



This programme is funded by the European Union



vol 16

IMPLEMENTING NORMS, CHANGING MINDS

COVID-19 CREATES URGENCY TO INNOVATE DELIVERY OF SPECIALIST SERVICES TO WOMEN EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE

More than 80 representatives of civil society organisations, the European Commission, Council of Europe, European Institute for Gender Equality, EU delegations and UN Women across the Western Balkans and Turkey attended the virtual launch of the rapid assessment “The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on specialist services for victims and survivors of violence in the Western Balkans and Turkey: A proposal for addressing the needs.” The rapid assessment was launched by UN Women, within the regional programme “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds,” funded by the European Union, and provides a snapshot of the pandemic’s impact on 40 civil society organizations delivering specialist services and its impact on their beneficiaries. [Read more.](#)



WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE RECEIVE VITAL SUPPORT FROM SHELTERS IN KOSOVO* DURING THE PANDEMIC

Around 550 women survivors of domestic violence from Kosovo were admitted to shelters during the COVID-19 pandemic, with support from UN Women within the regional programme on ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey, “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds,” funded by the European Union. [Read more.](#)



REVISED LAW EMPOWERS WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE IN ALBANIA

Flora Leka* had an arranged marriage at the age of 17. She dropped out of school and lived with her violent husband and father of her four children for more than 15 years. But when he became aggressive with their children, Leka could no longer endure. With the help of her siblings, she reported her husband to the police commissariat. [Read her story.](#)

*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).



RECOGNIZING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE, A BIG STEP TOWARDS JUSTICE FOR WOMEN IN KOSOVO

More women from Kosovo are reporting cases of violence since the Criminal Code was revised in 2018 to treat domestic violence as a separate criminal offence, which was achieved with the support of regional programme on ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey, “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds,” funded by the European Union.

[Read more.](#)



IN THE WORDS OF STEFAN PETROVSKI: “WE NEED TO RAISE AWARENESS AND PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST TRANS MEN AND WOMEN”

Stefan Petrovski, 23, is a LGBTIQ+ activist and project coordinator at Subversive Front, an association for sexual and gender minorities in North Macedonia. He is also a peer-to-peer educator for comprehensive sexuality education. Currently, Stefan Petrovski is acting as a youth ambassador within the EU-UN Women regional programme “[Implementing Norms, Changing Minds](#),” and he spoke to UN Women about the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on queer people. [Read more.](#)

FROM WHERE I STAND: “INVOLVED FATHERHOOD HELPED US TO GET THROUGH THE LOCKDOWN”



Osman Doğan is a schoolteacher in Bursa, a north-western province of Turkey. Together with his wife and children, they have been locked down at home during the COVID-19 pandemic for almost three months. However, thanks to his engagement as a father and experience as a fatherhood trainer within the Father Support Programme, the family coped with the situation through communication and sharing household responsibilities. [Read the story.](#)

WOMEN FROM MARGINALIZED GROUPS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA ARE FACING HEIGHTENED CHALLENGES DURING THE PANDEMIC

With the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, not all women had equal access to violence protection systems. Women from marginalized social groups were not only at risk of experiencing violence during the pandemic, but also were under the risk of being left behind when many state services, such as police, health, social protection, were being suspended or restricted because of the crisis.

[Read more.](#)



RESOURCE CORNER



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

As a result of an independent evaluation of the regional programme “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds,” conducted from July to December 2019, the evaluation report presents the performance of the programme, documents lessons learned, good practices and innovations, but also success stories and challenges. The report contains strategies for replication and up-scaling, provides actionable recommendations for future programme development and maximizes ownership by partners. [Read the report.](#)

[GUIDELINES] HOW TO BETTER SUPPORT WOMEN WHO EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE THROUGHOUT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND BEYOND

The [Civil Society Strengthening Platform](#), a platform gathering 9 women’s organizations throughout the Western Balkans and Turkey and led by Women Against Violence Europe Network (WAVE Network), launched a set of guidelines to support national governments and service in providing better response to the needs of women and girls victims of violence throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and once lockdown measures are lifted. The guidelines have been adapted according to the countries current needs and realities and are translated in all national languages, including in English, and can be founded [here.](#)



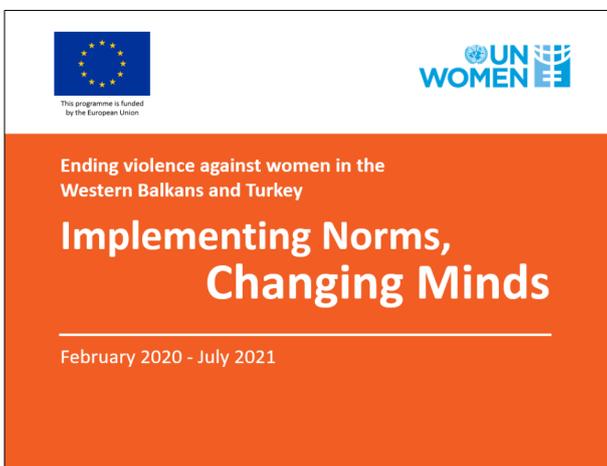
MORE RESOURCES



The first regional civil society platform addressing violence against women, the [Civil Society Strengthening Platform](#) (CSSP), led by Women Against Violence Europe Network (WAVE Network), undertakes lobbying and advocacy activities for improved legislation on violence against women and domestic violence. In this regard, from 2017 to 2019, within the framework of the programme, the network produced a number of research papers to inform its members about the advocacy work at national and regional level, inter alia: [Mapping of Sexual Violence Services in the Western Balkans and Turkey](#), a report that identifies the existing services in the region, examines their

implementation, and highlights the gaps in service provision; [The role of women's NGOs and networks in the Western Balkans and Turkey](#) offers an overview of the current situation on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and analyzes how networking influences advocacy efforts for the implementation of the Convention; [Doing it right: Making women's networks accessible with a special focus on women from minority and disadvantaged groups](#), an overview of the current situation regarding the accessibility of women's civil society networks in the Western Balkans and Turkey; [The benefits and challenges of women's networks: A comparative report](#) focuses on identifying the gaps and patterns regarding women's organisations practices towards networking, identifying the strengths and challenges of networks as well as the barriers in developing new ones.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



As Phase II of the regional Programme on ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey "Implementing Norms, Changing Mind," funded by the European Union, is running at full speed, check out a short and interactive presentation of our strategic focus and objectives.

Click here to view:

- [PDF file](#)

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