



Kosovo Women's Network

Serving, Protecting and Promoting the Rights of Women and Girls

Press Release

EU Parliament to Discuss Violence against Women in Kosovo, Region

The European Parliament Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) and the Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI) have asked Nicole Farnsworth, Kosovo Women's Network Lead Researcher, to speak at the "joint exchange of views on violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey" to be held on 8 June 2017 in Brussels.

Several issues exist pertaining to violence against women. Therefore, following consultations with women's rights activists throughout South East Europe, she plans to speak about four main issues: 1) The weak institutional response to violence against women; 2) The shrinking space and decreased funding for women's rights CSOs in the region, which hampers their ability to provide quality services; 3) Diminishing sexual and reproductive health rights; 4) Justice and reparations for sexual violence perpetrated during the war.

"Politicians (local and foreign) tend to prioritize so-called 'high-level political issues' over issues affecting people's everyday lives, such as domestic violence and sexual harassment," Farnsworth plans to say. "Activists have long argued that peace is not merely the absence of war. How useful are borders or an army, if you do not have security within your own home, your own school, your workplace, your street; or if you still suffer the effects of sexual violence perpetrated during the war, because no apologies have been made, no services have been offered, no justice has been served?"

Farnsworth will request the EU's continued political and financial support for addressing violence against women in the region, also emphasizing the importance of meeting and collaborating with women's rights organizations directly.

The exchange can be followed in livestream online at:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do?language=EN&body=DROI>. It will begin at 10:00 and last until 11:30 on 8 June.

Farnsworth will participate in several other meetings while in Brussels, towards raising awareness regarding gender equality in Kosovo and the situation of women more specifically. This includes taking part in European Women's Lobby Conference events related to: "[LOUD & UNITED to end Violence against women and girls](#)".

The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, financed by Sweden, has supported this initiative.