



This Programme is funded
by the European Union



vol 13

IMPLEMENTING NORMS, CHANGING MINDS

REGIONAL FORUM PUTS FORTH SOLUTIONS TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

Key governmental, regional, and civil society leaders came together in a regional forum in Tirana to commit their efforts and discuss progress toward the elimination of violence against women in the region and the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, which remains key in addressing gender-based discrimination and violence. The regional forum was convened by the Government of Albania, UN Women, the European Union, and the Council of Europe. [Read more.](#)



REPORT ON DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST ROMA WOMEN IN THE BALKANS REVEALS DEVASTATING STATISTICS, CALLS FOR URGENT ACTION

A new regional report reveals shocking levels of violence and discrimination against Roma women in the Western Balkans in the areas of health care, child marriage, and institutional protection and support in cases of domestic violence. Produced by BIBIJA Roma Women's Center under the EU-UN Women programme "Implementing Norms, Changing Minds," the findings show that as many as 92% of Roma women have experienced some type of physical or sexual violence since the age of 18.

[Read the article](#) and [access the full report here.](#)



ROMA MEDIATORS BUILD A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE ROMA COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, a family of Roma activists help Roma community members in Prnjavor and surrounding municipalities in the north to become aware of their rights and access services from public institutions, including in cases of domestic violence. [Read their story here.](#)



STATE INSTITUTIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY JOIN FORCES TO IMPLEMENT CEDAW RECOMMENDATIONS IN SERBIA

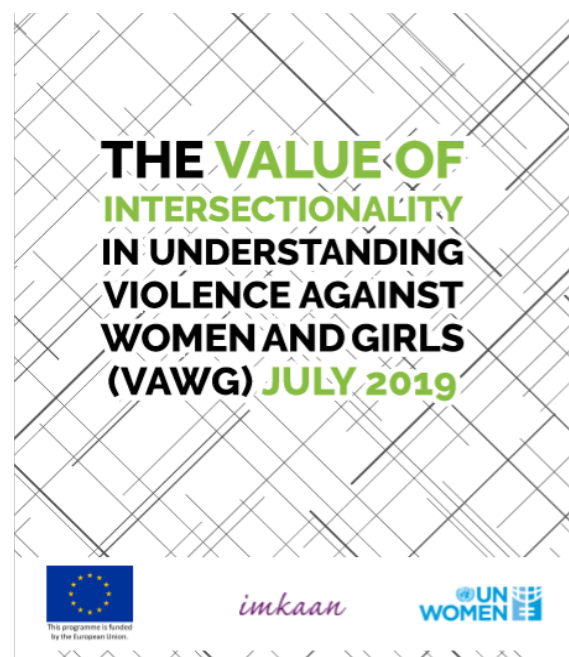
A high-level conference gathered representatives of both the relevant state bodies and civil society organizations to discuss the implementation of the CEDAW Committee's recommendations issued in the Committee's Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Serbia. The conference, organized by SOS Network Vojvodina under the EU-UN Women programme "Implementing Norms, Changing Minds," served as an important opportunity for civil society to collaborate with state agencies to identify areas of priority for advancing gender equality in the country. [Read more.](#)



FROM WHERE I STAND: "I DON'T WANT TO MARRY OFF MY DAUGHTER AT AN EARLY AGE - I WANT HER TO ATTEND SCHOOL"

Firyal Cizawi, a Syrian refugee residing in Turkey, shares how her perspective changed on gender equality and child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) after attending an awareness-raising workshop on women's rights under Turkish law and the negative consequences of CEFM. [Read more.](#)

Three newly-launched policy briefs examine the importance of services and support designed to meet the specific needs of minority women and girls facing violence and discrimination, as mandated by the Istanbul Convention. The briefs assess and provide recommendations regarding **the need for sustainable funding** for organizations that serve minority groups of women and girls; **the value of intersectionality as a concept** to understand the intersection of gender with other inequalities, such as sexuality, gender identity, ethnicity, indigeneity, immigration status, and disability; and the **lack of disaggregated baseline data on violence against women and girls, particularly those from minority groups**. The briefs were developed by CSO Imkaan under the EU-UN Women regional programme 'Implementing Norms, Changing Minds'.



TAKE FIVE: “IF FATHERS ARE MORE AWARE OF GENDER INEQUALITY, THEY ARE LESS PRONE TO DISCRIMINATE”

Hasan Deniz is Fatherhood Programmes Director for Mother Child Education Foundation (AÇEV), a civil society organization in Turkey that designs and conducts educational programmes for children, parents, and young women in need across the country. AÇEV is currently implementing a project on innovative strategies that promote favourable attitudes and behaviours towards gender equality and ending violence against women [here](#).



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER IN MONTENEGRO USES ART TO HEAL SURVIVOR TRAUMA

Residents of Women's Safe House, a domestic violence shelter in Montenegro, reduce stress and practice creativity through art-based occupational workshops organized by the shelter. "Women have reported feeling calmer because they can focus on painting instead of worrying about their problems," said Mira Saveljic, Director of Women's Safe House.

[Read more here](#).



This publication has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Ending Violence Against Women in the Western Balkans and Turkey: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

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