of violence or neglected by the people whom I love; this is why I know the importance of healthy relationships. I don’t want this to be perceived as a

www.marta.lv

privilege anymore, I want it to be the rule.” Unfortunately, not everybody lives in Madara’s world, many people have grown up in an environment in which violent and aggressive behavior is perceived as normality. Many women are victims of sexist stereotypes embedded in our society; women across the whole planet suffer from abuse, taboos, ignorance and violence every single day.

All this is unacceptable for Madara, she knows that life can be different, which is why she has decided to put as much effort as she can to help people that haven’t been lucky enough to have what she has. In order to reach her goal, Madara has managed to make a job out of her struggle: for 8 years she has been working for Marta Centre as a youth programme coordinator.

Marta Centre is an organization, founded in 2000 in Riga, that attends to victims of violence, especially domestic violence, and women involved in prostitutions, giving them psychological, sanitary and legal support. In particular, Madara deals with teenagers, her job consisting in visiting schools and trying to sensitize and educate youngsters on topics such as gender equality and identity, women’s right, consent, and prostitution, but most of all Madara tries to help these kids to be able to recognize healthy and unhealthy relationships, with the hope that in the future, their world could look like hers.

