



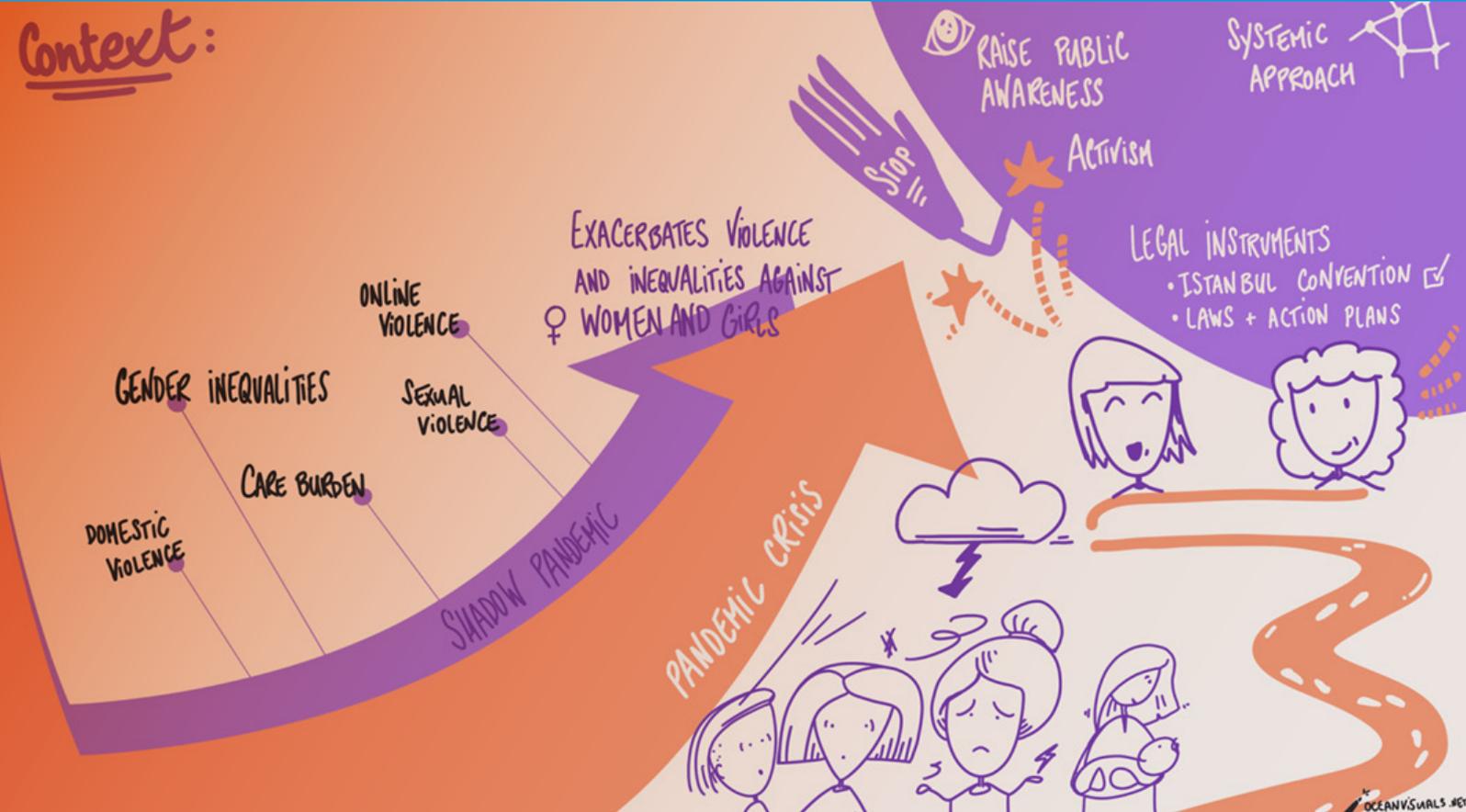
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IMPLEMENTING NORMS CHANGING MINDS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

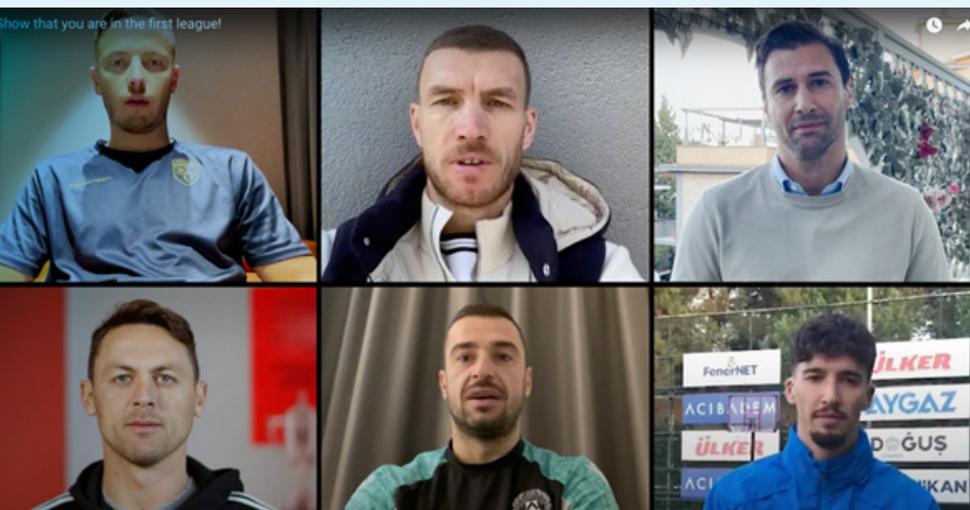
VOLUME 21



THIRD REGIONAL FORUM PUTS FORTH FIVE-YEAR ROADMAP FOR ADVANCING WORK ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Over 150 participants, including representatives of civil society, regional institutions and government officials designed a roadmap to advance the work on ending violence against women for the next five years, during the Third Regional Forum “Inclusive Partnerships, Integrated Policies,” which took place on 1-2 December 2021. The Regional Forum is the region’s first and only regular mechanism engaging strategic partners on ending violence against women. Organized by UN Women, under the auspices of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, this edition was co-convened by the Council of Europe and the European Union.

[Read more](#)



VIDEO

SHOW THAT YOU ARE IN THE FIRST LEAGUE!

Popular football players from the Western Balkans – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, North Macedonia, Serbia – and Turkey speak out against toxic masculinity and violence against women. Addressing social norms that perpetuate inequality lies at the cornerstone of preventing violence against women.

Six well-known and respected football players share their thoughts on positive masculinity and how normalizing men's violence against women harms men and boys as well. The video is part of the regional campaign "Embracing positive masculinities to promote gender equality and end violence against women - Show that you are in the first league" and was developed within the UN Women regional programme on ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey "Implementing Norms, Changing Minds," funded by the European Union.

[Watch here](#)

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN #SOSagainstViolence REACHES MORE THAN 2 MILLION PEOPLE IN SERBIA

The COVID-19 pandemic showed that home is not always a safe place for women and their children, especially during the lockdown. UN Women Serbia and non-governmental organization Fenomena teamed up to organize a national campaign, named "#SOSagainstViolence," aimed at decreasing violence against women during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, within the regional programme on ending violence against women "Implementing Norms, Changing Minds," funded by the European Union.



The campaign, which was kicked off in November 2020 and lasted till November 2021, included an extensive media campaign, a mentorship programme for journalists and a course for high school girls on gender-based violence.

[Read more](#)

* 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).

BELIEVE SURVIVORS. ACT NOW.

SARA GASHI'S STORY, KOSOVO

"Until I reunite with my children, I won't give up. They are everything to me," says Sara Gashi, a domestic violence survivor from Kosovo. "My parents forced me to marry when I was 21 years old. My husband, his father and stepmother, physically abused and emotionally tormented me for years. Until one day, after enduring psychological and physical violence for so long, I decided to go to the police." Unfortunately, the police officers did not believe Gashi's story. They tried to convince her that the abuse was not an excuse to leave. Finally, they took her to the Prishtina Domestic Violence Shelter, where she finally felt supported and safe.

[Read more](#)

IN THE WORDS OF MÜGE YAMANYILMAZ:
**"WOMEN'S LIVES CAN BE CHANGED
 BY SHARING OUR KNOWLEDGE AND
 EXPERIENCE WITH OTHER WOMEN"**

Müge Yamanyılmaz is the project manager of "Support to Life," a humanitarian organization promoting basic human rights and needs in rural communities since 2005. Within the UN Women regional programme on ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey "Implementing Norms, Changing Minds," funded by the European Union, the organization has developed the training course "I am woman, I have

rights" aimed at strengthening women's access to justice and informing them about their rights. Müge Yamanyılmaz spoke to UN Women about why it is crucial to train women on their rights, particularly women from the vulnerable groups, and how the lives of women and girls can be changed if organizations support them along the way.

[Read more](#)

TAKE FIVE: **"IT IS CRUCIAL TO STRENGTHEN
 THE CAPACITIES OF INSTITUTIONS TO
 PROVIDE ONLINE SUPPORT TO WOMEN
 SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE"**

Sanja Čopić is a researcher and President of the Executive Board of the Victimology Society of Serbia, which conducted the research "Actions of competent institutions and services for combating domestic violence in the Republic of Serbia during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially during the state of emergency" in May 2021. This research was part of the campaign #SOSagainstViolence conducted by non-governmental association Fenomena under UN Women programme on ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey "Implementing Norms, Changing Minds," funded by the European Union. Čopić spoke to UN Women about the main findings of the research, including the biggest challenges in the functioning of institutions and organizations that provide support to women survivors of violence.

[Read more](#)



IN THE WORDS OF HÜLYA İNAN: “WOMEN CAN CONTRIBUTE TO BUILDING SOLIDARITY WITH THEIR OWN STORIES”

Hülya İnan is the outreach officer of Support to Life, a humanitarian organization promoting basic human rights and needs in rural communities of Turkey since 2005. Based in Şanlıurfa, a city located in southeastern Turkey, Hülya İnan has coordinated the “I am a woman, I have rights” workshops for more than 60 rural women. Within these workshops, organized with the support of the UN Women regional programme “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds,” funded by the European Union, women learn about their rights and how to assert them.

[Read more](#)

POLICY PAPER

PROMISING PRACTICES OF ESTABLISHING AND PROVIDING SPECIALIST SUPPORT SERVICES FOR WOMEN EXPERIENCING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The policy paper [“Promising practices of establishing and providing specialist support services for women experiencing sexual violence: A legal and practical overview for women’s NGOs and policy makers in the Western Balkans and Turkey”](#) aims to serve national policy makers and women’s organizations as a learning tool for establishing and providing support services for women and children victims of sexual violence, and eventually inform a national service provision framework.

The paper highlights promising practices from women’s organizations and other stakeholders in supporting women survivors of sexual violence, and clarifies the need to establish a common language when it comes to the specialist services mentioned in the [Istanbul Convention](#), namely: rape crisis and sexual violence referral centres.

This document was developed as part of the project “Strengthening the capacities of regional CSO networks for policy advocacy, knowledge-based expansion and partnership facilitation on sexual violence in the Western Balkans and Turkey.”



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The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the regional programme on 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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