

Symposium

Gender-based Violence: New Directions in Research, Policy and Social Services

Date: **5 December 2023**

Location: **Hotel Garden, Prishtina**

Virtual platform: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88991021481?pwd=MmhCSi9DY2RlVFFldlNHeU9YTGdKQT09>

In Kosovo, as in the region, and beyond, gender-based violence is a marked social problem, stratified by social and economic inequality, traditional gender norms, and public discourses against gender justice. Gender-based violence is an expression of fundamentally unequal gender power relations. Gender-based violence is a human rights issue sanctioned in legal frameworks and aligned with mandates of various institutions to combat violence. Despite this, gender-based violence is a fact of life for many women and girls, as well as non-binary gender identities.

Studies on the extent and forms of gender-based violence remain limited and in some cases are conducted ad hoc. This results in challenges in policy-making and the design of prevention and intervention programs, as well as deepens the silence on the experiences of violence that in some cases lead to the loss of girls' and women's lives. Moreover, the lack of research and data makes it difficult to assess the extent and impact of violence across time and different social groups. The collection and reporting of data disaggregated by gender, age, ethnicity, sex, ability, religion, etc. are necessary to develop intervention strategies with an intersectional approach, which holds the survivors of violence at the centre of interventions. In addition, challenging social-cultural norms that accept and normalize gender-based violence and encouraging the involvement of men in initiatives aimed at preventing gender-based violence should be rethought in preventive interventions, as well as social and family services. Gender-based violence is a fact of life for many women, girls, children, and adults with disabilities. Often, when victims report gender-based violence, the justice and social services system fails to address their needs. Parallel to this, social services remain limited in resources and methodologies for the empowerment and social integration of survivors of gender-based violence.

Within such a broad social and institutional context, the Symposium aims to foster a deeper understanding of gender-based violence and to discuss ways and practices to address gender-based violence in a national and regional context. Also, the symposium aims to bridge the gap between academia and practice – public administration and civil society, and strategies for the co-production of research, policies, and services to eliminate gender-based violence for evidence-based policy-making. With this objective in mind, the Symposium brings together researchers from higher education, policy-makers, social service providers, civil society, and media to rethink strategies for research, policy, social and family services - towards mitigating and eliminating gender-based violence and empowering survivors.

The Symposium will address the following questions:

- What are the advantages and challenges of implementing the legal framework for addressing gender-based violence? Which domains of national and regional strategies are most effective and which domains stagnate, and why? What are the best practices?
- How to achieve cross-sectoral dialogue between policymakers, service providers, and researchers whose work is related to gender-based violence?
- What effective evidence-based prevention measures are needed to ensure the reduction of risk factors for gender-based violence?
- How do we develop and implement research that uses an intersectional lens to understand the multiple factors that influence the experiences of survivors of gender-based violence?
- What are the approaches for empowering survivors of gender-based violence?
- What are the experiences of civil society in Kosovo on strengthening services for the rehabilitation of survivors during and after COVID-19? How well-informed is civil society about best international practices?
- How do you rate the social services and legal aid available? What should need to change? Develop? What are the key domains of social services that require immediate action?
- What are the conceptions of femininity and masculinity in gender ideologies and mainstream discourses about gender-based violence?
- What is the status of research and data collection on gender-based violence? Is the data we have disaggregated by gender, age, ethnicity, and other identity factors? How to improve gender-disaggregated research and data collection strategies on gender-based violence?
- "Victim" or "survivor": what are the linguistic practices and their implications in institutional interventions and discourses on gender equality?
- What is the role of education in education for gender equality? What are the steps needed for education about gender-based violence?
- What are the most effective community response strategies, especially for children against gender-based violence?



AGENDA

- 09:00–09:30 **Registration**
- 09:30–10:45 **Introductory Remarks**
Prof. Asoc. Dr. Vjollca Krasniqi, University of Prishtina & Save the Children Kosova/o
Ahmet Kryeziu, Save the Children Kosova/o
- 10:45–11:30 **Session #1 Gender-based Violence: Institutional and Cultural Context**
Panelists:
Prof. Dr. Darja Zaviršek, University of Ljubljana
Arijeta Sojeva, Kosovo Agency of Statistics
Shqipe Prekaj, Ministry of Justice
Venera Çoçaj, PhD candidate, London School of Economics and Political Science – LSE

Moderator: Adile Shaqiri, Ministry of Justice
- 11:30–11:45 **Coffee break**
- 11:45–13:00 **Session #2 Towards Empowerment: Prevention and Protection *de jure* dhe *de facto***
Panelists:
Prof. Hana Saliu, University of Tetovo
Prof. Asoc. Dr. Eliona Kulluri, University of Tirana
Teuta Kusari, Women Wellness Center/Safe House Peja
Burhan Maxhuni, Victim Advocate

Moderator: MSW Kanarina Shehu, Save the Children Kosova/o
- 13:00–14:30 **Lunch**
- 14:30–16:00 **Session #3 Gender-Based Violence Research Agenda**
Panelists:
Prof. Asoc. Dr. Blerina Kellezi, Nottingham Trent University
Dr. Blerina Hamzallari, University of Tirana
Göran Holmström, Save the Children Sweden

Moderator: Kaltrina Kusari, University of Calgary
- 16:00–16:30 **Next Steps for Action**
Prof. Asoc. Dr. Vjollca Krasniqi, University of Prishtina & Save the Children Kosova/o
Dr. Kaltrina Kusari, University of Calgary
MSW Kanarina Shehu, Save the Children Kosova/o
Adile Shaqiri, Ministry of Justice

