



# Rrjeti i Grupeve të Grave të Kosovës

*Mbështet, mbron dhe promovon të drejtat dhe interesat e grave dhe vajzave në Kosovë*

## **Letter to the Deputies of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo**

*Prishtina, 20 March 2014*

The Kosovo Women's Network (KWN) calls upon the deputies of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo support the amendment of Law No. 04/L-054 on the status and rights of martyrs, invalids, veterans, members of the Kosovo Liberation Army, persons raped during the war, civilian war victims and their families.

Supporting the finalization of amendments to the aforementioned Law will make it possible for survivors of violence and sexual abuse (which occurred during the 1998-1999 war in Kosovo) to be recognized.

Women who have suffered sexual violence have requested to be included among the categories of persons affected by war. This would provide recognition, undermine stigmatization and return dignity. Since sexual violence was used as a weapon of war, women should receive the same benefits as all other victims of war.

On 8 March 2012, KWN organized a demonstration with the slogan: "We do not want flowers. We want justice for women who suffered sexual violence during the war." Through this demonstration, KWN sought legal protection for women who suffered sexual violence during the war.

Following more than a year of intensive advocacy work that brought together women from civil society and women in politics, on 14 March 2013, the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, approved the Draft Law for amending Law No. 04/L-054 on the status and rights of martyrs, invalids, veterans, members of the Kosovo Liberation Army, persons raped during the war, civilian war victims and their families.

KWN, together with other civil society groups, has written several letters, requesting that MPs pass this important amendment, returning dignity to women who have suffered enough.