



This programme is funded
by the European Union



SECOND REGIONAL FORUM: PROMOTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

“INTEGRATED POLICIES, INCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIPS”

Tirana, 9-10 October 2019

THE PLAZA HOTEL

AGENDA

Master of Ceremony, Misa Stojiljkovic, Journalist

DAY 1 - 9 October 2019

8:30 - 9:15	Registration
9:15 - 10:15	<p>Opening of the Forum Morning session chaired by Alia El-Yassir, Regional Director, UN Women Europe and Central Asia Regional Office Welcome remarks by H. E. Mr. Edi Rama, Prime Minister of Albania Welcome remarks by Luigi Soreca, European Union Ambassador to Albania Welcome remarks by Ogerta Manastirliu, Minister of Health and Social Protection, Albania</p>
10:15 – 10.30	Keynote address by Iris Luarasi, Vice-President of Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence - GREVIO
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 - 12:15	<p>Presentation: Update on the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention in each country</p> <p>This presentation will provide an overview of the progress that each state has made in the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, and the challenges they still need to overcome. This will build a better understanding of the regional situation, which ultimately allows participants to engage more with the Forum’s contents and discussions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merita Xhafaj, General Director at the General Directorate of Policies and Development of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Albania • Samra Filipović-Hadžiabdić, Director of the Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Representative of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, Bosnia and Herzegovina • Ariana Qosaj-Mustafa, Head of the Board, Kosovo Women Network, Kosovo*

* For the European Union, this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence. For UN Women, references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

- **Sinisa Bjekovic**, Deputy Ombudsperson, Montenegro
- **Jovana Trenchevska**, State Secretary at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies of North Macedonia
- **Ljiljana Loncar**, Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister for Gender Equality, Serbia
- **Gökçe Bahar Öztürk**, Investigating Judge, Victim's Rights Department, Ministry of Justice, Turkey

12:15 - 13:30

Plenary session 1: *Inter-agency cooperation for an integrated response to violence against women at the regional, national and local levels: Potentials and challenges*

The Istanbul Convention calls on all state parties to co-ordinate efforts and establish effective cooperation among all relevant stakeholders playing a role in preventing and combating all forms of violence against women. UN agencies also recognise the importance of inter-agency cooperation and have included it as a crucial element of the services package for women and girls subject to violence¹. Cooperation between relevant agencies should include local authorities, health and legal professionals, law-enforcement agencies, social services as well as CSOs. However, effective inter-agency cooperation remains a significant challenge in the region due to the lack of clear definitions of the role of each actor, as well as the lack of acknowledgement of expertise and experience of women's groups in decision-making and implementation mechanisms; in particular organizations of women from marginalised and disadvantaged groups.

This plenary session thus aims to provide an overview of the requirements under the Istanbul Convention relating to inter-agency cooperation and to identify the main challenges faced by Western Balkans countries and Turkey in this area. Additionally, this presentation aims to show the different mechanisms, tools and methodologies that encourage good practices in inter-agency cooperation. Overall, it is expected that a better understanding of the common structural and logistical challenges for co-ordinated responses, as well as examples of good practices, will lead stakeholders towards the adoption of good practices into national or local contexts and effective implementation of those models.

Chair: Aldijana Sisic, Chief, UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

Speakers:

- **Zlatan Hrnčić**, Senior Advisor at the Gender Centre of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina & **Selma Begic**, Programme Manager, Safe Network, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Edi Gusia**, Chief Executive of the Agency on Gender Equality, Office of the Prime Minister, Kosovo
- **Natasa Medjedovic**, Director, SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence, Montenegro
- **Beti Pejeva**, Executive Director, EHO Educational Humanitarian Organization Stip, North Macedonia
- **Merve Demircan**, Ankara Yenimahalle Municipality, Turkey
- **Kosana Beker**, Programme Director, FemPlatz, Serbia

Q&A

13:30 - 14:45	Lunch	
14:45-16.00	Breakout sessions	
	<p>Group 1: Key stakeholders and challenges in inter-agency coordination and cooperation Facilitated by UN Women</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which stakeholders should be part of the inter-agency cooperation? • How to establish responsibilities among different actors and ensure accountability? • How to allocate resources among different organisations and bodies to prevent overlaps or the leaving out of essential services? • How can inter-agency cooperation impact the changing of harmful attitudes, beliefs and behaviors that perpetuate violence against women? 	<p>Group 2: Tools and approaches to strengthen inter-agency coordination and cooperation Facilitated by Enkelejda Bregu, Programme Officer – Social Policies and Gender Equality, EU Delegation in Albania</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to strengthen knowledge and skill building for members of inter-agency cooperation mechanisms? • How could an inter-agency cooperation mechanism better advise on the optimal allocation of financial resources? • How to foster common approaches and methodologies at regional, local and even individual levels? • How to ensure inter- agency cooperation for better and synchronized collection of data through inter-agency cooperation?
	<p>Group 2.a: Tools and approaches to strengthen inter-agency coordination and cooperation Facilitated by UN Women</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to strengthen knowledge and skill building for members of inter-agency cooperation mechanisms? • How could an inter-agency cooperation mechanism better advise on the optimal allocation of financial resources? • How to foster common approaches and methodologies at regional, local and even individual levels? • How to ensure inter- agency cooperation for better and synchronized collection of data through inter-agency cooperation? 	<p>Group 3: Financing for services for survivors of violence Facilitated by UN Women</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the main barriers for ensuring the availability of services? How to overcome them? • What are the main challenges to ensure the sustainability of services? How to overcome them?
16:00 - 17:15	<p>Plenary meeting CONCLUSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Report on the break-out sessions (10 min each)</i> • <i>The way forward: proposed actions for follow-up (15 min)</i> 	
	Group Photo	

DAY 2 - 10 October 2019

9:00 - 9:30	<p>Presentation: <i>Overview of protection, prosecution and integrated policies on sexual violence in the Western Balkans and Turkey</i> by Mirela Arqimandriti, Executive Director, Gender Alliance for Development Centre on behalf of the Civil Society Strengthening Platform led by WAVE Network</p> <p>The lack of specialized sexual violence services in the Western Balkans and Turkey, or only the rudimentary provision of services at best, remains a major challenge in the region. As does the lack of holistic data on the actual number of support services and types of institutions working in this sector. Additionally, despite parties' obligation to adopt legislation that addresses all forms of violence against women alongside significant efforts undertaken to tackle physical violence in the domestic context, more effective measures are needed to address other forms of violence, such as sexual violence.</p> <p>Besides adopting the relevant legislation, parties must also ensure the provision of quality and multi-sectoral services for victims of sexual violence, including rape crisis or sexual violence referral centres to provide immediate medical counselling, care and forensic services, among others. Changes in legislation differ throughout the region and the lack of basic provision of specialist sexual violence services remains a critical issue.</p> <p>This presentation provides an overview of the current situation of integrated policies put forward by parties to address sexual violence and of the provision of specialized services for victims of sexual violence. The aim is to better understand what policies are being applied, which services are being provided, by whom and where in each country. The presentation will identify inter-agency dynamics between governments and other stakeholders. Ultimately, understanding the situation of sexual violence support services and the interactions among different stakeholders allows for cross learning and creates opportunities for future capacity building for the provision of these services in the region. This presentation will begin this necessary conversation.</p>
9:30 – 10.30	<p>Plenary session 2: Good practices on addressing sexual violence in the Western Balkans and Turkey</p> <p>Chair: Blerta Cela, Deputy Regional Director, UN Women Europe and Central Asia Regional Office</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Etleva Sheshi, Assistant Commissioner, People's Advocate Institution, Albania • Radmila Zigic, Director, Foundation Lara Bijeljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina • Shenaj Berisha, Prosecutor, Prosecutor's Office in Prishtinë/Priština, Kosovo • Nermine Fakovikj, Coordinator for Equal Opportunities between Men and Women, Ministry of Health, North Macedonia • Biljana Delic, Head of Department for Analysis, Planning and Development Provincial Secretariat for Healthcare, Provincial Government of Vojvodina, Serbia & Veronika Mitro, Project Coordinator, Iz kruga Vojvodina, Serbia <p>Q&A</p>
10:30 –11:00	Coffee break

Breakout Sessions	
11:00 –12:15	<p>Group 1: Strengthening the prevention of different forms of sexual violence Facilitated by Clíona Saidléar, Executive Director, Rape Crisis Network Ireland</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the main gaps in the prevention of sexual violence and how can they be addressed? • How to address behaviors, beliefs and attitudes that encourage or condone sexual violence? • What actors are or should be involved in the prevention of sexual violence at country and local level? • What are good examples of prevention mechanisms? • What is the role and importance of monitoring processes to support the prevention of sexual violence at national, regional and local levels?
	<p>Group 2: Addressing the main challenges in achieving effective prosecution of different forms of sexual violence cases in the region Facilitated by Anca Ciupa, WAVE Network/ CSSP</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are different forms of sexual violence defined in the region and what implications does this have for the prosecution of perpetrators? • What are the challenges for the comprehensive and coordinated application of legislation regarding the prosecution of perpetrators of sexual violence in the region? • How to overcome overlapping definitions and legal provisions that hamper the proper prosecution of reported cases?
	<p>Group 3: Providing specialist services for survivors of different forms of violence Facilitated by UN Women</p> <p>Guiding questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the most acute needs of survivors? • What are the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders to address this issue? • What are the main challenges encountered by both governmental and non-governmental service providers addressing sexual violence? • How to maintain 24/7 emergency services for victims of sexual violence? • How to better make use of the long-standing experience of CSOs as specialized service providers?
12:15-13:00	<p>Plenary meeting CONCLUSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Report on the break-out sessions (10 min each)</i> • <i>The way forward: proposed actions for follow-up (15 min)</i>
13:00 - 13:15	Closing remarks
13:30	Lunch

¹ See Module 5 “Essential actions for coordination and governance coordination” of the Essential services package for women and girls subject to violence. Available online: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/12/essential-services-package-for-women-and-girls-subject-to-violence>