

Michal Sela Forum | Protection Program Impacts 2025

Today in Israel, home has become one of the most dangerous places for women and children.

In 2025:

- Femicide increased by 76%
- Femicide by firearms increased by 1,600%
- Calls to the MSF Hotline have doubled since October 7
- Yet only 3.6% of Israel's domestic violence budget goes to prevention

Michal Sela Protection Programs: A Proven Solution

At the beginning of 2025, the MSF signed a new matching agreement with the Ministry of Welfare worth four million NIS for two and a quarter years - to provide protection and security for 600 threatened women in Michal's Watch. The signing of the agreement for this joint venture is a significant milestone towards the goal that the MSF set when it was founded - zero femicide per year.



Pictured with the newly signed contract, from left to right: Director-General of the Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs Yinon Aharoni; Minister of Welfare and Social Affairs Ya'akov Mergi; MSF Founder and CEO Lili Ben Ami; MSF COO MeyTal Greiver Shwartz; and Senior Deputy Director General, Director of the Social and Personal Services Administration of the Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs, Eti Kisos.

Official Report: The Michal Sela Forum's innovative programs have succeeded in reducing the number of women in shelters, providing women with the ability to stay safe in their own homes. An official statement issued by the Ministry of Welfare states: *The decrease in referrals to shelters... is the result of developing a variety of services... such as Michal's Watch, operated in partnership between the Michal Sela Forum and the Ministry of Welfare (Walla News).*

MSF's tailor-made basket of practical life-saving protection services are available to threatened women who do not live with the threatening party, and who are recognized by the Ministry of Welfare. Protection services include:

- Michal Sela Canines: A personal protection canine for life. The MSF provides the canine with personal private training, and the woman with a personal private training course; ongoing supplies of dog food delivered to the woman's home; full professional equipment (including a crate, leashes, collars, and other items); third-party insurance and pension fund.
- Security system for her private home: Installing a home security camera, providing a physical portable panic button connected to a 24/7 emergency private security call centre company and an emergency patrol + Smart Technology: Providing Relyon, an AI voice-activated panic button app, connected to a 24/7 emergency private security call centre company.
- Self Defense: Providing self-defense lessons by a certified self-defense instructor.
- Legal: Sending the abusive party a deterring letter from a law firm, in the name of the victim, deterring legal action.

Michal's Hotline serves as the first point of contact for thousands of threatened women each year, and operates across five communication channels—phone, WhatsApp, email, website, and social media—providing threatened women with accessible, lifesaving guidance and connection to professional services. Callers receive guidance on where to turn to, and feel empowered and knowledgeable about next steps. Threatened women are also eligible to apply to MSF protection programs. Michal's Hotline currently handles the largest call volume among all civil society organizations in Israel addressing domestic violence, **managing 34% of all civilian calls for help nationwide**. Every request received a rapid and professional response — both regarding all forms of violence (verbal, sexual, economic, legal, physical, etc.) and regarding emerging threats, such as the use of personal firearms.

Impact by Numbers (2025)

| Indicator | Change |
|--|-------------|
| Women requesting Michal's Watch | +74% |
| Women accepted into the program | +60% |
| Women protected in 2025 | 375 |
| Real time life-saving instances | +40% |

"Every night I checked the locks twice, three times, four. I was terrified I wouldn't live to see my children grow up." S., divorced mother of four, part of Michal's Watch

T's story: A young mother of three, repeatedly threatened—even while her abuser was in prison. After joining Michal's Watch, she activated her mobile panic button when followed by her abuser when he was released from prison. Security forces arrived immediately. ***"Today, I sleep through the night. I take my children to the park again."***

A call was received from S.'s distress button. She reported that the attacker, who is supposed to be under house arrest at his father's house, had **appeared at her home, threatened the children, and drove his car in circles under her house while she was hiding.** The patrolman was immediately dispatched to the scene and contacted S. and the police. ***When the police arrived, her details were taken, and the attacker was taken in for questioning.***



Thank you to all our friends and partners for your support in 2025!
Together, we are saving women's lives.

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