



EULEX Kosovo and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda



“

“The role of women in civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) is essential. In order to achieve sustainable peace and security, it is vital that everyone is included. This is why the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda is a silver thread that guides our Missions’ approach to their respective mandates...”

WPS Agenda ensures that meaningful and equal participation of women is secured in all institutions and processes of conflict prevention, peace-making, peacebuilding and post-conflict rehabilitation, including in civilian security sector reform, rule of law and civil administration.”

Civilian Operations Commander Stefano Tomat

”

The Women, Peace and Security Agenda

The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda is an essential tool in ensuring that the rights, agency and protection of women and girls are observed and upheld at all times.

In October 2000, the **United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1325** was adopted by UN Security Council: the first resolution that aims to recognize the disproportionate effect of conflict on women and girls and guarantee the importance of women's contribution as active agents in peace and security efforts.

The Security Council, with its adoption of resolution 1325 and the nine subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security, has made clear that **women's human rights and gender equality are central to the maintenance of international peace and security**, making the WPS Agenda an innovative toolbox to leverage more equitable peace.



The Women, Peace and Security Agenda and the European Union

The WPS Agenda is one of the core principles of the European Union (EU) Common Foreign and Security Policy.

The EU, as well as the wider international community, shares the goal to support and advance the involvement of women, including women human rights defenders and women peacebuilders, in peace and security processes at all levels, also by ensuring their safety and security. Peace processes must take into account gender norms and roles, and analyse conflict through a gender lens.

The EU policy framework on Women, Peace and Security includes the 2018 Council Conclusions on WPS and the EU Strategic Approach to WPS, the related Action Plan (2019-2027) and the 2022 Council Conclusions on WPS.

The EU implements its Action Plan on WPS which identifies clear objectives and fulfilment criteria, under the key priority areas of:



1. Prevention

To **prevent all forms of violence** against women and girls in conflict affected situations and to **promote accountability** and **oppose impunity** for actions affecting women in conflict prevention.



2. Protection

To **ensure that women and girls' rights are protected** and **promoted** in conflict-affected situations and have protection from **Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV)**.



3. Relief and recovery

Focus on **meeting women's and girls' specific humanitarian needs** during repatriation, resettlement and recovery processes, while also supporting their roles as leaders in humanitarian response and rebuilding efforts.

Overarching and cross-cutting principles:



4. Participation

Encourages women to **participate equally** with men in peace, political and security **decisions/processes** at national, local, regional and international levels.



5. Gender mainstreaming

Gender mainstreaming is a strategy that focuses on gender equality by **taking into consideration both women's and men's interests and concerns**, to integrate justness in policy making institutions, social institutions, and cultural and community practices. Hence, gender mainstreaming is a tool that helps us solve inequalities which discriminate against women's access to their rights, public space, or faced restrictions in their surrounding environment.



6. Leading by example

The Action Plan calls for the EU to lead by example, including by **establishing gender-responsive and gender-balanced leadership** at top political and management levels.

EULEX's Commitment to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda

The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) is the largest civilian Mission ever deployed under the Common Security and Defence Policy of the EU (CSDP), itself an integral part of the EU's common foreign and security policy.

As such, EULEX is **committed to the implementation of the WPS Agenda** in the execution of its mandate, which is to **support selected rule of law institutions in Kosovo** on their path towards increased effectiveness, sustainability, multi-ethnicity and accountability, free from political interference and in full compliance with international human rights standards and best European practices, through monitoring, mentoring and advising activities, and limited executive functions.

EULEX **actively promotes the WPS Agenda and EU Action Plan** principles with tangible effects on the ground. Throughout a **systematic mainstreaming of gender perspective**, the Mission helps create opportunities for **gender transformative policies and actions**, by **advising and training local counterparts** on international standards, as well as **promoting victims-centered responses** to the handling of sexual and gender-based violence.

Implementing trust-building between security actors and local population as a crucial form of securing gender equality, EULEX strives to **promote women's meaningful participation and empowerment** by actively **engaging with civil society and women's organisations** in security sector and judicial reform processes.



EULEX's Actions and Results

EULEX remains dedicated to promoting gender equality through Kosovo-led efforts designed to reinforce local ownership and sustainability of gender-sensitive reforms.

Protection

Combating and Preventing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

EULEX assists Kosovo rule of law institutions (such as the Ministry of Justice, Kosovo Police, prosecution, judiciary and other relevant institutions) in their efforts towards **eradication of any form of sexual and gender-based violence**, both by strengthening prevention mechanisms and by enhancing the handling of these cases by police, prosecutors and judges.



Following the adoption on 25 September 2020 of the Council of Europe Convention on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) by the Kosovo Assembly, the Mission has since assisted the Kosovo Institutions with:

- ▶ The drafting of the **National Strategy and Action Plan on preventing Domestic Violence, Violence against Women and Gender-Based Violence 2022-2026**, and its implementation.
- ▶ Compiling a Roadmap for fulfilling the requirements of Article 25 of the Istanbul Convention, following which the **Protocol on Treatment** of Sexual Violence cases was launched in 2022 with the Mission's support, and trainings were held in 2023 for forensic doctors, police, judges, prosecutors and victims Advocate officers on the Protocol implementation.
- ▶ The drafting of the **Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, Violence against Women and Gender-Based Violence** adopted in September 2023, and three of its main by-laws.
- ▶ The opening and functioning, since 2021, of **18 Victim-Centered Interview Rooms at police stations across Kosovo** in close collaboration with Kosovo Police, the NATO-led mission KFOR, and the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. These dedicated, safe, and confidential spaces are essential for trauma-informed interviews with victims of violence and are a concrete step toward strengthening institutional response and access to justice.
- ▶ The delivering in 2022, with the support of women's right's NGO Žensko Pravo, of

capacity building workshops for police officers, judges and prosecutors on how to address **psychological violence as a form of domestic violence**.

- ▶ The delivery in 2024 of a series of workshops to twenty police officers on tackling **online child sexual exploitation and abuse**.

Through its **robust monitoring of selected SGBV cases** along the entire chain of justice, including thematic analysis of trends and patterns, resulting in key findings and recommendations for the relevant authorities, EULEX actively strengthens Kosovo institutions' capacity to comply with their human rights obligations.

Specifically, in 2022, EULEX published the report "Assessment of the handling of rape cases by the justice system in Kosovo", based on the Mission's monitoring and findings.

Participation

Empowering Women in Security Institutions

EULEX constantly advocates for increased representation of women in the security sector, ensuring their active involvement in shaping policies and decision-making, and strengthening service provider mechanisms to better reflect the needs of diverse communities.

EULEX has actively supported the **Association of Women in the Kosovo Police**, since its establishment in 2013, through different series of capacity building and professional development opportunities, as well as mentoring programmes.



- ▶ EULEX has worked closely with Kosovo Police's senior management on the drafting of the latest **Kosovo Police's Gender Equality Agenda 2024-2028**, promoting the inclusion of the WPS Agenda's cross-cutting principles, namely gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive leadership.
- ▶ In 2024, with the Association of Women in the Kosovo Police the Mission implemented four capacity building **workshops to enhance women's roles in policing and advancement to decision making level**.
- ▶ From June 2025 to August 2025, the Mission organized 19 workshops for over 200 male and female officers from all communities, confirming the value of EULEX's support in fostering **effective, respectful, and community-oriented policing**.

EULEX played a vital role in the establishment of the **Kosovo Correctional Women Association (KCWA)** in 2018. Since then, it has continuously supported its functioning and development, as well as supporting the drafting of its internal strategies.

- ▶ In 2021, the Mission delivered two workshops on **"Communication/problem solving techniques and stress management"** to approximately 45 Kosovo Correctional Service (KCS) female staff.
- ▶ In 2022, EULEX supported the KCS in promoting a call for applications for 50 posts of Cadet Correctional Officers, **dedicated to women candidates only**, in line with the Kosovo Law on Gender Equality.
- ▶ In 2023, EULEX delivered four workshops to 45 members of the KCWA on career development and achievements and contributed to peer support guidelines to foster a **gender-sensitive work environment**.
- ▶ In 2024, the Mission delivered **dynamic security training** to 47 female correctional officers and facilitated a workshop for 10 officers (nine female) to improve prisoner-officer relations.
- ▶ In 2024, the Mission also monitored the KCWA regular elections and participated in the workshop for drafting the **KCWA Strategy and Action Plan 2025-2027**.



Gender Mainstreaming and Prevention

Awareness Raising

From 2019, in collaboration with NGOs and institutions, EULEX has **supported awareness raising efforts to prevent different types of GBV**, including but not limited to, the 16 Days Campaign of Activism against Violence against Women, and targeted campaigns on psychological violence, property rights, and domestic violence.

Speak Up On Time

In 2019, in cooperation with the Kosovo Institute of Forensic Medicine (IFM) the Mission launched the 'Speak Up on Time' campaign, aimed at raising awareness on the importance of **ensuring the preservation of biological evidence following sexual violence offences**. Following the launch of this campaign, several lectures were held in elementary and high schools across Kosovo to inform children about the topic.



No Bruises ≠ No Violence

In 2021 the Mission launched the awareness campaign No Bruises ≠ No Violence, which highlighted **psychological abuse as a form of domestic violence**.



In 2024, to expand its outreach, the Mission sponsored a public transport bus of Line 4 in Pristina, dressed with a call for survivors of gender-based violence, as well as all citizens, to **report GBV and domestic violence to the police calling number 192**.



Educating Youth and Empowering Civil Society

Towards enhancing effective prevention of SGBV, EULEX, in cooperation with Kosovo civil society, has also focused on **youth education acknowledging the essential role of youngsters as agents of change in order to transform norms and minds.**

- ▶ In 2023, the Mission implemented the project **“Youth empowerment against gender-based violence”** in partnership with the local NGO Assist Kosovo. This project aimed at preventing gender-based violence by increasing awareness among young people in Kosovo and empowering both girls and boys with the skills and knowledge to actively advocate for gender equality and women’s empowerment in their communities.
- ▶ In 2023, the Mission supported the organization INTEGRA with the project **“Capacity building of civil society implementing the Istanbul Convention standards”**, aiming at raising awareness of forms of and protection mechanisms for domestic violence; 14 field visits were organized as part of this project, outreaching to several communities in Kosovo.
- ▶ In 2024, the Mission, in partnership with Assist Kosovo, organized an outreach event for students, teachers and professors centered around the **panel discussion “Let’s celebrate and inspire inclusion,”** which focused on the importance of promoting inclusion of women and girls in all professional and social spheres of life, as a pivotal element to achieve gender equality and build prosperous societies.



Strengthening coordination among stakeholders

As one of the last strategic engagements, in 2025, the Mission initiated a joint EULEX-UNICEF Kosovo effort toward **improving how Kosovo addresses sexual violence and abuse against children**, in the field of justice and law enforcement, but also broader governmental, social and educational fields.



Leading by Example

Women in the Rule of Law: A EULEX Feature since 2014

Since its deployment, EULEX has encouraged **inclusion of women in rule of law institutions, including in leadership positions**, both in Kosovo and within the Mission.

In 2014, EULEX launched the feature “Women in the Rule of Law:” a collection of talented women’s stories. As of today, the Mission has published over 60 portraits of women belonging to Kosovo institutions, civil society and Mission Members.





www.eulex-kosovo.eu



[eulex.kosovo](https://www.facebook.com/eulex.kosovo)



[eulex.kosovo](https://www.instagram.com/eulex.kosovo)



[eulexkosovo](https://twitter.com/eulexkosovo)



[eulexkosovo.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/eulexkosovo.bsky.social)



[eulex.kosovo](https://www.linkedin.com/company/eulex-kosovo)



[eulexkosovo](https://www.youtube.com/eulexkosovo)