A new regional report reveals shocking levels of violence and discrimination against Roma women in the Western Balkans in the areas of health care, child marriage, and institutional protection and support in cases of domestic violence. Produced by BIBIJA Roma Women’s Center under the EU-UN Women programme “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds,” the findings show that as many as 92% of Roma women have experienced some type of physical or sexual violence since the age of 18.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, a family of Roma activists help Roma community members in Prnjavor and surrounding municipalities in the north to become aware of their rights and access services from public institutions, including in cases of domestic violence.
STATE INSTITUTIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY JOIN FORCES TO IMPLEMENT CEDAW RECOMMENDATIONS IN SERBIA

A high-level conference gathered representatives of both the relevant state bodies and civil society organizations to discuss the implementation of the CEDAW Committee’s recommendations issued in the Committee’s Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Serbia. The conference, organized by SOS Network Vojvodina under the EU-UN Women programme “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds,” served as an important opportunity for civil society to collaborate with state agencies to identify areas of priority for advancing gender equality in the country. Read more.

FROM WHERE I STAND: “I DON’T WANT TO MARRY OFF MY DAUGHTER AT AN EARLY AGE – I WANT HER TO ATTEND SCHOOL”

Firyal Cizawi, a Syrian refugee residing in Turkey, shares how her perspective changed on gender equality and child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) after attending an awareness-raising workshop on women’s rights under Turkish law and the negative consequences of CEFM. Read more.

Three newly-launched policy briefs examine the importance of services and support designed to meet the specific needs of minority women and girls facing violence and discrimination, as mandated by the Istanbul Convention. The briefs assess and provide recommendations regarding the need for sustainable funding for organizations that serve minority groups of women and girls; the value of intersectionality as a concept to understand the intersection of gender with other inequalities, such as sexuality, gender identity, ethnicity, indigeneity, immigration status, and disability; and the lack of disaggregated baseline data on violence against women and girls, particularly those from minority groups. The briefs were developed by CSO Imkaan under the EU-UN Women regional programme ‘Implementing Norms, Changing Minds’.
TAKE FIVE: “IF FATHERS ARE MORE AWARE OF GENDER INEQUALITY, THEY ARE LESS PRONE TO DISCRIMINATE”

Hasan Deniz is Fatherhood Programmes Director for Mother Child Education Foundation (AÇEV), a civil society organization in Turkey that designs and conducts educational programmes for children, parents, and young women in need across the country. AÇEV is currently implementing a project on innovative strategies that promote favourable attitudes and behaviours towards gender equality and ending violence against women here.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER IN MONTENEGRO USES ART TO HEAL SURVIVOR TRAUMA

Residents of Women’s Safe House, a domestic violence shelter in Montenegro, reduce stress and practice creativity through art-based occupational workshops organized by the shelter. “Women have reported feeling calmer because they can focus on painting instead of worrying about their problems,” said Mira Saveljic, Director of Women’s Safe House.

Read more here.

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