



PREPARING A TRAINING FOR JOURNALISTS AND STUDENTS OF JOURNALISM

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The first step is to define the goals of the training. The goal may be for the media and students to gain better knowledge of the main notions and facts about violence against women, which will then directly contribute to better media reporting. The goal of the training may also be to educate the journalists about a specific form of violence, the roles of different institutions in the protection system etc.

Journalists and journalism students pointed out the following topics about which they should know more:

- Working with perpetrators of violence against women
- Legal framework related to violence against women and its enforcement in practice
- Issues faced by persons working with women survivors of violence and do they receive any protection?
- How to learn more about other forms of violence, other than physical violence, such as economic, psychological, cyber violence?
- More about the work of nongovernmental organizations in this field.
- What happens to a woman once she leaves the safe house? What does the social reintegration process look like?

It is advisable to have professionals – persons with extensive experience in working on these issues, present at the training to offer the perspective of nongovernmental organizations and institutions. Thus, the journalists will have the opportunity to communicate directly with the sources of information, which will be highly beneficial for their future reporting on this topic.

EXAMPLE OF A WORKSHOP FOR JOURNALISTS AND JOURNALISM STUDENTS

Workshop topic:

Reporting on violence against women

Training goals:

- Present basic terms and facts to journalists and students about violence against women in BiH
- Point out different approaches to this topic to journalists and students, in order to improve their reporting

Workshop duration: 4 hours



MODULE 1: WHAT IS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?

(120 minutes)

Key questions:

- What forms of violence against women are most frequent in BiH?
- Statistics – what do the figures say about this issue?
- Protection mechanisms for domestic violence in BiH – institutional mapping.

For preparation and presentation of this session, you may use the research and publications listed in Annex 1 of the Handbook (e.g. Study by the Agency for Gender Equality, manuals of the organization Prava za sve etc.) It is important to present concise and relevant information to the group you work with – many specific examples, experiences from the field, identify good and bad practices of all stakeholders in the process of protection from domestic violence. During the preparations

for the workshop, bear in mind that you will be working with journalists and students of journalism who will later on report about this topic in their work.

Exercise:

- *What is a woman victim of domestic violence going through?* Present the entire cycle of violence and the opportunities to break the cycle, from the moment when the woman makes a call to the SOS line, or calls the police, through the moment she gets to the court.
- *How much do I know about violence against women?* This exercise can be done at the beginning of the workshop. Distribute stickers to participants and ask them all to write three things they relate to violence against women. Put the stickers on the flip chart and read them out. Do not comment immediately, but do revisit this in the end of this session – ask the participants if any of them would write something differently, or add something and what that would be?



MODULE 2: MEDIA AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

(120 minutes)

Key questions:

- What are the predominating forms of media coverage of violence against women?
- What are the crucial mistakes and consequences of those?
- What sources could be sought further? Who else should have been consulted in the first version of the story?
- What does the text tell us about violence against women as a social problem – can we relate it to other cases and, if so, how?

In the presentation you may refer to the Research on media reporting on gender-based violence against women in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UN Women, 2016) and this Handbook, as well as other literature related to media and violence against women in the region (listed in Annex 1 of the Handbook). Focus on the issues within journalists' control – remember that headlines, publishing the text in a particular section etc. are not decided by journalists, but rather editors.

Exercises and discussion:

- *My experiences in reporting on violence against women?* Allow participants to describe their good and bad experiences at the very beginning, and to talk about their biggest challenges, problems, how they solved them, what they believe is missing, etc. Map the needs of journalists through this exercise.
- *Case studies (small group analysis).* Select 2-3 texts (such as short story, interviews, reports, videos) and divide the group in smaller teams (2-3). Let every team analyze one text and identify problems, good points, and opportunities for a follow-up on the story:
- What are the local and national statistics about violence against women?
- What have the relevant institutions done and what will they do in this case, and what happened in previous cases?
- Experiences of women who managed to break free from the cycle of violence – what is their message?

At the end of the training journalists will have the basic structure of topics on which they can report in their newsrooms. Note: journalism students usually require additional work on journalistic forms and techniques, as they lack practical experience.

PREPARING A TRAINING FOR BLOGGING COMMUNITY

Bear in mind first and foremost that bloggers are not necessarily journalists and a blog is not a journalistic text that should be compliant with the forms and professional standards. Naturally, this does not mean that a blog may be used to incite harassment or as a public platform for hate speech, etc. It should be considered, however, that a blog is a personal comment, which may be useful in particular in the prevention of violence against women and which may shed light on some phenomena and facts related to this issue in a more direct manner.

In that regard, the training for bloggers may have a very specific goal, or outcome: the training may be used to develop an idea for an online campaign with bloggers, in order to bring public attention to a specific aspect of violence against women.

EXAMPLE OF A WORKSHOP FOR BLOGGING COMMUNITY

Workshop topic:

Prevention of violence against women

Goals of the workshop:

- Familiarize bloggers with basic notions and facts related to violence against women in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Point out the importance of blogger's active involvement in the prevention of and awareness raising about violence against women.

Workshop duration: 4 hours



MODULE 1: WHAT IS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?

(120 minutes)

Key questions:

- What forms of violence against women are most frequent in BiH?
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- Protection mechanisms for domestic violence in BiH – institutional mapping.

In order to prepare and present during this session, you may use the research and publications listed in Annex 1 of the Handbook (e.g. Study by the Agency for Gender Equality, manuals of the organization Prava za sve etc.) It is important to present concise and relevant information to the group you work with – many specific examples, experiences from the field, identify good and bad practices of all stakeholders in the process of protection from domestic violence. During the preparations for the workshop, bear in mind that you will be working with journalists and students of journalism who will later on cover this topic in their work.

Exercise:

- *What is a woman victim of domestic violence going through?* Present the entire cycle of violence and the opportunities to break the cycle, from the moment when the woman makes a call to the SOS line, or calls the police, through the moment she gets to the court.
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MODULE 2: ACTION AGAINST CYBER VIOLENCE

(120 minutes) *

Key questions:

- What does cyber violence look like in BiH and what prevention measures and anti-cyber violence methods are available?
- Joint preparation of the public awareness campaign on cyber violence and its effects

Since the audience of this target group is mainly online and computer literate, the work with bloggers may be focused on this issue, in particular given the lack of literature on the topic, or activities and initiatives from the NGO sector. For the purpose of preparing the workshop and potential guest appearances, activists of the organization “One World Platform” may be considered, as well as the representatives of the Federation Ministry of the Interior which has a special department dealing with this problem, as well as the Regulatory Communications Agency.

Exercise and discussion:

- Mapping cyber violence in BiH: the whole group may map this type of violence by searching through the cases in Bosnia and Herzegovina, researching available literature and texts on the topic, and analyzing experiences from the region.
- Developing an online campaign around the important dates for combating violence against women – think about specific topics to write about. How can we formulate the campaign messages? Who is our audience? How do we put social networks to best use to disseminate the message of the campaign?

**Cyber violence is used as an example; feel free to focus on other forms of violence or other issues of relevance to the prevention of violence against women.*

