



Concept note & agenda

Commitment – data – action!

OSCE-led survey on violence against women, well-being and safety of women

Conference on combating violence against women and girls

Date: 6-7 May 2019

Location: Haus der Ingenieure, Eschenbachgasse 9, 1010 Vienna, Austria

Background

The OSCE Ministerial Council decisions on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women (2005, 2014 and 2018) highlight the importance of combating violence against women and girls (VAWG) for the OSCE. The decisions call on the OSCE participating States to improve national legislation, policies and practices to combat violence, support women who experience violence and prevent VAW through different measures. They also task the OSCE executive structures to assist participating States in implementing these commitments, including by co-operating with relevant international and regional organizations to collect sex-disaggregated data and statistics on the occurrence of violence against women and girls in the OSCE area.

OSCE-led Survey on the Safety and Well-being of Women: findings and next steps

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 main results report was launched on 6th of March 2019, and the OSCE Gender Section is organizing this high-level conference to disseminate the main results of the survey and discuss next steps with key stakeholders.

The OSCE-led Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women provides cross-regional, comparable findings and was implemented in 2018 in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, Moldova and Ukraine. The research was also conducted in Kosovo.¹

Since the OSCE-led survey is based on the methodology used by the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) for its EU-wide survey on violence against women, which was published in 2014, the data collected in the area covered by this research is comparable to the data collected by the FRA survey. Together, the two surveys cover 35 OSCE participating States.

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 in the ability of local institutions' to understand and address women's and girls' experience of personal insecurity and violence continue to exist. The survey data suggests that beliefs in female subservience, spousal obedience and silence surrounding VAWG continue to persist and that those women who hold such beliefs are more likely to say they have experienced violence.

With its comparable data, the OSCE-led survey provides much-needed information on VAWG in a sizeable sample of OSCE participating States. It could be the first step towards the planning and development of cross-regional initiatives and actions as well as local policies and services. Its ultimate long-term goal is to contribute to the elimination of 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, the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The main results report and more information about the OSCE-led survey can be found under:

<https://www.osce.org/secretariat/413237?download=true>

This project is funded by the European Union and also supported by the UN Population Fund, UN Women and UNICEF as well as by the governments of Austria, Finland, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden and the United States.

Conference objectives

The conference 'Commitment – data – action!' has three main objectives:

1. Create a platform to discuss with key stakeholders (ministries, national gender equality mechanisms, civil society organizations, international organizations) the results of the OSCE-led survey on the well-being and safety of women.

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.

2. Turn the proposed action points of the OSCE-led survey main results report into concrete recommendations on combating violence against women. The recommendations will be documented in the conference report.
3. Identify and deepen synergies between all stakeholders active in combating violence against women and girls, discussing the potential for cross-regional initiatives to improve policies and measures related to the prevention and protection from VAWG.

The conference design mainstreams how to engage men and boys in combatting violence against women and girls.

Conference format

The conference will bring together high-level representatives from all participating States, in particular those where the survey was conducted, Partners for Co-operation, OSCE executive structures, international organizations, the EU, civil society organizations and academics.

The conference will consist of plenary sessions, with a panel of speakers followed by an interactive discussion. To promote in-depth and participatory discussions, working groups will be organized on specific topics. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in relevant languages.



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Agenda

Day 1 – Monday 6 May 2019

Venue: Haus der Ingenieure, Eschenbachgasse 9, 1010 Vienna, Austria

8:00 – 9:00 Morning coffee and registration

09:00 – 10:00 High Level Opening

Opening and welcoming remarks:

Ms. Amarsanaa Darisuren, OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues

High-level opening panel:

H.E. Ms. Melanne Verwee, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender

H.E. Ms. Mara Marinaki, EEAS Principal Adviser on Gender and the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security

Ms. Romina Kuko, Deputy Minister of Interior, Albania

Ms. Alia El-Yassir, UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia

Video address by **Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir**, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Moderator: **Ms. Amarsanaa Darisuren**, OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues

Key-note speech:

Ms. Dubravka Šimonović, UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

10:00-11:30 Session 1:

Responding to the need of comparable data: the main results of the OSCE-led survey on violence against women and girls

During this session, the main results & suggested action points of the survey will be presented as well as results of a policy paper on women with disabilities based on the OSCE-led survey data. Speakers will discuss how research and statistics can be

used to inform and support policy-making, and improve the safety and well-being of women.

Speakers:

- **Ms. Serani Siegel**, Project Manager of the OSCE-led VAW survey, OSCE Gender Section
- **Ms. Nigina Abaszadeh, PhD**, Regional Technical Adviser – Gender, UNFPA EECA RO
- **Ms. Milana Lazić**, Programme Manager, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)
- **Ms. Maja Raičević**, Executive Director, Women's Rights Center, Montenegro

Moderator: **Ms. Joanna Goodey, PhD**, Head of Research, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

Questions & answers

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee & Tea break

12:00 - 13:30 Session 2:

The impact of violence on women, children and societies

During this session, the survey conclusions and actions on consequences of violence against women will be presented. Speakers will discuss the impact of violence against women on women's safety and well-being, on children, on society as a whole and on comprehensive security. This session will also focus on how men and boys need to be engaged to combat and prevent VAW as well as on how to respond to the increased risk of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) as an effect of men being actively involved in armed conflict. Topics to be discussed include how countries can more effectively monitor the consequences of violence (including in the framework of the SDGs) in order to better implement legislative and policy frameworks.

Speakers:

- **Ms. Nataliia Fedorovych**, Deputy Minister of Social Policy and Labour, Ukraine
- **Ms. Jovana Trenchevska**, State Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, North Macedonia

- **Ms. Anastassia Bobrova**, Head of Department of Human Development and Demography, Institute of the Economics of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus
- **Mr. Henri Myrtilinen, PhD**, Head of Gender and Peacebuilding, International Alert
- **Ms. Valentina Bodru- Lungu** , PhD, Associate Professor of the Moldova State University, President of the Gender Center
- **Mr. Phenny Kakama**, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF ECARO Regional Office

Moderator: **Mr. Marcin Walecki**, Head, Democratisation Department, ODIHR

Interactive discussion on recommendations

13:30 – 15:00 Lunch + side event

- ***Side event: Translating regional commitments into actions to end violence against women and girls hosted by UN Women***
- ***Market place for participants***

15:00 - 16:30 Session 3:

Addressing under-reporting to the police and other services: protection for survivors and response of the criminal justice system

During this session, the survey's findings and conclusions on under-reporting of women to police and other services will be discussed. Speakers will address the police response, role of prosecutors and other criminal justice actors, social services and access to justice. Specific attention will be paid to barriers facing disadvantaged women and training of professionals.

Speakers:

- **Ms. Gorjana Mirčić Čaluković**, Deputy Public Prosecutor, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia
- **Ms. Viorelia Rusu**, Civil society expert and advisor to UNDP Moldova
- **Ms. Edlira Teferici**, Chief Commissar and Diversity Specialist, State Police of Albania
- **Ms. Natasha Gaber**, Director of the Academy for Judges and Public Prosecutors , North Macedonia

- **Ms. Selma Badžić**, Centre of Women rights, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Moderator: **Ms. Simona Lanzoni**, Vice President, Group of Experts on Actions against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)

Interactive discussion on recommendations

16:30 – 18:00 Special networking event

Inspirational speaker: **Ms. Diana De Marchi**, President of the Equal Opportunities and Civil Rights Commission, Milan City Council

Day 2 – Tuesday 7 May 2019

Venue: Haus der Ingenieure, Eschenbachgasse 9, 1010 Vienna, Austria

8:30 – 9:00 Morning coffee and registration

9:00 – 10:30 Session 4:

Addressing knowledge gaps and root causes: effective awareness raising and attitudes change

During this session, the survey's findings and conclusions on the root causes of violence against women are central. Speakers will discuss the need for more effective awareness raising to change attitudes and behaviours, including by engaging men and boys. Awareness raising on services and support available to women who experienced violence and the role of media in reporting cases of violence against women and girls will be addressed as well. The session will identify opportunities for inter-agency initiatives and synergies to enhance awareness of violence against women and girls.

Speakers:

- **Mr. Vanja Jošić**, Perepetum Moblije NGO, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Ms. Kateryna Cherepakha**, Vice-President, "La Strada-Ukraine" NGO
- **Ms. Kaca Đuričković**, Gender Programme Manager, UNDP Montenegro
- **Ms. Ekaterina Skhiladze**, Deputy Public Defender, Georgia
- **Ms. Tamara Skroza**, Journalist, Vreme Newspaper, Serbia

Moderator: **H.E. Mr. Andrej Benedejčič**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the UN, OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna

Interactive discussion on recommendations

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee & Tea break

11:00 – 12:30 **GROUP WORK (parallel sessions)**

Participants will take part in group work in working groups and come up with concrete proposals for actions and good practices for preventing and combating violence against women and girls on the following topics. Rapporteurs will report back to the high-level closing session.

1. Economic empowerment of women, Moderation: **Ms. Kaca Đuričković**, Gender Programme Manager, UNDP Montenegro and **Ms. Barbora Galvankova**, Programme Specialist, UNDP Regional Hub

Rapporteur: to be selected by the group

2. Services and multi-sectoral approach, Moderation: **Ms. Nigina Abaszadeh, PhD**, Regional Technical Adviser, Gender UNFPA EECA RO, **Mr. Phenny Kakama**, Regional Office Child Protection Specialist UNICEF ECARO, and **Ms. Lonela Horga**, Regional Coordinator, East Europe Institute for Reproductive Health

Rapporteur: to be selected by the group

3. Data collection and SMART national action plans on EVAW, Moderation: **Ms. Juncal Plazaola-Castaño**, Policy Specialist, Violence against Women Data, UN Women New York and **Minja Damjanović**, Project Manager, UN Women Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Rapporteur: to be selected by the group

4. Engaging men and boys to combat VAWG in the OSCE region, Moderation: **Ms. Zorana Antonijević, PhD**, National Programme Officer, OSCE Mission to Serbia and **Mr. Martin Dexborg**, Gender Adviser, OSCE Gender Section in collaboration with UNFPA and UN Women

5. Rapporteur: to be selected by the group

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

Market place for participants

14:00 - 16:00 High-level closing: Next steps for Action

During this session the rapporteurs from the working groups will report back on the main outcomes of their discussions. Following a discussion on this, a high level panel will share their conclusions and ideas for actions.

1) High-level closing

- **H.E. Mr. Thomas Greminger**, OSCE Secretary General
- **Ms. Nataliia Fedorovych**, Deputy Minister of Social Policy and Labour, Ukraine
- **Ms. Romina Kuko**, Deputy Minister of Interior, Albania
- **Ms. Hilde Hardeman**, Director/Head of Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI), European Commission
- **H.E. Mr. Steffen Kongstad**, Permanent Representative of Norway to the OSCE
- **Ms. Oľga Pietruchová**, Director of the Department of Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and the Family, Slovakia
- **Ms. Dubravka Šimonović**, UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences
- **Ms. Alanna Armitage**, Regional Director , United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- **Ms. Pille Tsopp-Pagan**, President, Women Against Violence Europe

Moderator: **H.E. Ms. Melanne Vermeer**, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender

2) Reports from the working groups

Speakers:

- Rapporteurs from working groups (4)