



This Programme is funded
by the European Union



vol 12

IMPLEMENTING NORMS, CHANGING MINDS

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS REVIEW ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE REGIONAL PROGRAMME ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Over 50 civil society representatives from the Western Balkans and Turkey met in Istanbul in May to take stock of the main challenges, achievements and lessons learned in the implementation of the EU-UN Women regional programme on ending violence against women. Civil society partners shared their perspectives on how their work under regional programme is improving the lives of women and girls in the region. Read [more](#).



WOMEN MPS DISCUSS CHANGES IN CRIMINAL CODE FOR SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION IN NORTH MACEDONIA

Women Members of Parliament and representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the Republic of North Macedonia participated in a training workshop to analyze the steps needed to harmonize the Criminal Code with the standards of the Istanbul Convention. Read more about their efforts [here](#).



CIVIL SOCIETY EFFORTS TO PREVENT EARLY MARRIAGE START TO PAY OFF IN KOSOVO

In Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244), early marriage – a human rights violation prohibited under Kosovo law – disproportionately affects the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. The Network of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women's Organizations of Kosovo (NRAEWOK) is working to change that by engaging boys as agents of change in minoritized communities in order to foster dialogue among families about the harmful effects of early marriage. Read more about their strategy [here](#).



“WOMEN IN RURAL AREAS ARE SPEAKING UP ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS”

Luljeta Kaculi, administrator of the municipality of Labinot-Fushe in Albania, is tackling cases of domestic violence in her community and helping to raise awareness about violence against women and services available for survivors of violence. She sees positive changes in her community, with more women standing up for their rights and speaking out against violence. Read [more](#).



“THE MEDIA IN SERBIA CAN MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIGHT AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE”

Radmila Veskovic, Project Manager at NGO Fenomena in Serbia, works with members of the media to ensure ethical and gender-sensitive coverage of violence against women. “The media contributes to shaping public opinion about all aspects of social life, including violence against women,” she says. Read her interview [here](#).

SERBIAN WOMEN’S ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESS FEMICIDE ON NEW ONLINE BULLETIN

Serbian women’s organizations Gender Knowledge Hub, FemPlatz and the Women Research Center for Communication and Education developed the first-ever electronic newsletter focused on femicide under the title “Combating and eradicating femicide in Serbia”.

The Serbian language newsletter, produced within the framework of the EU-UN Women regional programme on ending violence against women “[Implementing Norms, Changing Minds](#),” provides relevant information, data and articles on femicide as well as in-depth interviews with experienced gender experts, women’s rights activists, criminologists and academics. It also highlights the need to improve the criminal law framework in Serbia and proposes classifying femicide as a separate criminal offence, with an aim to prevent legal insecurity and adequately monitor the number of reported cases that are processed at court.

The first and second issues of the newsletter are available [here](#).



“VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES IS INVISIBLE IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM”

Olivera Pejak Prokes is a judge of the Appellate Court in Novi Sad, Serbia. With over 30 years of judicial service, she has devoted her entire career to family-legal relations in the context of civil law, with particular focus on women with disabilities and violence against women. Pejak is currently working together with the Serbian NGO ...Iz Kruga Vojvodina on improving services for women with disabilities who have experienced violence within the context of the EU-UN Women regional programme on ending violence against women “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds”, funded by the European Union.

In an interview with ...Iz Kruga Vojvodina for their website Portal o Invalidnosti, Pejak outlined the challenges that women with disabilities face in accessing justice in cases of violence, including the invisibility of women with disabilities within the justice system, institutionalized discrimination, and lack of awareness among officials of the specific position and needs of women with disabilities. Read the original interview in Serbian [here](#).



INFORMING ROMA WOMEN ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Women belonging to marginalized groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina, such as Roma women, are often unable to access support services in cases of domestic violence due to their lack of information about those services and/or distrust towards service providers. To help women understand their rights and how they can receive help in cases of violence or discrimination, three flyers were developed by CSO Bolja Budućnost, a partner of the EU-UN Women regional programme on ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey, “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds”.

The flyers – available in Bosnian and Romani languages – outline anti-discrimination legislation and anti-violence legislation and provide a guide to claiming social rights and health protection in cases of violence of and discrimination. Take a look at the anti-discrimination flyer [here](#), the anti-violence flyer [here](#), and the guide to social rights and health protection [here](#).

ŠTA JE DISKRIMINACIJA I KAKO JE PREPOZNATI?

Diskriminacija je svaki postupak razlikovanja i nejednakog tretmana osobe ili grupe osoba zbog kriterija osobina koje ih čine različitim od ostalih. Može biti zasnovana na spolu, nacionalnom, vjerskom identitetu, seksualnoj orijentaciji, invalidnosti, političkom uvjerenju, boji kože, imovinskom stanju i sl.

OBlici DISKRIMINACIJE

Direktna diskriminacija postoji kada je osoba ili grupa osoba bila tretirana, tretira se ili može biti tretirana nepovoljnije u odnosu na drugu osobu ili grupu osoba u istoj ili sličnoj situaciji.

Indirektna diskriminacija postoji kada prividno neutralna pravna norma, kriterij ili praksa jednaka za sve je dovela, dovela bi ili mogla dovesti u nepovoljniji položaj osobu ili grupu osoba u poređenju sa osobom ili grupom osoba.

Poseban oblik diskriminacije odnosi se na **verbalno ili neverbalno ponašanje** prema osobi koja pripada određenoj skupini povezanoj s diskriminacijskim osnovom. Da bi se lakše čin mogao klasifikovati kao uznemiravanje, on mora biti neželjen od strane pogođene osobe te imati kao svrhu ili posljedicu povredu dostojanstva osobe time što uzrokuje strah i stvara neprijateljsko, ponižavajuće ili uvredljivo okruženje.

ŠTA URADITI UKOLIKO STE DISKRIMINISANI?

Ukoliko vjerujete da ste diskriminirani, Zakon o zabrani diskriminacije BiH i vam omogućava da:

- prijavite slučaj;
- instituciji Ombudsmana za ljudska prava BiH; 033 656-006;
- Ministarstvu za ljudska prava i sudskega BiH; 033 221-293;
- Upravljaju Vlada prava BiH; 033 755-165.

Često pitanje: smatram li u okviru programa "Implementing Norms, Changing Minds" samostalan odgovor na pitanje o tome da li sam diskriminirana ili ne? Ovo pitanje nije jednostavno, jer odgovor zavisi od toga koliko ste diskriminirani i na koji način. Ukoliko ste diskriminirani, možete se žaliti na to.



This publication has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Ending Violence Against Women in the Western Balkans and Turkey: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

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