



Towards a more gender-responsive 2026 Kosovo Budget

Dear Secretary General, Ms. Fahrije Tërnavaj,

Dear Director of the Department for Budget and Finance, Ms. Drita Xheladini

I am writing on behalf of the Kosovo Women's Network (KWN) to request your urgent attention related to the Ministry of Internal Affairs' 2026 budget request.

As you may be aware, gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) seeks to ensure that funds are budgeted and spent towards addressing the potentially differing needs of diverse women, men, boys, and girls, identified through gender analysis. According to Kosovo [Law No. 05/L-020 on Gender Equality](#), GRB is mandatory for all public institutions. The non-implementation of GRB constitutes a legal offense subject to sanctions. Further, the Government has an interest in implementing GRB in the context of its [commitments to the UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), precisely [SDG 5, indicator 5.c.1](#); the Supplementary Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability Framework (PEFA) for the assessment of gender responsive public financial management ([GRPFM](#)); and, most importantly, as a best practice in financial management. Implementing GRB can contribute to more effective, efficient, accountable, and transparent spending of government resources, including towards achieving gender equality. Thus, the Ministry of Finance, Labour, and Transfers, through the budget circular, has requested that [all central level budget organisations](#) provide an annex to their budget allocation requests for 2026 explaining how their budget ensures GRB.

The Government must involve gender equality officials from government entities and civil society organisations in public consultations pertaining to the budget, as mandated by [Regulation \(GRK\) No. 12/2016 on Duties and Responsibilities of Relevant Officials for Gender Equality in Ministries and Municipalities](#) and [Regulation \(GRK\) No.17/2024 on Rules of Procedure of the Government of the Republic Of Kosovo](#). To support the Government in implementing its responsibilities, KWN, a network of 102 diverse women's rights organisations, has prepared this letter towards improving GRB in the Law on Budget Appropriations for 2026. Our recommendations are based on KWN's research and evidence of needs:

- **Enhance the protection of survivors of gender-based violence and prevent recidivism in cases of gender-based violence by allocating funds for purchasing and maintaining the electronic tagging systems, including electronic bracelets.** These are critical for monitoring perpetrators and ensuring that they comply with restraining orders, providing an additional layer of safety for survivors in line with the [Law No. 05/L-003 on the Electronic Supervision of Persons Whose Movement is Limited by the Decision of the Court](#).
- **Budget for and organise joint training for Kosovo Police officials to specialise in cybersecurity and gender-based violence,** towards better coordination in treating cases of gender-based cybercrime.
- **Make adequate budget allocations to ensure the planned cybersecurity platform collects gender-disaggregated data of persons using it, ensures confidentiality, safeguards ethical standards, protects data, and has a user-friendly interface** inclusive of referral mechanisms through which users can file complaints. Funds also should be allocated for **awareness-raising that transform gender norms** and attends to gender-based cyberviolence.
- **Budget for establishing info-centres with free, safe, publicly accessible computers in municipalities, such as in libraries and public offices, to facilitate access to online public services for diverse women and men.** [These measures will help address gendered and intersectional barriers, such as age and ethnicity, that affect access to digital services.](#) Also, budget to **train staff** to assist with using online software to access public services and allocate subventions to **contract qualified civil society organisations (CSOs) or businesses** to provide these services, including door-to-door outreach to support use of digital public services.

- Allocate sufficient budget for **training all Police Officers in intersectional gender- and conflict-responsive communication.**

KWN strongly urges the Ministry of Internal Affairs to implement these recommendations in line with existing Government commitments and towards a more gender-responsive 2026 Budget. We also strongly encourage you to publish online the annex to your Ministry's 2026 Budget, requested by the Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers and in line with SDG 5.c.1., explaining transparently how your 2026 budget will contribute to furthering gender equality and the related expenditures foreseen.

We thank you for your attention and look forward to our continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

Igballe Rogova
Executive Director
Kosovo Women's Network