

## News Highlights

### In Focus: Empowering Roma Women

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Roma women and girls are one of Moldova's most disempowered groups. Gender inequalities in their own community coupled with those of Moldovan society at large make them highly vulnerable to exclusion, discrimination and violence. A UN Women-supported summer school ensures that Roma women and men know about gender equality, and understand their rights and how to claim them. Hands-on learning encourages participants to organize actions in their communities to fight gender and ethnic stereotyping. [Read More.](#)

UN Women has encouraged Roma women and girls to seek equality and empowerment in a variety of other ways, including through political participation and by taking a stand against early marriage and other forms of gender-based violence. Filling gaps in data is reducing longstanding invisibility in public policy choices. [Read More.](#) Through sports, Stela Savin has embarked on a personal quest to challenge gender stereotypes. [Read More.](#)

## Ending Violence Against Women

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### A push for reparations to reach sexual violence survivors

During armed conflict, an untold number of women experienced sexual violence in Kosovo\*. UN Women has joined the National Council for Survivors of Sexual Violence, the Government and survivors to advocate for granting agreed reparations. [Read More](#). A recent [report](#) highlights survivor perspectives and outlines recommendations for reparations.

\*All references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)



### The first crisis centre for survivors of domestic violence opens in Tbilisi

Long-standing cooperation between Georgia's State Fund for survivors of human trafficking and UN Women has resulted in four new domestic violence shelters and a national domestic violence hotline. [Read More](#).

## Leadership and Political Participation

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### Albanian women police take on leadership roles

When Officer Anila Popa became the first and only woman in Albania leading a police commissariat several months ago, her colleagues doubted she would last. Despite the patronizing environment surrounding her, she was determined to succeed in a position that brought her back to her hometown. [Read More](#).



### HeForShe campaign launches at Kosovo's DokuFest

Occurring at one of the most important arts events in Kosovo\*, the launch featured a pink seesaw sculpture that drew young and old to discuss gender equality. They could also sign on to be part of HeForShe, a global solidarity movement. [Read More](#).

\*All references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)

## Peace and Security



### Joint efforts needed to implement Ukraine's women, peace and security agenda

In an international forum sponsored in part by UN Women, members of Ukraine's Parliament outlined institutional barriers to implementing the Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan. These include low engagement with civil society, and a lack of government monitoring and accountability. [Read More.](#)



### Research explores women's participation in military operations

The ICF Ukrainian Women's Fund and UN Women backed a study on women's integration in the Ukrainian Armed Forces; it analysed legal and policy barriers, reviewed perceptions of women in the military and documented some of their voices. [Read More.](#)

## Humanitarian Action



### Trapped in transit, women refugees of Vinojug await a future

Some of the millions of women fleeing conflict and seeking asylum in Western Europe remain in refugee transit centres like Vinojug in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. UN Women cooperates with partners such as Oxfam, MYLA and La Strada to help meet immediate needs. Outreach teams assist in coping with a difficult present—and preparing for what the women hope will be a brighter future. [Read More.](#)

## Governance and National Planning

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**Gender-responsive budgeting course becomes a first**  
Moldova became the first country in South-east Europe to introduce a gender responsive budgeting course in the university curriculum. Students from the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova will take the mandatory class as part of masters' programmes in public finance and taxation, and accounting and audit in public institutions.

[Read More.](#)



**Municipality brings gender perspective into its budget decisions**

Bogovinje is one of 10 pilot municipalities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia taking part in a UN Women regional gender-responsive budgeting programme. As a result, it is now actively supporting local female entrepreneurs and their aspirations to launch new businesses. [Read More.](#)

**Turkmenistan outlines upcoming gender equality actions**

Hosted by Turkmenistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with support from UN Women and other UN agencies, a recent review mapped timelines and specific activities to implement the National Action Plan on Gender Equality. [Read More.](#)

## Empowering Women in the Economy

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**Abandoned wives of Tajik migrants overcome hurdles through self-help groups**

When Tajik men migrate for work overseas, a significant proportion abandon their wives and children. UN Women-supported self-help groups for women left behind have improved livelihoods, and eased access to free legal, economic and psychosocial services. [Read More.](#)



### Bosnian conflict-related sexual violence survivors learn business skills

A UN Women initiative provides survivors with psychosocial support, and helps them develop tools and skills to secure their financial stability and reintegrate into their communities. [Read More.](#)

## From Where I Stand

In this series, UN Women captures unique and powerful stories of people around the world, showing how they are bringing about change. Here are two examples from Europe and Central Asia.



### From where I stand: Lenche Zdravkin

Lenche Zdravkin is a legend in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for her work with refugees. Her home is just across from the railway track that thousands of refugees traversed at the beginning of the crisis, trying to reach Europe. [Read More.](#)



### From where I stand: Ileana Crudu

When Ileana Crudu, now 19, finished high school in Moldova in 2016, she had completed one year of training as a participant of GirlsGoIT, a UN Women-supported initiative challenging gender stereotypes in IT. Ileana is now an ambassador for girls to study technology. [Read More.](#)

## Upcoming Events

The **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence** campaign takes place each year from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day. The theme for 2016 highlights the need for greater and more sustainable financing to end violence against women. In Europe and Central Asia, events will be held at both country and regional levels, including the annual 'Orange the World' lighting of buildings and landmarks in orange. To be part of international action to stop violence, please [donate](#) to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women.

In Albania, UN Women and UNDP in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth will launch a 'gender brief' on the current state of gender equality, and progress in achieving related international and national commitments. For more information, contact Yllka Parllaku, [yllka.parllaku@unwomen.org](mailto:yllka.parllaku@unwomen.org).

On 5 December, women in Turkey will celebrate the anniversary of women gaining the right to vote and stand for election. UN Women and the Committee on Equal Opportunity for Women and Men will host events showcasing the importance of women's political participation and leadership, and organize an exhibition in memory of women who played pioneering roles in Turkish political history. For more information, contact Ebru Demirel, [ebru.demirel@unwomen.org](mailto:ebru.demirel@unwomen.org).

## About UN Women

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UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. The UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, which oversees the work of 14 [countries](#), was established in Istanbul in 2014. To see UN Women's main areas of work in the region click [here](#).

For more information, please visit [eca.unwomen.org](http://eca.unwomen.org).

## Get Involved!

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