



**Remarks by Jelena Kotević, Head of the Group for Complaints, Office of the Commissioner
for Protection of Equality, Republic of Serbia**

Working session 15

„Tolerance and non - discrimination II, including ensuring equal opportunity for woman and man
in all spheres of life, including through the implementation of OSCE AP for Promoting of
Gender Equality, and prevention of violence against women“

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2018

Wednesday, 19 September 2018

According to the provisions of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination, the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality is an independent state body of the Republic of Serbia, which is autonomous in discharging of its duties as stipulated by the law.

Bearing in mind the law prescribed competencies of the Commissioner to monitor the implementation of laws and other regulations and to issue recommendations to public authorities and others, measures for achieving equality in order to implement and promote protection against discrimination, I would particularly emphasize that the Commissioner also monitors the implementation of the Gender Equality Law.

As I mentioned, in April 2017, the Commissioner issued to all local self-government units in the Republic of Serbia a recommendation containing measures for achieving equality and a separate Questionnaire aimed at monitoring the implementation of the recommendation and the situation in the area of gender equality in of local self-government units.

Analysis of the obtained data showed that women in the political and public life of the Republic of Serbia are not sufficiently represented. In comparison to the positive developments at the republic level, when reflecting on the regional and local level of the government, out of 169 local self-government units, only 12 have a woman as their mayor, which constitutes 7.1%.

In 2017, out of the total number of complaints submitted to the Commissioner, 11.2% were complaints based on gender, and women were for the most part complainants.

Finally, I would like to point out that the percentage of Commissioner's recommendations that were acted upon is very high, approximately 90%.

Regardless of the geographical distance, I am sure that all participants of this conference will give their contribution geared towards strengthening equity and full respect for human rights.