

**OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION  
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**Working Session 7  
Tolerance and non-discrimination II  
Presentation by Albanian Delegation**

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**ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE AREA OF GENDER  
EQUALITY AND PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE IN ALBANIA**

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- During the period 2008 -2009 Albania has achieved very important results on gender equality field, but still a lot has to be done in the very hard process of achieving „de facto“ gender equality.
  - Albania as a Balcan country has still very serious obstacles concerning gender equality in view of the prevailing mentality, cultural background, etc.
  - The process of undertaking further international obligations, including Human Rights and Women Rights as a part of them, has increased Albania's obligations on this matter
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# **Gender Equality and prevention of violence against women**

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**For the first time was developed and started the process of implementation of the strategy on gender equality and fights against domestic violence, demonstrating the political will of the government to have this issue as a priority in its agenda. Strategy Action Plan is accompanied by detailed implementation activities**

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# Government gender policies have targeted

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- ❑ Strengthening the status of women, which will allow them, inter alia:
  - ❑ to have full access in the labor market,
  - ❑ increase chances for official careers,
  - ❑ Participation in politics and business.
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## A) The process of drafting the Strategy and Action Plan has been;

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- **Open** - The draft has passed in a broader context between various actors for discussions and feedbacks
  - **Comprehensive** – aimed at the involvement of all stakeholders (representatives of central institutions, local NGOs, scholars and experts in various issues of GE)
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# main objectives of NSGE

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- ❑ Strengthening institutional mechanisms and legal norms
  - ❑ Economic empowerment of women and increasing opportunities for employment and vocational training
  - ❑ Promoting equal access of women and girls in education quality
  - ❑ Improving the social situation of women through increased access to social services
  - ❑ Improving the health of the population by increasing the response of the health system, specific to the needs of the health of women and men.
  - ❑ Raising awareness of violence against this phenomenon, administrative and legal protection and support for individuals affected by domestic violence and violators.
  - ❑ Improving the role of the media in terms of a new mentality regarding gender equality in society
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## **In July 2008, Albanian Parliament approved Law. Nr. 9970 ,On gender equality in society,**

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- In the process of implementation of this law have been established different structures such as:
  - The National Council of Gender Equality,
  - Interministerial working group for drafting the national sistem of gender indicators and gender based violence indicators.
  - Network of national gender focal points in line ministries and local government (in process)
- This process needs financial resources and this is the reason why it is not yet completed.
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## **B) Law Nr.9970 "On Gender Equality in Society" aims at:**

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- Protecting citizens from any kind of gender discrimination
  - Ensuring equal opportunities and chances for women to achieve higher standards .
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# Innovations that this law brings:

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- The introduction of new definitions:
    - „Prohibition of discrimination based on gender”
    - „Gender integration”
    - „Definition and prohibition of gender harassment”
    - „Definition of gender equality”
    - „Definition of equal gender representation” (not less than 30% from each gender)The introduction of the quota system in the Electoral Code, which it is a very important fact.
  - As a result, after 2009 parliamentary elections, the percentage of women in Albanian Parliament increased from 7,1% to approx. 16%
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# Innovations of the Law on Gender Equality on Society

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- ❑ Creation of new policy-makings, executive and protection facilities,
  - ❑ Forecasting of temporary special measures in political and public decision-making, the introduction of special measures in the field of education and employment
  - ❑ Unpaid work
  - ❑ Obligation to collect gender statistics
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# **B/1) Sub legislation of Law Nr.9970**

## **"On gender equality in society"**

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- ❑ On 8.01.2009 was established the National Council on Gender Equality
  - ❑ On 2.02.2009 a Regulation is adopted for the functioning of NCGE.
  - ❑ On 16.12.2008 in appliance of the law "On gender equality in society" IMWG was established with the order of the minister for Gender Equality.
  - ❑ Draft regulation of the sector to Gender Equality
  - ❑ Draft orders for changes in the structures of the ministries
  - ❑ Decisions of municipal councils for changes in the structures of the municipalities in relation to gender focal points
  - ❑ Terms of reference to gender officials at central and local level
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## **B/2) Establishment and functioning of the Inter-ministerial Working Group**

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- Some of the tasks of this group are;
    - # Review of existing data at national level;
    - # Identifying gaps and needs, etc.
    - # Drafting of the national system of indicators on Gender equality and Gender Based Violence.
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## **C) Law Nr. 9669 "On measures against domestic violence" and the approval of sub-legal acts**

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**On 18 December 2006 the Albanian Parliament Adopted the Law no. 9669 "On measures against domestic violence"**

**The purpose of this law is;**

**#Prevention and reduction of family violence in all its forms**

**# Ensuring protection via legal measures to family members who are victims of domestic violence**

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## The necessary completion of the legal framework for combating domestic violence.

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- C/1) Drafting and adopting by-laws in accordance with Law Nr. 9669 dt.18.12.2006 "On measures against domestic violence"
  - C/2) Signature of Agreement between all responsible Ministries in accordance with the law
  - C/3) Establishment of structures capable of providing services to victims of domestic violence
  - C/4) Setting up a national implementation network and reporting on measures against domestic violence.
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# Necessary completion of the legal framework for combating domestic violence

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- C/5 Improving the system of data collection, reporting and analyzing them:
- a) Create a database to collect data on cases of victims of domestic violence.
  - b) Collection of data from Ministry of Justice, MoH, etc and from NGOs that provide services to victims of domestic violence.
  - c) collection of detailed data from the General Directorate of the State Police.
- Establishment for the first time the national shelter for the treatment and provision of needed assistance to domestic violence victims (in process)
- New special sections and specialized police, health, social or judiciary services have been established, to come to help victims of domestic violence, thus contributing to minimization of the real phenomenon.
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## D) Integration of gender issues in government policies in central and local level;

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- Strengthening the network of contact points in the ministry and prefecture level, through training and raising the capacities of their logistics in close cooperation with other actors, particularly donors of field.
  - 14 contact points in the ministry
  - 64 points of contact at the municipal,
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# Awareness Campaign for NSGE and DV

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- Round tables for the recognition of NSGE/DV as well as lobbying for the bill: "On Gender Equality in Society", at the local level in 12 Prefectures of the country - MARCH-July, 2008
  - Different activities in collaboration with other actors or the initiative MOLSAEO, aiming at raising awareness.
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# Awareness campaigns for recognition of the Law 9669 "On measures against violence in family relations." 2008

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- ❑ Round tables for the recognition and enforcement of law
  - ❑ Activities of NGOs in collaboration with MOLSAEO
  - ❑ Conferences and other national activities
  - ❑ Distribution of various publications, articles in the print media and electronic media, etc.
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## Cooperation with donors on the implementation of the objectives of the NSGE /DV consists in:

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- ❑ Financial and expertise assistance for drafting the Law on Gender Equality, and the drafting of sub-legal acts of this law (UNDP, OSCE)
  - ❑ Financial expertise to the drafting of sub-legal acts to the law of domestic violence (UNDP)
  - ❑ Awareness Campaigns for gender equality and DV
  - ❑ Realization of television spots for the days of activism against domestic violence and March 8
  - ❑ Production of posters for GE and DV
  - ❑ Production of publications for GE and DV
  - ❑ Strengthening training and capacity of network
  - ❑ Establishment of the Technical Secretariat
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## **Cooperation with civil society in the process of enforcement of the objectives of the NSGE/DV consists in;**

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- Offering expertise from NGOs during the drafting NSGE / DV
  - Giving opinions and lobbying for adoption of the Law on Gender Equality "
  - Drafting and lobbying for "Law of domestic violence"
  - Participation in bilateral activities
  - DEOP holds in particular online mutual contacts and periodic exchanges of information through projects and achievements in the field of gender equality, but this cooperation should become institutional.
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## F) other achievements

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1. Ratification of Convention Nr. 156 of ILO "On workers with family responsibilities"
  2. DEOP prepared the III-rd Report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
  3. Drafting Development Document on AGEING
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**The 2008 Progress report of the European Commission noted that progress was made in terms of protecting the rights of women, emphasizing:**

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- Law on Gender Equality in Society adopted in July 2008
  - Adoption of the Strategy on Gender Equality and Family Violence
  - Establish sector for domestic violence near MOLSAEO
  - Activity developed in many circles for positive recognition by the law for domestic violence
  - Recognition of progress in strengthening the rights of women
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# Recommendations

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- ❑ Making available the necessary funds in order to guarantee the success of the implementation process of National Action Plans on Gender Equality
  - ❑ Improving the process of Gender Mainstreaming at all central and local levels.
  - ❑ Involving more men in all programs and policies of Gender Equality.
  - ❑ Taking necessary measures that guarantee the implementation of quota system
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