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IMPLEMENTING NORMS, CHANGING MINDS

REGIONAL FORUM TAKES STOCK OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

The Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, the European Union, and the Council of Europe (CoE), in partnership with European Women’s Lobby, convened a regional forum to discuss the progress in implementation of the Istanbul Convention. [Read more.](#)



Implementing Norms, Changing Minds – Testimonials 2



VIDEO: VOICES OF OUR PARTNERS AND BENEFICIARIES

The EU-UN Women regional programme “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds” is working to end gender-based discrimination and violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey. In our second testimonials video, our partners and beneficiaries explain how the programme is making a difference in their work and daily lives. [Watch the video.](#)

IMPROVING SERVICES FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE IN ALBANIA

“I felt broken, not only from the physical violence, but mainly because of the psychological abuse,” recalls Lumnie Shima. After experiencing domestic violence, she managed to escape and now she has access to protection, counseling services and legal support thanks to a project implemented as part of the regional programme “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds”. [Read the story.](#)

VIDEO: DEFENDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ROMA WOMEN

Roma women in Albania suffer disproportionately from domestic violence and many are compelled to marry well before they turn 18. Most drop out of school soon after, pregnant, isolated in their husband’s family, economically insecure. Roma activist Manjola Veizi explains how she fights for Roma women’s rights and to prevent domestic violence and early, forced marriages in Albania. [Watch the video.](#)



NEW PUBLICATION

INTEGRATED POLICIES - INTEGRATED APPROACH: MAPPING OF POLICIES AND LEGISLATION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

Produced by European Women’s Lobby under the EU-UN Women programme “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds” on ending violence against women, this report offers a regional analysis of policies and legislation on violence against women in relation to the Istanbul Convention in the Western Balkans and Turkey. [Read the report.](#)



VIDEO: AT THE FOREFRONT OF RESPONSE TO SURVIVORS WITH DISABILITIES.

Violence against women in Serbia is common, and prevention, protection, prosecution and referral mechanisms remain weak despite recent legal improvements. Ivana Zelic coordinates NGO Iz Kruga Vojvodina’s SOS service, which provides services to women from marginalized groups or with disabilities who are survivors of gender-based violence. [Watch the video.](#)



YOGA AND SELF-DEFENCE TO HELP COPE WITH GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN MONTENEGRO

SOS Nikšić, one of the oldest civil society organizations addressing domestic violence in Montenegro, is partnering with UNDP Montenegro, under the EU-UN Women Regional Programme ‘Implementing Norms, Changing Minds’ to train women survivors of violence on integrated security, including self-defence techniques. In 2016, they introduced yoga classes as part of their support to survivors. [Read the story.](#)



“EACH WOMAN BREAKING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE AND FEAR IS OUR GREATEST MOTIVATION”

Aida Mustacevic-Cipurkovic is one of the pioneers in supporting war survivors in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She joined the civil society in 1994, convinced that she could support those in need through her activism. For more than two decades, she has been helping women survivors of various forms of violence as a psychotherapist. She is currently working with Vive zene, a women’s association from Tuzla supported through the Regional Programme on Ending Violence against Women in the Western Balkans and Turkey, “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds”. [Read more.](#)



“PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES DON’T TALK ABOUT THE VIOLENCE THEY EXPERIENCE BECAUSE OFTEN IT MEANS REPORTING THE PEOPLE CLOSEST TO THEM”

Amira Kushta, from Tirana, Albania, felt like she got a new lease on life after receiving assistance from the Albanian Foundation for the Rights of People with Disabilities. The organization has recently contributed towards a report on violence against disadvantaged groups, as part of the EU-UN Women regional programme on Ending Violence against Women in the Western Balkans and Turkey, funded by the European Union. [Read more.](#)

“FEMICIDE IS FUELED BY PATRIARCHAL SOCIAL NORMS AND ‘CHANGING MINDS’ IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE”

Kosana Beker is a renowned women’s rights activist in Serbia. She is the Program Director of FemPlatz, a civil society organization working with the Gender Knowledge Hub NGO and the Women’s Research Center on a femicide review investigation, conducted in the context of the EU-UN Women regional programme, ‘Implementing Norms, Changing Minds’. [Read more.](#)



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