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IMPLEMENTING NORMS, CHANGING MINDS



UN WOMEN CELEBRATED ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EU!

For International Women’s Day, UN Women celebrated its partnership with the EU and 400 women’s rights organizations in the Western Balkans and Turkey to end gender-based discrimination and violence against women. The celebration kicked off phase two of the EU-funded regional programme “[Ending violence and discrimination against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds](#)”.

On this occasion, a campaign launch took place on- and offline, reaching millions of people. An animation video kicked off a call for “[Zero tolerance for violence against women](#)”. Billboards prominently displayed in airports, transportation hubs, shopping malls, cinemas and cultural centres showcased [powerful results of the programme](#), such as the mobilization of 6,000 community members to challenge violence, and the provision of better support services to 2,500 survivors of violence.

[Read more.](#)



FATHERS IN TURKEY TAKE ON MORE CHILDCARE RESPONSIBILITIES DURING COVID-19

As many people find themselves indoors due to the COVID-19 outbreak, fathers in Turkey are spending more time with their children and taking on more childcare and domestic responsibilities, thanks to the Father Support Programme, implemented by the civil society organization Mother Child Education Foundation (AÇEV). [Read the story.](#)



UNPACKING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WOMEN AND GIRLS IN ALBANIA

It has been a month since COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic and life was disrupted in more than 200 countries. With the world experiencing the greatest socioeconomic shock since World War II, existing disparities and inequalities amplify, with women often being hit hardest by the emergency.

[Read the story.](#)



TAKE FIVE: "IT IS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT SPECIAL MEASURES TO PROTECT WOMEN AND GIRLS AT RISK OF VIOLENCE"

Brankica Jankovic, the Serbian Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, has been actively advocating against different forms of discrimination against women. She spoke to UN Women about discrimination against women in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak as well as the new draft law on amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Law. [Read more.](#)



WOMEN'S SHELTERS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA FIGHT TO KEEP DOORS OPEN DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Safe houses in Bosnia and Herzegovina are struggling to provide adequate protection to women survivors of violence and their children, as domestic violence is likely to be on the rise due to the COVID-19 crisis. As part of the response to the crisis, UN Women conducted a rapid assessment of the status of specialized services provided by eight shelters in the country to find out their immediate needs in order to sustain their activities. [Read the story.](#)

TAKE FIVE: “AFTER THIS PANDEMIC, WE WILL HAVE TO WORK MUCH HARDER THAN BEFORE TO IMPROVE ROMA WOMEN’S LIVES”

Slavica Vasić is the chair and one of the founders of BIBIJA Roma Women’s Centre in Serbia, a [partner](#) of the EU-UN Women regional programme “Ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey: [Implementing Norms, Changing Mind](#)”. She spoke to UN Women about the impact of COVID-19 on Roma women and girls and vulnerable groups in Serbia and in the region, and how the lives of many women will change after the outbreak.

[Read more.](#)



IN THE WORDS OF MELIHA SENDIC: “THE COVID-19 CRISIS SHOULDN’T BE USED AGAINST WOMEN”

Meliha Sendic, director of the NGO, Centre of Women’s Rights, a partner of the EU-UN Women regional programme “Ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey: [Implementing Norms, Changing Mind](#)” in Bosnia and Herzegovina, spoke to UN Women about the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls in the country. Ms. Sendic emphasized the importance of meeting the needs of women and girls during COVID-19 response to ensure that no one is left behind. [Read more.](#)

TAKE FIVE: “FEMICIDE SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS A SPECIFIC CRIMINAL OFFENCE”

Ivana Milovanović is a basic court judge in the Serbian town of Nis who has been focusing for years on gender-based violence. She helped provide accurate data to the researchers who developed [the study on femicide in Serbia](#) under the EU-UN Women regional programme on ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey, “[Implementing Norms, Changing Minds](#),” funded by the European Union. She spoke to UN Women about the importance of collecting data on femicide and classifying it as a specific criminal offence. [Read more.](#)





TAKE FIVE: “IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC, WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES REMAIN INVISIBLE”

Sveltana Timotic is the founder of NGO “...iz kruga Vojvodina” (Out of Circle-Vojvodina) from Serbia, dedicated to eliminating violence against women with disabilities and ensuring accessible services for women with disabilities in situations of violence. The NGO is an implementing partner of the EU-UN Women regional programme on ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey, “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds”.

[Read more.](#)

FROM WHERE I STAND: “DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CAN NO LONGER BE TREATED AS A MINOR OFFENCE”

Ivanka Marković is the president of the Council for Combating Domestic Violence in Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina. She has been an expert in legal regulation of gender-based violence since 1998. Thanks to her efforts in a working group to revise the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence in Republika Srpska, domestic violence will be treated as a criminal act rather than a misdemeanor offence.

[Read more.](#)



IN WORDS OF TATJANA STOJSIC PETKOVIC: “THE COVID-19 CRISIS DEEPENS THE MARGINALIZATION OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES”

Tatjana Stojšić Petković is a psychologist, laughter yoga leader, and activist for the rights of women with disabilities in the NGO ‘...iz kruga - Vojvodina’ (...Out of Circle-Vojvodina) from Serbia. With the support of the EU-UN Women programme “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds,” Ms. Stojšić Petković is a frontline worker, providing psychological support to women with disabilities in times of self-isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more.](#)





RESPONDING TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DURING COVID-19: “WOMEN NEED TO KNOW THAT WE ARE WITH THEM”

In the month of April, UN Women Europe and Central Asia hold a series of webinars under the title “Preventing and responding to violence against women during COVID-19”. The webinars, aimed to gain knowledge, exchange information and lessons learned in responding to violence against women during COVID-19 crisis, were attended by over 100 representatives of governments, EU delegations, UN agencies, and UN Women across the Europe and Central Asia region. [Read more.](#)

BRIEF: EVALUATION OF THE REGIONAL PROGRAMME “IMPLEMENTING NORMS, CHANGING MINDS”



The brief summarizes the report of the independent evaluation of the EU-UN Women regional programme “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds”, conducted from July to December 2019. The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the achievement of results and

performance of the programme; identify and document lessons learned, good practices and innovations, success stories and challenges; and provide actionable recommendations for future programme development.

[Read the brief.](#)

RESEARCH ON PERMANENT ALIMONY



Conducted by the Foundation for Women’s Solidarity with the support of the EU-UN Women regional programme “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds” on Ending Violence Against Women, the research produced on Permanent Alimony investigates whether there is a

need for a new regulation on permanent alimony in Turkey. As a result of the findings from the alimony research report, the amendment of the alimony entitlements in the law have been dropped. [Read the research.](#)



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