

Mission's activities and programmatic priorities on gender equality

Gender equality matters!



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Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Mission in Kosovo

Support for Young Women in Regional Dialogue

Since 2012, the OSCE Mission has supported the “Follow Us” Initiative, which brings together prominent women from Prishtinë/Priština and Belgrade for joint activities in the field of women empowerment and dialogue. In support of their common goals, the OSCE Mission, in co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Serbia, has organized three editions of the ten-day OSCE Dialogue Academy for Young Women from Prishtinë/Priština and Belgrade in 2015, 2016 and 2017. An alumni network with former academy participants was established. Round tables and workshops were organized to promote critical debates on gender roles and women's rights. The Mission will continue to support activities of the Dialogue Academy alumni network in 2018.



Mainstreaming Gender into Local Communities' Mechanisms Work

In 2016, the OSCE Mission worked with local level communities' mechanisms to increase their understanding of how they can promote gender equality through their work. Representatives of communities' committees, municipal offices for communities and returns, deputy mayors and deputy chairpersons of the municipal assemblies attended the five round tables and learned about practical steps they can take to increase gender representation in communities' mechanisms, as well as how to ensure that both men and women equally benefit from their work. In 2017, the Mission held a more in-depth two-day workshop involving municipal offices for communities and return.

Gender Equality in Schools

Recognizing the importance of school environments that take into account the specific needs and challenges that girls and boys have, in 2016 and 2017 the OSCE Mission organized twenty information sessions on gender equality and gender-based violence with teachers and school directors in different municipalities throughout Kosovo. The aim was to raise awareness of ways to promote gender equality in the education sector, including combatting gender stereotypes and gender norms that can perpetuate inequality, and the role of educational institutions in identifying potential cases of domestic violence and referring them to Kosovo Police. Additionally, in 2016, the Mission provided support to integrate a gender analysis into the development of the Kosovo Education Strategic Plan 2016–2021.

Operational Commanders Training for Women in Police

The OSCE Mission delivered an operational commanders training to members of the Association of Women in Kosovo Police in 2017, following training on developing management and leadership skills in 2016. Participants were trained in decision-making models in operational commanders' positions, how to address the media, the importance of building trust with communities, and how to draft operational plans for handling critical incidents. To conclude this training cycle, the Mission will facilitate a third module in 2018 which includes an internship programme abroad for senior women police officers that have completed the training modules in 2016 and 2017.



Women's Equal Access to Property Rights

Recognising the limitations for equal possession of property regardless of gender, in 2016 the OSCE Mission held three round tables with 80 justice sector actors to involve them in raising awareness and increasing compliance on women's equal rights in property, housing and inheritance. The Mission also supported these participants to hold outreach visits with representatives of women's rights organizations and municipal assemblies. In 2017, the Mission, in co-operation with representatives from the Ombudsperson Institution, held round tables to raise awareness on these issues amongst non-majority communities. In 2018, the Mission will continue working on raising awareness amongst law students.



Gender Responsive Budgeting on Local Level

Societal change towards gender equality demands integration of a gender perspective into public budgets. The OSCE Mission, in co-operation with the Ministry of Finance and the Agency for Gender Equality, supports municipalities to apply practical tools for gender responsive budgeting, which make public budgets more transparent and more fairly distributed based on the needs of women, girls, men and boys. As a result of this multi-annual initiative, there is a steady increase of municipalities applying gender responsive budgeting. In 2018 the Mission will continue to support relevant institutions in their efforts to make budgets more gender aware.

Gender Equality is Also about Men and Boys

Gender equality work is very often leaving men aside. In order to change this, the OSCE Mission has implemented a project and engaged men and boys in gender equality promotion. The Mission conducted awareness raising campaigns and supported civil society organizations that work with boys in schools on ending gender based violence. The Mission has also partnered with UNFPA in conducting the first comprehensive study on men's attitudes and practices on a wide variety of topics related to gender equality. The results of this study – the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) - will serve as a basis for evidence based advocacy to be conducted during 2018.

Empowering Women Business Owners

In order to encourage community dialogue and networking among business women, in 2017 the OSCE Mission supported a Trade Fair event in Prishtinë/Priština which brought together 35 women entrepreneurs from different communities. The women entrepreneurs had the opportunity to present and sell their products outside their settlements. Before the Trade Fair the same women attended six trainings in business plan and project proposal writing, during which they gained knowledge and skills in how to apply for funding to expand their businesses. In 2018, the Mission will continue to support women's economic empowerment through different activities.

The OSCE Mission works actively with relevant central and local-level institutions, women's rights and other civil society organizations, international partners and directly with women, girls, men and boys to contribute to transformative change in the society that should lead to the enhancement of gender equality.

Guided by the 2004 OSCE-wide Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, we implement activities to support the further development of inclusive legislation and policy, strengthen institutional mechanisms for gender equality, increase women's participation in public and political life, prevent and end gender based violence, empower women in the economic sphere and promote their role in post conflict dialogue.

Besides implementing targeted actions to empower women, girls, men and boys, we also mainstream gender considerations in all other Mission programmes.

The intersectionality between gender, ethnicity, age, class and other personal characteristics is taken into account when preparing projects.

Learn more about OSCE's work on
gender equality at
osce.org/gender-equality
osce.org/mission-in-kosovo/gender-equality

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