

## Kosovo Women's Network

Serving, Protecting and Promoting the Rights of Women and Girls

## KWN Calls for Justice for Crimes Committed in Suhareka

The Kosovo Women's Network (KWN) expresses its deep concern regarding the <u>reported</u> murder of a 39-year-old woman by her husband on 23 October in Suhareka. KWN is further saddened that their daughter has sustained injuries allegedly perpetrated by her own father. KWN extends its condolences to the woman's family. KWN requests a swift response by Kosovo institutions, ensuring justice.

KWN calls on police to immediately fully investigate this crime. KWN implores the prosecution and courts to ensure that judicial proceedings occur promptly and expeditiously.

Kosovo institutions must send a strong message that violence is forbidden within the private sphere through rapid proceedings and the strictest sentencing permissible by law. Kosovo institutions must set an example to other potential perpetrators of violence that it shall not be permissible in any case, in accordance with Kosovo law.

Police <u>have stated</u> that the suspect has not been questioned yet as he was under the influence of alcohol. KWN emphasizes that alcohol is no excuse for committing crimes within a domestic relationship. In accordance with the Criminal Code, under no circumstance are criminal acts permissible or acceptable, including when such acts occur within a domestic relationship.

Further, KWN is saddened by reports that the victim had informed police of violence occurring within her family previously, but that police reportedly had not taken any actions to address her concerns. KWN reiterates its prior pleas to police to take reports of criminal acts committed within domestic relationships seriously, in accordance with the Criminal Code. *Ex officio* prosecution of such acts is crucial towards preventing recidivist violence that ultimately can lead to death, as this case and the case of Diana Kastrati so sadly illustrate.

