



Rrjeti i Grupeve të Grave të Kosovës

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

Manifesto of the FemAct Feminist Forum 2014

As young feminist activists who believe in gender equality and are aware of our rights set in the Constitution and Legal Framework of Kosovo, through this Manifesto we express our concerns and recommendations to Kosovar institutions, civil society, and other relevant actors.

More men should be included in FemACT and in the Kosovar feminist movement in general.

More men and young men should be involved in all levels of the feminist movement since, contrary to popular belief, gender equality is not a women's issue. By clearly defining and imposing dominant social roles, patriarchy hurts men as well, and, as such, it hinders their participation in the feminist movement. FemAct is open to everyone, regardless of their age, gender, sex, ethnicity, or religion. It represents a platform where young feminists, men and women, can share information and organize.

As young men and women feminists, we call on civil society organizations that work in the field of gender equality, and consider themselves feminist, to include men and young men in their activities and projects. By doing this they will open the doors for an inclusive feminist movement in Kosovo.

School and university textbooks and curricula need to be reviewed in order to eliminate the existing sexist language and stereotypical depiction of traditional gender roles.

School textbooks in Kosovo continue to include stereotypical depictions of gender roles, which results in young women and men seeking particular professions and careers. At the same time, there has been no in-depth study of gender sensitivity when it comes to university textbooks and curricula.

We call on the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology to review all school textbooks and curricula and to take measures to eliminate stereotypical representations of men and women. Further, we call on the Rectorate of the University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina" to initiate an in-depth research on the gender sensitivity of university textbooks and curricula. Moreover, the University needs to create a gender strategy for the inclusion of a gender perspective in university textbooks, and to create a committee on assessing textbooks before publishing.

Better politics and procedures on reporting and addressing sexual harassment need to be established.

KWN frequently receives reports of sexual harassment in the workplace, at school, in the university, and public institutions. A report by the Kosovar Gender Studies Center (KGSC) in 2010 found that 16.6% of civil servants have experienced sexual harassment at some point during their career.¹ Focus groups held at the University of Prishtina suggest that sexual harassment occurs much more frequently than it is reported; when reported, it is often ignored. The Anti-Discrimination Law prohibits every form of discrimination and harassment, including unwanted sexual advancements which violate the dignity of a person.² Moreover, the Law on Gender Equality highlights that sexual harassment constitutes discrimination.³

¹ Demolli, Luljeta for KGSC, *Perceptions of civil servants on sexual harassment in the workplace*, Prishtina: KGSC, 2010, p. 10.

² Kosovo Assembly and UNMIK, *Anti-Discrimination Law*, Law nr. 2004/3.

³ Kosovo Assembly and UNMIK, *Gender Equality Law*, Law nr. 2004/2.

We call on relevant Kosovar institutions to cooperate with civil society and other actors to put in place politics and procedures to report and address sexual harassment, as well as the installation of mechanisms to report and investigate cases of sexual harassment.

Ban sexist representation of women in mainstream media and prevent the depiction of women's bodies as sexual objects.

Kosovar journalism needs to embrace basic principles of gender equality. This should start with an analysis of the conventional way through which women are depicted in mainstream media. The discriminatory and stereotypical depiction of women, combined with the unethical way women are written about, has negative effects on the way the general public views women. Moreover, they reinforce traditional gender stereotypes which are hurtful to society as such.

We call on the Independent Media Commission, responsible for electronic media, and the Press Council of Kosovo, responsible for printed and online media, to strictly prohibit the depiction of women as sexual objects, and to set sanctions when such cases are identified

Prishtina, Kosovo
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