

**COVID -19 challenges on preventive policies and activities
against GBV in Western Balkan**

CONCEPT NOTE

Background and rationale

The focus of the event is COVID -19 challenges on preventive policies and activities against GBV in Western Balkan from a CSOs perspective. As the COVID -19 pandemic revealed services are not adequately designed to serve in this type of crisis, CSOs struggle to give adequate help to victims of GBV but also prevention is a weak spot with lockdowns restricting movement of potential victims, and also affecting institutional responsiveness. The Balkan region has had a high number of COVID-19 cases as well as struggling with health services and capacities to reach all in need, which has reflected also on services for victims of GBV. CSOs working on prevention of violence against women in the Balkans share similar challenges on coping with COVID-19 while giving services to victims of GBV, with specific challenges to minorities such as Roma. They face challenges in finding innovative strategies to empower women and girls and improve security during lockdowns, but also SDG 5 implementation challenges and institutional responsiveness. Sustainable recovery from the pandemic also is affected by finances that regional CSOs usually get from foreign donors (CSO funding) with a smaller national governmental support, which in the pandemic was somewhat uncertain and difficult to manage or repurpose.

Session objectives and expected outcomes

The objective of the event is to share experiences on coping with COVID-19 while giving services to victims of GBV, challenges with financing and institutional support, as well as challenges in raising awareness in communities that do not have the electronic means mostly used during lockdowns – internet and mobile phone access. The expected outcomes are to draw from shared challenges in order to find innovative strategies to empower women and girls and improve security during lockdowns, but also institutional responsiveness. Conclusions and experiences shared will serve as a basis to further develop the work of CSOs in the Western Balkans on tackling challenges with giving services to victims of GBV.

Organizers

Lead organizers: Journalists for human rights

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Agenda and Structure

Thursday, 7 April 2022 (8:30-9:45- Geneva time)

Zoom event:

8:30 – 8:35 Welcome and introduction of the topic by JHR

8:35 – 8:50 CSOs experience with victims of GBV during COVID in North Macedonia

8:50 – 9:10 CSOs experience with victims of GBV during COVID in Serbia

9:10-9:17 CSOs experience with victims of GBV during COVID in Albania

9:17-9:25 CSOs experience with victims of GBV during COVID in Kosovo

9:25-9:40 Discussion and Q&A

9:40 – 9:45 Conclusions

List of Panellists

Mrs. Ines Djemail, Roma Women and Youth Association “LULUDI”, North Macedonia, panelist

Mrs Andrea Nakova, Journalists for human rights, North Macedonia, panelist

Representative from Association of Victims of Violence HAJR, Serbia, panelist

Representative from Human rights committee Vranje, Serbia

Mrs. Gentiana Susaj, ESD Global Europe, Albania, panelist

Mrs. Magbule Hyseni, EcoKosWomen, Kosovo, panelist

Mrs. Aleksandra Radevska, Journalists for human rights, North Macedonia, moderator