



29 August 2025

Towards a more gender-responsive 2026 Kosovo Budget

Dear Secretary General, Anita Kalanderi,

Dear Director of the Department for Budget and Finance, Nexhat Sylaj,

I am writing on behalf of the Kosovo Women's Network (KWN) to request your urgent attention related to the Ministry of Justice 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:

In cooperation with the Ministry of Finance, Labour, and Transfers (MFLT), to implement legal commitments:

- Allocate dedicated funding for the full operationalisation of the SOS emergency telephone line, as mandated by [Administrative Instruction \(GRK\) No. 01/2025](#) and [the State Protocol for the Treatment of Cases of Sexual Violence](#).
- Introduce a new budget line for the establishment and ongoing operation of a Referral Centre and Rape Crisis Centre for survivors of sexual violence.
- Ensure the clear reintroduction or clarification of the budget line for survivors of sexual violence in conflict, which existed in 2024 but was not clearly visible in the 2025 budget.
- Strongly encourage the Ministry of Internal Affairs to 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.
- Strongly encourage municipalities to request and MFLT to allocate sufficient budget for Centres for Social Work in the category of Wages and Salaries as part of the Government General Grant to employ more social workers in each municipality, specifically tasked with handling gender-based violence cases. The additional cost of employing two social workers in each municipality to address gender-based violence cases, including sexual and domestic violence, would amount to approximately [€444,000 annually for the Government of Kosovo](#). This amount considers that Prishtina, the largest municipality, would require four such social workers considering its size. This should be required of all municipalities as part of their budgets towards implementing the legal framework and State Protocol for Treatment of Sexual Violence Cases.

- As part of the Government General Grant, Centres for Social Work also should be requested to create an emergency fund to meet the urgent needs of victims, such as during the period when they are in the police station.
- Ensure adequate financing for the [National Strategy on Protection Against Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women](#).
- Ensure that adequate financing is in place for implementing the National Programme for the Treatment of Perpetrators of Violence against Women in Kosovo, including ensuring support for expert service providers from civil society.
- Support municipalities to increase budget allocations for social housing for survivors of gender-based violence.
- Ensure sufficient financing for shelters for survivors of gender-based violence year; KWN's forthcoming research suggests requires additional budget allocations to provide quality services in line with the Istanbul Convention and legal framework.
- Financially support diverse women, including Kosovo-based experts and women CSOs with extensive expertise, in promoting gender-responsive transitional justice in line with Transitional Justice Strategy commitments.
- Consider providing government grants or subsidies to CSOs specialised in day care services for persons with disabilities. Ensure that employees funded through these grants are paid fair wages, provided with labour rights protections, and receive training in basic caretaking approaches. This investment would professionalise care work, [predominantly performed by women](#), transforming unpaid care work into paid employment and enabling more women to enter the labour market, while also reducing risks of injury from untrained caretakers.

KWN would be happy to provide further information and evidence to substantiate and justify these recommendations and expenditure calculations, if needed.

Sincerely,

Igballe Rogova
Executive Director
Kosovo Women's Network