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IMPLEMENTING NORMS CHANGING MINDS

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INFLUENTIAL ACTIVISTS, POLICYMAKERS, ACADEMICS AND ARTISTS CONVENE TO PREVENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

Some 150 representatives of national civil society organizations, government officials, youth and artists from the Western Balkans and Turkey settled on the next key steps for advancing national and regional commitments to end sexual violence at a virtual conference held on 10 March. The regional conference also examined critical policy recommendations to prevent and respond to sexual violence in the region and outlined key actions to accelerate their implementation.

[Read more](#)

**DISCOVER
THE MOST
INSPIRING
WOMEN
CHANGEMAKERS
WORKING TO
END VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN IN
THE WESTERN
BALKANS AND
TURKEY**



To mark this year's International Women's Day, the EU-funded regional programme "Implementing Norms, Changing Minds" launched a far-reaching interactive map that features a selection of 80 women champions and changemakers from among the programme's civil society partners, as well as women activists who relentlessly advocate for women's rights and provide much-needed support to women and girls. The interactive map not only celebrates these inspirational women, but also showcases how, in spite of many challenges, they persevered to become part of the change they want to see in their country. Meet [here](#) these pioneering women who make an impact and help to build a world without violence against women!



**IN THE WORDS OF ILIRIANA JAKA GASHI:
"BRINGING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS
TOGETHER TO WORK ON THE ECONOMIC
REINTEGRATION OF SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE
IS INDISPENSABLE"**

Iliriana Jaka Gashi is the Executive Director of Kosovo Women 4 Women, an organisation that works to support the marginalized women in Kosovo*. With 11 years of experience working with women from vulnerable groups, she has learned that economic empowerment is crucial to women's social inclusion and reintegration. In this interview, Gashi explains how the organization's programme on the economic empowerment of survivors, implemented within the EU-funded regional programme "Implementing Norms, Changing Minds," provides women survivors of violence with the skills and means to provide for themselves and reintegrate independently into their communities.

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* 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).

SUPPORTING WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE WITH SOCIO-ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION IN ALBANIA



“Every night I prayed for this nightmare to be over. I felt hopeless... I thought violence was my fate,” says Besa Cuko*, a 30-year-old survivor of domestic violence and a mother of two who bravely saved herself and her children from a life of physical and emotional pain. Despite her desire to escape the cycle of violence, she was not aware of any services that could help her.”

[Read more](#)

* Survivor's name has been changed to protect her identity.



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

Stela Tanellari is the Deputy Director and Reintegration Programme Manager of Different and Equal, an organisation in Albania that provides services for women survivors of violence. It has developed a complex approach for women's economic reintegration under UN Women's regional programme “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds,” funded by the European Union. In this article, Tanellari details the organisation's approach to economic reintegration for women survivors of violence, why it is needed and the challenges it poses.

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INFOGRAPHIC. EXPLORE THE JOURNEY OF A ROMA WOMAN SURVIVOR OF VIOLENCE WITH AND WITHOUT THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION

On the occasion of International Roma Day, 8 April, the regional programme launched the infographic ‘Journey of a Roma woman survivor with and without the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention).’ The storyboard depicts the path to recovery of a Roma woman survivor of violence in two scenarios: if her state has adopted the Istanbul Convention, and if it has not. Delve into the stories right [here](#).



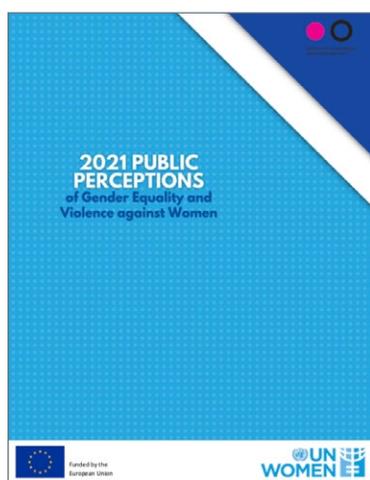
INTERVIEW:
**“ECONOMIC
 INDEPENDENCE
 IS A KEY FACTOR FOR
 A WOMAN SURVIVOR
 OF VIOLENCE TO START
 A NEW LIFE”**

Klimentina Ilijevski is the Executive Director of the Association for Research, Communications and Development “Public,” an organisation that has been actively

working in the field of social inclusion, social entrepreneurship, and social impact in North Macedonia for ten years. Through many years of working with vulnerable people, Ilijevski recognized the need for a methodology to enable the sustainable integration of vulnerable groups of people into employment, and thus social mentoring was born. In this interview, Ilijevski outlines the social mentoring programme aimed at economically reintegrating women survivors of violence, undertaken within the EU-funded regional programme on ending violence against women “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds.”



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POLICY PAPER.

2021 PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF GENDER EQUALITY AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The report “2021 Public Perceptions of Gender Equality and Violence Against Women” captures Kosovar citizens’ knowledge of the gender equality legal framework, their perceptions and expectations regarding gender-based roles and behavior at home, and their attitudes towards changing or improving gender equality, violence against women, and domestic violence.

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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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