



GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN MONTENEGRO

SESSION OF THE WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

29th november 2019.



What is “gender based violence”?

What do we mean by "domestic violence" and "violence against women"?

According to Art. 3 (d) of the Istanbul Convention, "gender-based violence against women" means violence directed against a woman because she is a woman, or one that disproportionately affects women.

Gender-based violence includes, but is not limited to:

domestic or domestic violence, domestic or domestic violence, including, but not limited to, physical and mental aggression, emotional and psychological abuse, rape and sexual abuse, incest, rape of a spouse, permanent or casual partner and unmarried spouse, crime committed in the name of honor, genital mutilation and other traditional rituals that harm women, such as forced marriages;

violence in the wider community, including rape, sexual abuse / exploitation, sexual harassment and intimidation in the workplace, in institutions, etc., trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual and economic exploitation and sex tourism;

violence committed or tolerated by the state or its servants; violations of women's human rights in times of armed conflict, especially abduction, violent resettlement, systemic rape, sexual slavery, forced pregnancies and trafficking for sexual and economic exploitation.

"Domestic violence" means any act of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence occurring within a family or household, or between former or current spouses or partners, regardless of whether the perpetrator shares or shared the same residence with the victim.

"Violence against women" means human rights violations and forms of discrimination against women and represents all acts of gender-based violence that lead to or may lead to: physical, sexual, psychological, or financial harm or suffering for women, including threats to such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether in public or in private.

"Domestic violence", within the meaning of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, is the act of physically, sexually, psychologically or economically perpetrating the perpetrator against a person with whom the perpetrator is in a present or former marital or extra-marital or partnership relationship or with a person with whom he or she has blood relative in the straight line, and in the sloping line to the second degree or with which the relative is by to another degree, or to whom he is an adoptive parent, breadwinner or foster parent, or to another person with whom he or she has lived or lived in a joint household.

At the eleventh session of the Women's Parliament, Nada Drobnjak, Chair of the Committee on Gender Equality, emphasized that this year is significant in the field of gender equality in Montenegro, as it celebrates 150 years since the founding of the Gender Institute of the reputable institution that, she said, educated girls not only from Montenegro, but also from Boka, Albania, Slovenia, Greece and Bulgaria. In her presentation, she recalled that the 1919 Communist Party of Montenegro program stated: "Without a free, emancipated, politically built and socially active woman, there is no revolution, no social progress and no future."

MP Drobnjak noted that in the current assembly, the largest number of women in the Assembly since the beginning of parliamentarism in Montenegro, and that this is the result of quotas adopted in 2011 in the Law on Election of Councilors and Deputies, which led to the fact that today we have 29,63% of women in the Montenegrin parliament.

MP Drobnjak noted that in the current assembly, the largest number of women in the Assembly since the beginning of parliamentarism in Montenegro, and that this is the result of quotas adopted in 2011 in the Law on Election of Councilors and Deputies, which led to the fact that today we have 29,63% of women in the Montenegrin parliament. "I will also mention that within the framework of women's economic empowerment there has been a visible shift, which is evidence that there is no progress and women's economic power, if there is no power in politics. It is also logical that by increasing the number of women in decision-making positions in politics, the number of women in entrepreneurship has increased. So in 2005, we had 9.6% of female entrepreneurs in Montenegro, and today, 24% of SMEs are women-owned," Drobnjak said.

Speaking about what had been done between the two sittings of the Women's Parliament, Drobnjak stressed that the Committee on Gender Equality, with the support of the OSCE Mission, with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Finance, said she was "moving into a new one a story important to Montenegro, which is gender budgeting." The opening session was dedicated to the consideration of the exercise of women's rights in the countries of the region, with an emphasis on combating violence against women and combating trafficking in human beings, Deputy Speaker of Human Rights and Freedoms Siniša Bjeković, President of the Supreme Court Vesna Medenica, Minister for Human Rights and Minority Rights Mehmed Zenka, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of NATO for Women, Peace and Security, Claire Hutchinson, and Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro Maryse Daviet. The session was attended by deputies, presidents of deputy clubs, presidents of working bodies of the Parliament of Montenegro, members of the Government of Montenegro, as well as members of women's associations of parliamentary parties and other segments of civil society and representatives of the parliament of Western Balkans countries.

The Executive Director of the NGO Prima, Aida Perović whose vision is that young people, as active and visible carriers of civil society change, emphasized her position on the topic of gender-based violence in Montenegro.

Due to the time limit at the session of the Parliament of Montenegro, we are transmitting the speech in its entirety so that the message is comprehensive:

"It is an honor to speak in this home today and a pleasure to see women resolved to fight violence. Although girls and women are victims of violence for the most part, the patriarchy that shapes us makes us all weak. In our society, there are still not enough educational programs or enough sensitivity for gender issues. Although violence has been a big topic since the inception of the civil sector, adolescent violence and gender-based violence among young people are not topics that are often discussed here. And working with young people who are getting into first relationships is extremely important for developing quality relationships and preventing gender-based violence.

It should focus not only on violence directed against women and girls, but on the link between this act and the systematic tolerance of gender-based violence and its use in order to achieve social expectations related to gender roles and behaviors. We are still inclined to educate children with slaps and beats, telling them: I do this for your own good, to become a good man. That's how we teach them that violence is a reflection of love.

We learn our gender roles to know not only how to act but also to be universally accepted in the community. If we consider the statistics according to which victims of gender-based violence are predominantly girls and women, and those who predominate violence are men of all ages, then it is clear that we live in a community that constantly teaches us that it is desirable, good and justified to be violent if you are a man and suffer violence if you are a woman. We expect this pattern of sacrifice from girls from birth: you need to know when to remain silent, men are the first to sit at the table, thus your brother, always be neat and clean, watch how you behave or she may be raped ... and so we prepare them for adulthood where they will have the greatest sense of guilt just when they think of resisting violence. We continue to educate them that they must come to fruition, which means getting married and primarily becoming mothers, and we still value them through it. One can still hear the saying: well, you graduated college, work, earn a salary, but - are you married? Do you have children?

In this constellation, girls suffer gender-based violence from their peers and especially from their partners, believing that it is behavior that brings happiness and love in the long run. The dominant forms of violence in that age are jealousy, stalking, controlling what is posted on social networks, isolation from friends, seeking to prove love by giving her Instagram and Facebook password, or by asking for nude photos and recordings.. And it's not uncommon for me to hear people of all ages: why she's suffering, she's not married - people think it's easy to get out of an unhealthy relationship because you're not married. They forget about how many years it took for this girl to learn the lesson of not recognizing gender-based violence as violence, but as a way of nurturing and loving.

If we look at the statistics on NEET persons, they are persons who are neither in the regular formal education system, nor are they involved in non-formal education or work, their percentage from 2016 is falling in Montenegro, however, it is noticeable that in the age group from 18 to 25/6 years are a higher percentage of girls and young women. Why do they disappear at a time when they are scarcely in the highest intellectual and physical strength?

It is our duty to encourage girls to have the right to say no. It is our duty to teach them that whistling, unwanted touching, lascivious comments on social networks - that these are neither jokes nor compliments, but gender-based sexual violence. It is our duty not to run away from the fact that every 5th young person and child is a victim of sexual violence, out of 5 who are, 4 are girls and 1 is a boy. It is our obligation to instill in them the confidence to resist and report violence, but also to create support services for it. Gender and sexual violence are very rarely reported. The research we are doing at Prima together with Sigurna ženska kuća and SOS telefon za žene i djecu žrtve nasilja Nikšić shows that the most common reasons for this are: shame, fear, the belief that she did not do everything to avoid this violence and that it is to blame, and the fear, though extremely realistic, that the process will be extremely unpleasant, and facts hard to prove.

The current state of our legislation that makes sexual harassment a misdemeanor, rather than qualifying as a crime, also contributes greatly to this. Taking into account that a working group for amendments to the Criminal Code has been formed. I urge you to be well informed about this problem and to make decisions in this home that will directly reduce gender-based violence in Montenegro. "