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IMPLEMENTING NORMS, CHANGING MINDS



WOMEN'S GROUPS DISCUSS HOW TO INTEGRATE INTERSECTIONAL APPROACHES FOR ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

Twenty-five women representing different marginalized groups from the Western Balkans and Turkey met in Istanbul to discuss how to better integrate an intersectional approach into their work on ending violence against women.

The term 'intersectionality', coined by Professor Kimberle Crenshaw in 1989, refers to the multiple and cumulative ways in which marginalized groups experience different forms of discrimination (including sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, xenophobia, and classism).

The meeting was convened by [Imkaan](#) and UN Women, within the framework of the Regional

Programme on ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey, '[Implementing Norms, Changing Minds](#)' - implemented by UN Women with financial assistance from the European Union.

The objective of the meeting was to collect inputs from women's organizations and leaders representing 'minoritized groups', to inform a road map for the establishment of the Regional Expert Working Group (REWG) on intersectional approaches to end discrimination and violence against women across the region. Read more [here](#):



ALBANIA

"All actors dealing with survivors of violence should be trained on how to deal with women from Roma and Egyptian communities, so they can understand and address their specific needs." **Read more:**

Manjola Veizi – Roma and Egyptian Women's Network



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

"The women's movement does not fully acknowledge women with disabilities."
Read more:

Tanja Mandić – Sociologist



KOSOVO*

"We have excellent laws to protect women from violence, but the implementation of these laws still needs to improve." **Read more:**

Valbona Salihu – Lawyers Association, 'NORMA'



THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

"There is still stigma in our community towards women survivors of violence raising their voices and seeking help."
Read more:

Antigona Alili – Women's Forum-Tetovo



MONTENEGRO

"The majority of women who are victims of human trafficking are from the Roma and Egyptian communities; they are often trafficked for sexual exploitation."
Read more:

Marijana Milic – Montenegrin Women's Lobby



SERBIA

"In many cases, when Roma women who are survivors of violence try to access services, they're not well received and are discriminated against."
Read more:

Ana Sacipovic – Association of Roma Women 'Osvit'



TURKEY

"Hundreds of members of the community are victims of hate crimes, particularly trans women, and currently they cannot be protected."
Read more:

Damla Umut Uzun – Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Research and Solidarity Association



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* All references to Kosovo in this text shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).