



ISKLUČIMO SEKSUALNO NASILJE

**NAD ŽENAMA
I DJEVOJČICAMA**

16 days of activism

Turn off violence, turn on prevention!

25 November – 10 December 2021

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INTRODUCTION

Global campaign 16 days of activism

The global campaign “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence” is an annual international campaign that kicks off on November 25, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until December 10, International Human Rights Day. It is used as a strategy to organize individuals and organizations around the world to advocate for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. In support of this civil society initiative, under the leadership of the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, the United Nations Secretary-General’s UNiTE by 2030¹ to End Violence against Women campaign calls for global actions to increase awareness, galvanize advocacy efforts, and share knowledge and innovations.

These are multi-year activities for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls around the world. The 2021 Global campaign considers the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and the global rise of violence against women and girls. All governments are called upon to commit and take action at the policy level in four main areas of action: **FUNDING, PREVENTION, RESPONSE (to violence) and COLLECTION (of data).**

UN Women campaign in BiH

The UN Women BiH campaign in 2021 conceptually belongs to the topic of **PREVENTION** and takes into account the increased focus on the issue of sexual violence and sexual harassment of women and girls in BiH. During November and December, using the 16 Days of Activism campaign, UN Women aimed at focusing the public discourse around the issue of sexual violence against women in BiH to deepen the discussions on specific challenges in protection of and support for survivors of sexual violence.



Sexual violence in BiH

According to OSCE research from 2019 every second woman in Bosnia and Herzegovina has experienced some form of abuse. Sexual violence was experienced by 10 per cent of women, 28 per cent had experienced sexual harassment.² However, these data show only an estimate of the prevalence and represent only a tip of the iceberg. Many of the cases remain unreported due to stigmatization associated with this act as well as the fact that many women do not recognize that they are victims of violence.³ At the same time, the outbreak of the COVID-19 has further exacerbated the situation: available data show that the number of cases of violence against women has increased in countries where restricting measures are in place to combat the spread of the virus, including BiH.

The issue of sexual violence and sexual harassment was brought to the focus of the public discourse at the beginning of 2021, after the testimony of Serbian actress. This triggered an avalanche of reactions and testimonies from women and girls in the region about experiences of sexual violence. Using the movement “Nisi sama”, women shared their experiences hoping that their testimonies will ultimately lead to a change in attitudes and a better response system.

In order to use the momentum and keep the issue of sexual violence in the public discourse, UN Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina focused the “16 days of activism” campaign on the issue of sexual violence with the key message “Let’s turn off violence, turn on prevention!”

TURN OFF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Opening of the campaign

“Let’s turn off sexual violence against women and girls” is the message of the UN Women campaign, which runs from 25 November to 10 December, for the fifth year in a row and with the support of Sweden. These activities are part of the global campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence which calls to an end of all forms of violence against women and girls. Under the key message “Turn off violence, turn on prevention”, the campaign aimed to keep the focus on sexual violence, with special attention on advocating for the improvement of the legislative and institutional framework for addressing cases of sexual violence in BiH. In addition, the campaign focused on young people’s attitudes about sexual harassment, consent, and its connection to the prevention of sexual harassment and sexual violence.

The campaign included representatives of institutions, civil society organizations, the international community, youth and public figures who contributed to raising awareness of the importance of this issue.

The campaign “Turn off sexual violence against women and girls” started on November 24, 2021 with the organization of a hybrid event (a combination of physical and online Zoom event). The introductory remarks were made by: **Samra Filipovic-Hadziabdic**, Director of BiH Gender Equality Agency, **H.E. Johanna Strömquist**, Swedish Ambassador to BiH, **David Saunders**, UN Women Representative in BiH and **Ana Vukovic**, Director of Gender Center of the Federation of BiH. These were followed by the panel discussion “Combating sexual violence in BiH – challenges and opportunities” with experts: **Ivanka Markovic**, legal expert and professor at University of Banja Luka; **Fatima Becirovic**, expert on ending violence against women at Gender Centre FBiH; **Gorica Ivic**, expert on ending violence against women from Foundation United Women Banja Luka; and **Nasiha Pozder**, member of FBiH Parliament. The event was moderated by journalist Marina Ridjic. 50 participants followed the event - 31 of them via Zoom application and 20 live. The event was live streamed on Facebook.

The panel discussion with experts was organized to mark the opening of the campaign on 24th November 2021 in Sarajevo.



Photo: UN Women BiH/Vladana Vasic

Introductory remarks



"Bosnia and Herzegovina is a signatory of the Istanbul Convention and is obliged to meet the requirements stemming from the Convention. It is necessary to work on strengthening capacities of the judiciary, police, centers for social work, and the Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina works diligently to achieve this."

Samra Filipovic – Hadziabdic

director of Agency for Gender Equality of BiH, MHRR



"All individuals have a right to bodily integrity and freedom from violence. To ensure these basic human rights for women and girls, legislation to prevent and combat violence against women must be in place, sufficient funds allocated to implement them and policies developed to change harmful norms and attitudes in society."

Johanna Strömquist

Ambassador of Sweden to Bosnia and Herzegovina



"We are here today to take a stand against sexual violence against women and girls. We are determined to combat sexual violence against women by creating a safe environment. Women and girls need to be safe from abuse and sexual violence in their own homes. They need to be safe from harassment and abuse at work, and on streets. They need to be safe from judgment and stigma."

David Saunders

UN Women Representative in BiH



"By adopting legal measures that regulate domestic violence and violence against women, including sexual violence, and by ratifying the Istanbul Convention, Bosnia and Herzegovina is strongly determined in combating all forms of domestic violence and violence against women, aiming to create a society with zero tolerance to any form of violence."

Ana Vukovic

director of Gender Centre of Federation of BiH

The panel discussion:

"Combating sexual violence in BiH – challenges and opportunities"

At the round table panelists discussed the improvement of legislative and institutional frameworks for addressing cases of sexual violence in BiH and the need to increase specialized services for survivors of sexual violence and sexual harassment.

It was concluded that the priorities of work should be:

- More rigid sanctioning of criminal actions that constitute sexual violence, regardless of the nature of the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator and/or the existence of physical resistance by the survivor;

- Strengthening the existing services for survivors of violence and establishing specialized services for victims of sexual violence in accordance with the Istanbul Convention;
- Continuous work on changing social attitudes around violence.

The conclusions of the discussion will be included in the publication "Focus on gender" which will be shared with the decision-makers in BiH and other stakeholders in the coming months.



Photo: UN Women BiH/ Adis Novic

The panel discussion with experts was organized to mark the opening of the campaign on 24th November 2021 in Sarajevo.

Social media campaign

The campaign on social media included a total of 14 posts with bilingual messages of the campaign, and messages from celebrities with the objective of raising awareness on the prevalence and consequences of sexual violence against women. All 14 posts were branded and created in line with the visual identity of the campaign.

CAMPAIGN REACH ON SOCIAL MEDIA

20 November – 10 December 2021



25,2K views



8K reach



3,7K impressions



To further attract the attention of the younger population, we engaged influencers and celebrities to support the campaign (Dino Merlin, Maja Miralem, Samira Porićanin Petrešin, Dijana Tepšić and Mirza Mustafagić).



In addition to graphic solutions, two videos were created in a form of a statements by local experts and representatives of the international community in BiH. The videos were shared via traditional and new media to raise awareness on the issue, underline the main challenges and were used as a call for action to targeted groups. Both videos were prepared in BHS and English languages. Videos can be found on the following links:

• <https://bit.ly/3tORtWp>



• <https://bit.ly/3nKY6VF>



Closing event

As the closing event of the “16 days of activism” campaign, a discussion and creative workshop with youth was held at the OKC Abrasevic Club in Mostar. Young people from Mostar, young artists and experts in this field participated in dialogue with young people related to their understanding of sexual violence and term consent.

Closing event of 16 Days in Activism, held in Mostar on 10 December 2021, featured a discussion with youth on the prevention of sexual violence.

Dijana Tadic (Women of BiH Mostar), Nedim Micijevic (Youth Strength), psychologist Marjana Tomas, the Mostar Street Arts Festival team and creative supervisor, professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Sarajevo, Bojan Hadzihalilovic participated in the discussion with young men and women on what sexual harassment means and how to recognize and prevent it.

This was followed by the creative workshop during which the participants had an opportunity to transfer their reflections to posters and contribute to the dialogue on the prevention of sexual violence in BiH. The event was attended by 30 young participants.

Photo: UN Women BiH/Adis Novic



**Young people's opinions on
how to prevent sexual harassment**



„I think that education of young people is the most important, to help them understand how to react in these types of situations.“

Bojan Mandić

18 years



„It is necessary to talk more to young people, to educate them on this topic. Of course, parents can play a major role through raising children, but conversation is the essential tool.“

Jasmina Graho

18 years



„Young individuals can contribute by raising awareness of the issue, talking about it, and understanding that this can also happen to someone close to them.“

Emin Golos

18 years

Media campaign

The media in BiH supported the campaign by reporting on campaign activities, but also hosting special interviews and discussions on the topic with project representatives on behalf of UN Women BH.

The first media appearance was organized on BHRT1 on 23 November 2021 which also announced beginning and main goals of the campaign.

Four media appearances were held on Radio Sarajevo, N1 television, Alternative television Banja Luka and the web portal Gracija.ba.

A total of 23 media announcements related to the campaign were published in the period from November 25 to December 10, 2021.

Gracija

VIJESTI INTERVJU NAŠE PRIČE LIFESTYLE

fokusirana na seksualno nasilje u BiH, uz glavnu poruku "Isključimo nasilje, uključimo prevenciju!". Dva su cilja ovogodišnje kampanje – prvi je uticati na donosioce odluka da podrže usklađivanje krivičnih djela u odredbama o seksualnom nasilju sa Istanbulskom konvencijom i zagovarati dostupnost specijaliziranih usluga za osobe koje su preživjele seksualno nasilje. Drugi cilj je proširiti svijest mladih u BiH o seksualnom uznemiravanju žena i poboljšati razumijevanje pristanka u intimnim odnosima. U okviru kampanje organizirana je panel diskusiju sa stručnjakinjama o načinima rješavanja nedostataka u borbi protiv seksualnog nasilja u BiH. Desetog decembra upriličen je susret sa mladim ljudima s kojima je razgovarano na temu pristanka, poštivanja granica, razumijevanja šta sve čini seksualno uznemiravanje i nasilje. Kampanju su podržali/e predstavnici/e međunarodne zajednice, kao i javne ličnosti u BiH poput Dine Merlina, Mirze Mustafagića, Dijane Tepšić, Maje Čengić i Samire Porićanin Petrešin.



Panel diskusija

FOTO | Mladi Mostarci razbijali tabu o seksualnom uznemiravanju

Jedan od ciljeva kampanje bio je dijalog s mladim ljudima, naročito kada je u pitanju njihovo razumijevanje seksualnog nasilja i značenje pojma "pristanak", kao ključnog faktora u prevenciji ovog problema.

Sci-Tech / Obrazovanje | 10. 12. 2021. u 17:46 Bjelak.info



SYNERGY WITH OTHER INITIATIVES FOR PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The UN Women campaign "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence" has, together with other events from the region, contributed to raising awareness of violence against women with a focus on sexual violence. In that sense, the conceptualization

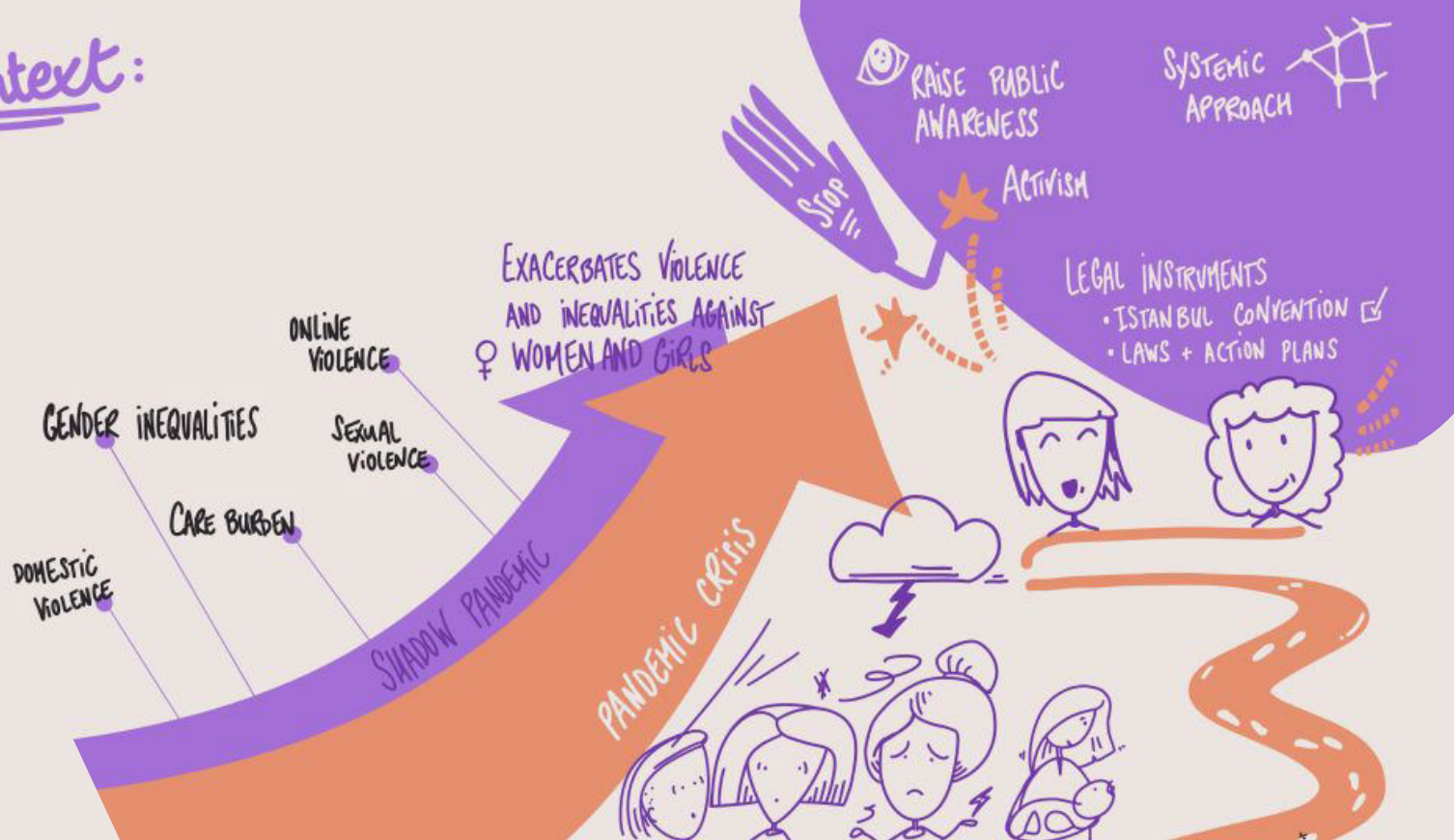
of the campaign took into account the theme and content of the Third Regional Forum "Inclusive Partnerships, Inclusive Policies", as well as the goals of the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence in BiH formalized under the Generation for Equality campaign.

Third Regional Forum: Ending Violence against Women in the Western Balkans and Turkey "Integrated Policies, Inclusive Partnerships"

More than 150 participants, including representatives of civil society, regional institutions, and government officials, joined the Third Regional Forum "Inclusive Partnerships, Integrated Policies," which took place on 1 and 2 December 2021, to contribute

to advancing the agenda on ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey.

Context:

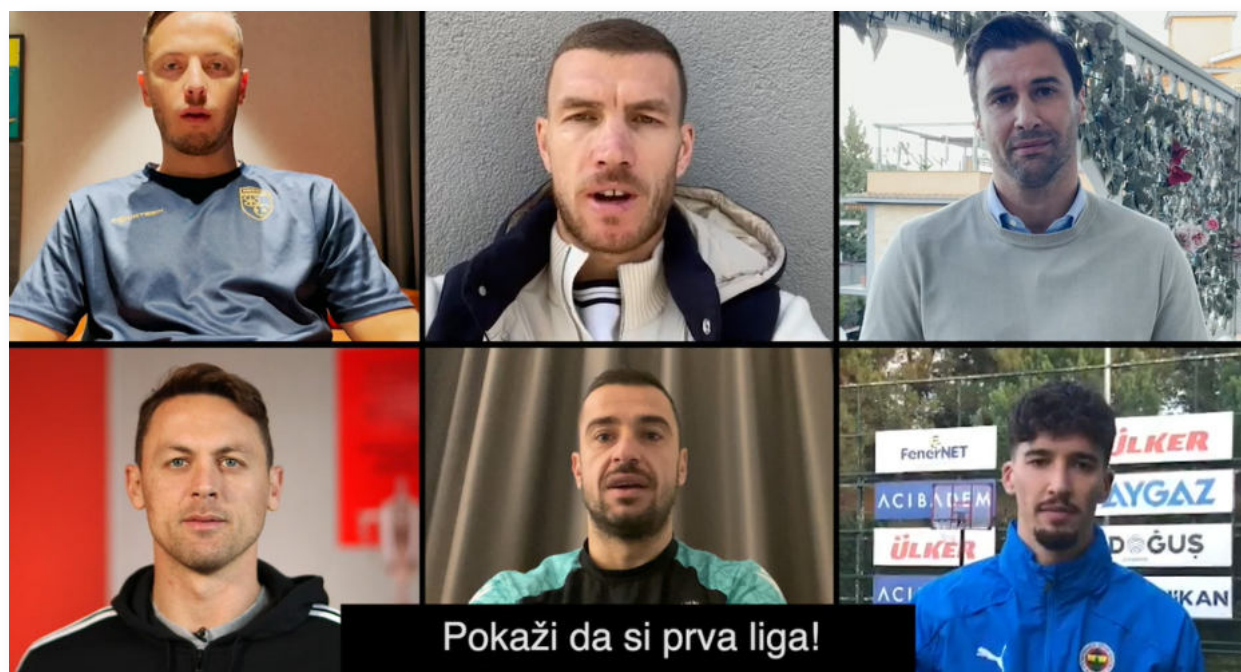


The forum, organized by UN Women as part of the regional program on ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds”, under the auspices of the government

of Bosnia and Herzegovina, provided the participants an opportunity to exchange experiences and determine future priorities for fulfilling the obligations steaming from the international documents.

Main recommendations from the Third regional forum:

- **Advancing the establishment of Femicide Watches in the Western Balkans, Turkey, and the subregion as a whole;**
- **Improving access to general and specialist services for survivors of sexual violence and legislation pertaining to sexual violence in line with the Istanbul Convention;**
- **Establishing and further developing perpetrator programs at the national and regional levels;**
- **Implementing effective behavioral change initiatives and demanding gender-responsible media portrayal of women and girls.**



To mark the closure of the event and highlight that the social norms are the cornerstone of gender inequality, a video featuring the football players from the Western Balkans and Turkey standing up against toxic masculinity and violence against women, was streamed.

The video was shared on social media and through other channels, to promote positive messages about masculinities and show how normalizing violence harms men and boys and perpetuates violence against women. <https://bit.ly/3KsLuMJ>

Formalization of the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence in BiH

This year's "16 Days of Activism" campaign was aligned with the global UN Women campaign "Generation Equality". This is the campaign under which local action coalitions are formalized to mobilize governments, institutions, civil society organizations, including women's, feminist and youth

organizations, international organizations and private sector - to encourage collective action; initiate conversations between responsible actors and generations; initiate an increase in public and private investment; and make concrete progress on gender equality through generations of girls and women.



Photo: UN Women BiH/Ognjen Crnobrnja

Formalization of the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, focused on the issues of sexual violence, in Banja Luka, 3 December 2021

In the coming period UN Women will, in cooperation with other members of the Action Coalition, work to include new members in achieving the following goals:

- disclosure of the structural nature of sexual violence and the impact it has on gender inequality in BiH society;
- motivating and encouraging others to join the work of the Action Coalition and joint efforts in combating sexual violence in BiH;
- development of the Coalition's Action plan, with measures that contribute to strengthening preventive and protective frameworks for action in cases of sexual violence in BiH;
- promoting cooperation, support and mutual assistance in applying an integrated approach to eliminating sexual violence and monitoring progress.

The kick-off event marking formalization of the Action Coalition on Gender Based Violence in BiH was held on 3 December 2021 in the Museum of Contemporary Art of Republika Srpska in Banja Luka. The event under the slogan „Together for a society free from sexual violence“ stressed the importance of adopting a common approach

and coordinating efforts to address sexual violence and sexual harassment.

The participants signed the Declaration of the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence in BiH, an open document inviting new signatories dedicated to ending sexual violence and to join the Coalition.



Formalization of the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, focused on the issues of sexual violence, in Banja Luka, 3 December 2021

PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA - SUMMARY OF THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION

What is the Istanbul Convention?

In 2005, member states of the Council of Europe launched a large-scale campaign on the issue of violence against women in Europe. It highlighted the need for harmonized legal standards to ensure the same level of protection for victims everywhere in Europe. This led to the development of a human rights mechanism to combat and prevent violence against women – the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, also referred to as the Istanbul Convention.⁴ The Istanbul Convention is the first international treaty to contain a definition of gender as “a socially constructed category” that defines “women” and “men” according to socially assigned

roles, behaviors, activities, and attributes. It firmly establishes the link between achieving gender equality and the eradication of violence against women. Based on this premise, it recognizes the structural nature of violence against women and that it is a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between women and men. The Convention entered into force on 1 August 2014. So far, 46 member states of the Council of Europe (EU and non-EU countries) signed the Convention, and 33 ratified it. The European Union signed the Convention on 13 June 2017. In BiH the Istanbul Convention entered into force on 1 August 2014.

UN Women BiH work on combating VAW and DV in BiH

Since 2016, UN Women has intensified its efforts on strengthening institutional and social response mechanisms to combat VAW and DV in BiH. With the support of Sweden and the European Union, and in collaboration with the governmental institutions and civil society organizations, UN Women aims to harmonize the legal and policy frameworks with the Istanbul Convention, and strengthen the protection system by improving availability, accessibility and quality of multisectoral services for survivors of domestic violence and violence against women, especially those from marginalized groups (Roma women, women with disabilities, women from rural areas etc.). Alongside the work on an enabling normative and protection environment, UN Women focuses also on working with men, women and youth in changing their attitudes and beliefs about gender stereotypes and violence against women. This work also includes strengthening the role of the media and religious leaders in preventing VAW. The emphasis is placed on strengthening the role of local communities to actively contribute to increasing awareness and changing harmful attitudes that perpetuate violence.



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