



CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE SIDE EVENT

AT THE 63rd SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

FROM DATA TO POLICY AND ACTION

Regional findings and recommendations of the OSCE-led Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women in South East-Europe and Eastern Europe

Organizers: The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women, UNICEF, the European Union (EU)

Type: Panel

Participants: 100

Venue: Ex-Press Bar - GA Building

Date: Monday, 11 March 2019, 3:00 PM- 4:15 PM

I. Background and Rationale

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) continues to be one of the most widespread human rights violations in the world that threatens the security and safety of countless women and girls and has short- and long-term consequences on their physical and psychological well-being and health.

The OSCE-led Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women is the first comparable representative study conducted in South-East Europe and Eastern Europe. The project kicked off in 2016 with the goal to provide comparable data on different forms of violence against women in conflict and non-conflict. The research was conducted in 7 OSCE participating States, including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Moldova and Ukraine. The research was also conducted in Kosovo.¹ The findings should be used for the development and improvement of needed policies and programmes. The quantitative and qualitative research was conducted in 2018:

- Approximately 15,000 women were interviewed about their experiences of violence and the impact and consequences this has had on them;

¹ All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

- 114 Key-Experts from the region shared their views on existing local frameworks and mechanisms aimed at preventing and combatting violence against women in their respective country;
 - 63 Focus Group Discussions were conducted with women from various demographic backgrounds on their attitudes towards the subject;
 - 34 In-depth interviews were conducted with women who had experienced violence, including women with a disability, to understand the impact this violence had on them in more detail.

The research used tested methodology from the EU Fundamental Rights Agency² (FRA) making the collected data comparable to the survey on violence against women carried out and published by FRA in 2014³ and also to the Eurobarometer special issue⁴ on attitudes towards gender based violence. The OSCE-led research furthermore included a conflict dimension examining the prevalence and manifestations of violence against women and girls in conflict and trying to deepen the understandings of the connection between conflict and violence against women and girls.

The OSCE-led Survey therefore provides a wealth of information, including data on social norms and attitudes, prevalence rates of violence against women, its consequences as well as reporting and help-seeking by survivors. The research shows that gaps continue in the ability of local institutions' to understand and address women's and girls' experience of personal insecurity and violence. Attitudes, which silence women and protect abusers, persist at disturbingly high rates.

The Survey's robust data on prevalence and types of violence, including violence connected to conflict, will inform comprehensive and evidence-based policies, strategies, programmes and activities to prevent and combat violence against women and girls. Its ultimate long-term goal is to contribute to a elimination of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in the region by efficient evidence based policies and actions to prevent and respond to VAWG in line with international commitments, such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goal Number five. More information about the OSCE-led Survey can be found under: <https://www.osce.org/projects/survey-on-the-well-being-and-safety-of-women>

This project has been supported by the European Union, UNFPA, UN Women, UNICEF as well as the governments of Germany, Norway, Sweden, the United States, Italy, Austria and Finland. The project is a strong example of OSCEs partnership with UN

² The survey was based on the definitions used in the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ("Istanbul Convention").

³ Available at :<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2014/violence-against-women-eu-wide-survey-main-results-report>.

⁴ "Special Eurobarometer 449: Gender-based Violence", European Commission, Directorate-General on Justice and Consumers, https://data.europa.eu/euodp/data/dataset/S2115_85_3_449_ENG.

agencies, working jointly in a frame of UN Common Chapter (UFPA, UN Women, UNICEF and UNDP), to support data collection and validation at the target countries as well as to provide a strong policy and advocacy efforts on country and regional level, including the communication and further dissemination of the study findings for policy making.

II. Objectives of the side-event:

This side event will bring together high-level decision makers to **discuss ways forward** to combat violence against women and girls, and improve the safety and security for women and girls in South-East Europe and Eastern Europe by:

- Changing social norms, attitudes and behaviors through preventive measures and advocacy;
- Improving responses to violence against women by tailoring policy action based on defined drivers and root causes;
- Improving services for survivors by bringing attention to existing gaps and challenges on quality, access and coordination in service provision;
- Stimulating international co-operation and enable international benchmarking;
- Providing sound evidence base which is required for effective policy making.

III. Programme and format

This 1.15-hour session will start with brief statements by invited panelists, which are followed by a questions and answers session.

5 min 3:00-3:05	Opening Remarks, Ambassador Melanne Verweir, OSCE Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Gender
5 min 3.05–3.10	Ms. Dubravka Šimonović, United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences
5 min 3.10–3.15	Ambassador Mara Marinaki, EEAS Principal Advisor on Gender and on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security
5 min 3.15–3.20	Mr. Dereje Wordofa, UN Assistant Secretary General and UNFPA Deputy Executive Director - Programme
5 min 3.20–3.25	Ms. Feride Acar, President of GREVIO, Council of Europe Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
10 min 3.25–3.35	Ms. Serani Siegel, Project Manager, Presentation of the OSCE-led VAW Survey and main findings
5 min 3.35–3.40	Ms. Natalia Fedorovych, Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine

5 min
3.40–3.45 Ms. Mila Carovska, Minister of Labour and Social Policy of North Macedonia

5 min
3.45–3.50 Ms. Pille Tsopp-Pagan, President of the WAVE Network

5 min
3.55–4.15 Interventions from the floor. Questions and Answers