

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM TO END GENDER BASED VIOLENCE - TRANSCRIPT

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[NARRATOR]

Whether at home, on the streets or during war, violence against women is a GLOBAL PANDEMIC that takes place in PUBLIC and PRIVATE spaces.

Every year between 25th of November and 10th of December worldwide the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender Based Violence are held. Isabelle Jost and Nicola Brassil from UN Women in Kosovo will tell us more about the current situation regarding the violence against women and girls in Kosovo.

[NARRATOR]

To start us off, can you tell us what are forms of gender-based violence?

[Nicola Brassil, UN WOMEN]

Gender-based violence can take Physical, Sexual and Psychological forms. 1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence mostly perpetrated by an intimate partner. Almost one in four teenage girls have been victims of physical violence.

[NARRATOR]

And what about Kosovo, what is the current situation here?

[Nicola Brassil, UN WOMEN]

In 2014, there were almost 1,200 domestic violence incidents reported to Kosovo Police. 79% of victims were women, while 95% of perpetrators were men.

[Isabelle Jost, UN WOMEN]

A recent study shows that around 42% of women and 22% of men in Kosovo believe that a husband is justified to hit or beat his wife under certain circumstances. This figure is even higher among the members of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians community, where 74% of the women and 37% of the men justify such violence.

[NARRATOR]

What are the reasons why more often women and girls are victims of domestic violence?

[Nicola Brassil, UN WOMEN]

There are many reasons why somebody can become a victim of gender-based violence. For example past exposure to violent situations, low access to education or abuse of alcohol or other drugs can increase both the

probability of becoming a perpetrator or a victim. However, the overall reason why women and girls are more affected by violence is the prevailing gender inequality in society.

[Isabelle Jost, UN WOMEN]

I would like to add that this inequality can be seen in Kosovo and around the world in different areas, such as the unequal representation of women in politics or the lower participation of women in the economy. So one way to fight gender-based violence is to empower women by fostering their political participation and strengthening them economically.

[NARRATOR]

How is women's representation in politics in Kosovo?

[Nicola Brassil, UN WOMEN]

In 2015, partly thanks to the quota, one third of the parliamentarians in Kosovo are women. However, only 1 of the 38 mayors in Kosovo is a woman. Out of the 21 ministers in Kosovo, only 2 are women. This could partly be a result of the perception of people in Kosovo on who makes a better political leader.

[Isabelle Jost, UN WOMEN]

Yes, you are right. Studies show that in Kosovo 45% of the people think that men generally make better political leaders than women and only 34% think that in general, women and men make equally good political leaders.

[NARRATOR]

What about Kosovo Security Institutions? How well represented are women there?

[Nicola Brassil, UN WOMEN]

Women comprise 15% of Kosovo Police and 8% of the Kosovo Security Forces.

[NARRATOR]

And when it comes to economics, how do women stand in that regard?

[Isabelle Jost, UN WOMEN]

In Kosovo the unemployment rate for women is around 42 % and they participate in the labor force with around 21 %, meaning that only 21% of women of working age either have a job or are actively looking for one. This shows that many women are economically dependent on their husbands or families. In case of domestic violence this makes it very difficult for them to leave the violent situation.

[NARRATOR]

To find out how you can help to end gender-based violence and join the 16 Days of Activism campaign you can visit the website www.16-days.com or the Facebook page **16 Days - No Violence**.

Be part of the change in your community!