



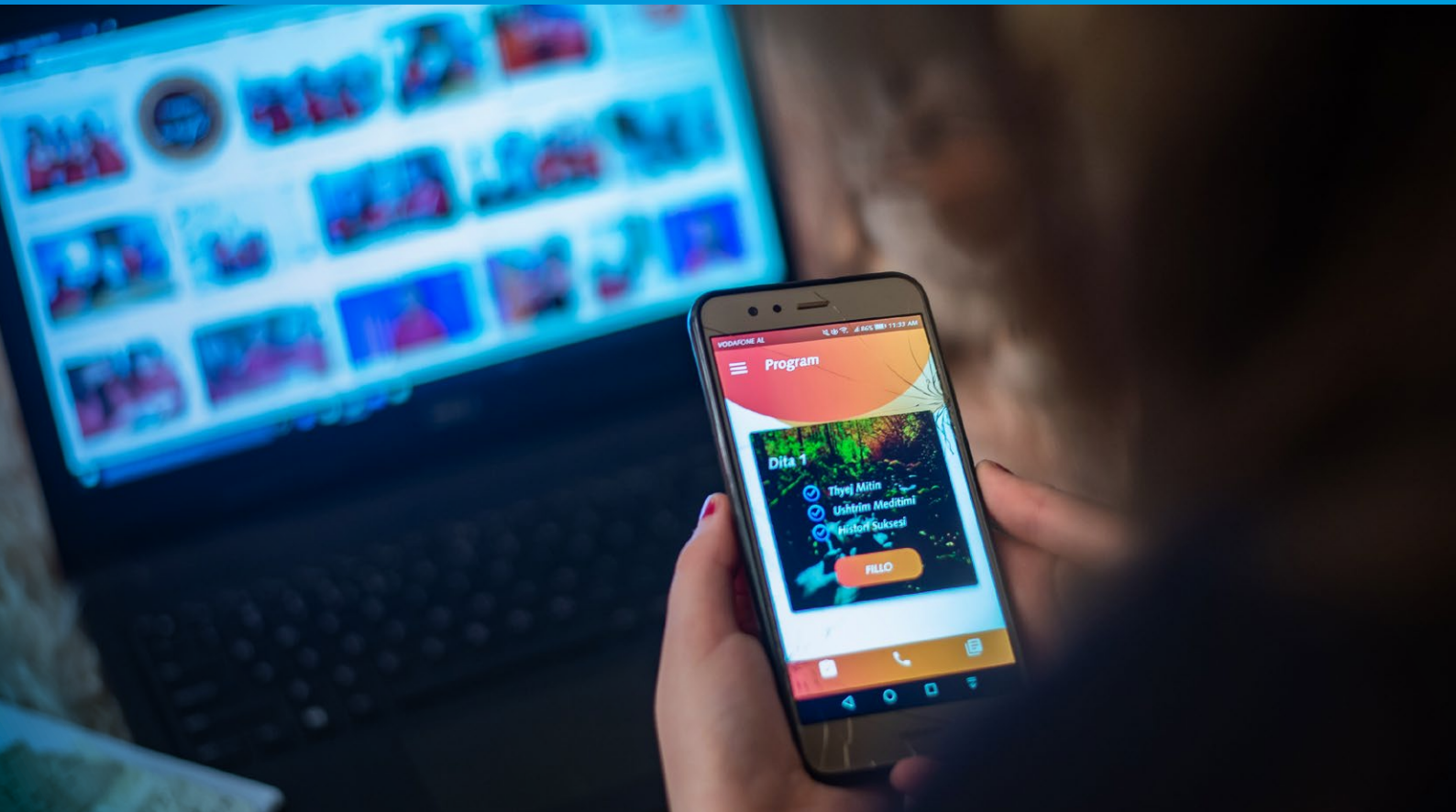
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IMPLEMENTING NORMS CHANGING MINDS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 24



HIDDEN MOBILE APP GIVES WOMEN IN SERBIA A SAFER ALTERNATIVE FOR REPORTING VIOLENCE

Women experiencing domestic violence often have their access to communication channels restricted by their abusers. Abusers may also regularly control or monitor their communication with the outside world. Existing ways of reporting violence require survivors to have a conversation via telephone or messaging, both of which can be difficult to conceal and may put women at greater risk if their abuser finds out. So, to help women stay safe, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, civil society organization [SOS Vojvodina from Serbia designed a safer mobile application for reporting violence and seeking help](#). The mobile application is disguised as a different type of app to prevent detection by abusers.

[Read more](#)



OVER 800,000 PEOPLE IN KOSOVO* URGED TO REPORT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The 2018 [baseline study on Public Perceptions of Gender Equality and Violence against Women in Western Balkans and Turkey](#) revealed that nearly one third of respondents in Kosovo perceived domestic violence as a 'normal' part of any relationship. In order to promote a zero-tolerance approach to violence against women and girls (VAWG) and encourage reporting, the Kosovar Gender Studies Center implemented a behavioural change campaign entitled "Say something," under the EU-funded regional programme "[Implementing Norms, Changing Minds](#)." In this interview, Dafina Prekazi, Programme Manager for the Kosovar Gender Studies Center, reveals the campaign's powerful impact and how responses to violence against women can be improved with everyone's cooperation.

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ROMA WOMEN FROM NORTH MACEDONIA ARE EMPOWERED TO RECOGNIZE VIOLENCE AND SEEK HELP

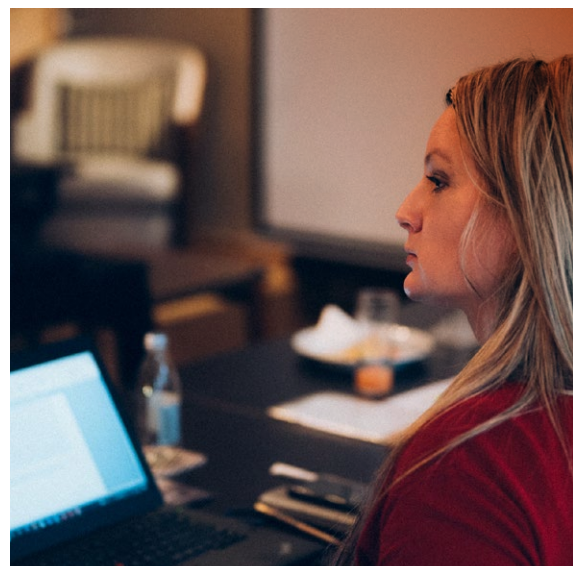
At least 25 Roma women from five North Macedonian municipalities have sought legal assistance following a door-to-door campaign implemented by the civil society organization (CSO) National Roma Centrum (NRC) in 2021 and early 2022. Based on NRC research conducted in 2019, which showed that domestic violence was not recognized as violence against women (VAW), the campaign aimed to tackle these beliefs and empower women to seek help. More than 450 women were reached, and five local networks of community leaders were established to continue fostering dialogue on VAW and other harmful practices. In this interview, NRC Project Manager Aleksandra Trajanovska shares her insights on the positive changes brought about by the prevention campaign and the challenges Roma women face when trying to access support services and report violence. The campaign was implemented under the regional programme "Implementing Norms, Changing Minds," funded by the European Union.


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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).

INTERVIEW: “WOMEN DESERVE TO RECEIVE TRUSTWORTHY, TIMELY, PROACTIVE AND NON-JUDGMENTAL SERVICES”

Jelena Hrnjak is a programme manager at Atina NGO. Since 2003, Atina has been supporting girls and women human trafficking and gender-based violence survivors and is a licensed provider of assisted housing services. Under the UN Women regional programme “[Implementing Norms, Changing Minds](#),” funded by the European Union, Atina has mapped and analysed existing support and protection services for domestic violence survivors in shelters in Serbia. In this interview, Hrnjak shares insights on the most pressing needs and challenges in providing shelter services and outlines key recommendations to secure adequate support to women fleeing violence.

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INTERVIEW: “INSTITUTIONS NEED TO BE SUPPORTED TO PROVIDE BETTER ASSISTANCE TO SURVIVORS”

In 2021, 1,600 police officers from the northeastern Tuzla canton of Bosnia and Herzegovina improved their knowledge of how to protect women survivors of violence, thanks to the campaign “You hear, you see, you know – REACT,” conducted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the citizen association Vive Zene. Equipped with standardized guidelines, police officers also intensified their requests for protective measures to support women reporting violence, registering a 93 per cent increase. In this interview, Jasna Zečević, President of Vive Zene, shares what led to its success and identifies next steps in supporting women to report violence and receive support. The campaign was supported by the EU-funded regional programme “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds.”

[Read more](#)


INTERVIEW: “ALWAYS TRUST A WOMAN WHO DECIDES TO REPORT VIOLENCE”

Ljiljana Nesic is a women’s human rights defender and President of the civil society organization (CSO) Women for Peace, which founded the first SOS helpline for women survivors of violence in Leskovac, South Serbia in 1994. During the pandemic, Women for Peace teamed up with another Serbian CSO, SOS Network Vojvodina, to develop a mobile app providing chat support and SOS services, including a panic button. The initiative was implemented under the UN Women regional programme “[Ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey: Implementing norms, changing minds](#)” funded by the European Union.

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INTERVIEW:

**“EVERY POSITIVE CHANGE
IN EACH WOMAN SURVIVOR IS
A SUCCESS IN ITSELF”**

Magdalena Chadinoska Kuzmanoski, a social mentor who works with five women survivors of violence on economic empowerment and reintegration into the labour market, shares how women have become psychologically and financially resilient thanks to the social mentoring programme. The social mentoring model, which combines key elements of mentoring with individual professional action plans, was adapted to the needs of survivors of violence and piloted in North Macedonia by the Association for Research, Communications and Development through their “Public” project, within the EU-funded regional programme “[Implementing Norms, Changing Minds.](#)”

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INTERVIEW: “FOCUSING ON SURVIVOR SAFETY AND WELL-BEING IS CENTRAL TO HIGH-QUALITY PERPETRATOR WORK”

Sandra Jovanović Belotic is the Training and Capacity Building Manager at the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators (WWP EN), which supports member organizations in their work with perpetrators of intimate partner violence, mostly men. In this interview, she outlines some of the key findings of the recently published report [Mapping Perpetrator Programmes in the Western Balkans](#), developed as part of the STOPP project, which addresses the patriarchal structures and inequality between men and women by creating a framework for safe and accountable perpetrator work, in a sustainable and standardized way. The project is implemented within the framework of the EU-funded programme on ending violence against women, “[Implementing Norms, Changing Minds.](#)”


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Fourth Regional Forum

Ending Violence Against Women in the Western Balkans and Türkiye

“Integrated Policies,
Inclusive Partnerships”

29-30
November 2022

● ● ● ● ● ● ● VIRTUAL EVENT

FOURTH REGIONAL FORUM ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS BACK!

The Regional Forum - the only regular mechanism gathering key stakeholders in the Western Balkans on ending violence against women (VAW) - will build on the momentum and progress from the last five years and set the stage for continued achievements towards ending VAW. This year's Forum will address issues pertaining to the establishment of femicide watches - femicide monitoring mechanisms - at the national and regional levels, including by examining the strategies and challenges of those established elsewhere in Europe and across the world. The event will also focus on strengthening alliances, networks and platforms throughout the region and locally and advancing cooperation between women's organizations and healthcare providers and examine challenges and opportunities in strengthening referral mechanisms at local and national level. The forum, held within the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, is organized by UN Women and co-convened with the Council of Europe, the European Union, and the national mechanisms and institutions for gender equality from the Western Balkans. Please register for the event [here](#). Registrations are open until 28 November.

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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 Türkiye “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds” and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

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