



Kosovo Women's Network

Serving, Protecting and Promoting the Rights of Women and Girls

Dear Prime Minister Kurti,

I am writing on behalf of the Kosovo Women's Network, a multiethnic network of 103 women's rights organisations across Kosovo, representing the interests of more than 10,000 diverse women across Kosovo and furthering the rights of more than 150,000 beneficiaries in 2025 alone.

We congratulate you for the formation of the new Government of the Republic of Kosovo. After a prolonged process, we welcome the opportunity to move forward with long-awaited reforms, including those related to Kosovo's European Union (EU) Accession process.

At the same time, we wish to express our concern regarding the small percentage of women appointed as ministers in the new Government. The Law on Gender Equality mandates equal representation of women and men in decision-making (50%). Ensuring balanced representation is not only a legal obligation, but also fundamental to democratic governance and to advancing substantive gender equality in Kosovo.

As Kosovo progresses with essential reforms, we underscore the importance of systematically integrating attention to gender equality and women's rights across all policy areas. Specifically, we call on the Government to urgently prioritise the following key legal changes as essential to safeguarding Kosovo's constitutional and legal commitments to furthering gender equality:

1. **Adopt a new Labour Law in line with the EU Work-Life Balance Directive**, ensuring equal rights for women and men to take maternity, paternity, parental and care leaves. Extensive [evidence](#) by KWN, among others, has shown that the current law is contributing to discrimination against women in hiring and is among the greatest factors undermining women's labour force participation. It must urgently be amended in consultation with us, business associations and labour rights associations through a transparent, inclusive process.
2. **Establish clear indicators to measure progress towards gender equality within the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans:** Reform Agenda of Kosovo, drawing from proposals by the Agency for Gender Equality (AGE) and in consultation with women's rights organisations. These reforms must be inclusive and gender responsive to ensure they benefit diverse women and men.
3. **Institutionalise gender responsive budgeting within the forthcoming Law on Public Financial Management and Accountability, Law on Local Government Finance, and Law on Public Procurement in accordance with the Law on Gender Equality.** Integrating gender-responsive budgeting within all public finance reforms can ensure that it is applied appropriately by finance officers across budget organisations. Reforms must be in line with the Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) Gender Framework [Guidance](#) and [Sustainable Development Goal 5.c.1](#). This includes requiring all budget organisations to transparently publish Gender Budget Statements and/or gender budgeting annexes.
4. **Establish a budget line for supporting diverse women's rights groups** within AGE in accordance with Kosovo's commitments to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, towards addressing the [current funding crisis](#) that puts at risk their important work in service provision, awareness-

raising, research, advocacy and advising as well as supporting the government and other stakeholders. Funding should be designed in close consultation with diverse women's rights organisations to ensure that it is transparent, fair and needs-based.

5. **Invest in care:** While establishing additional childcare centres is a priority of the Government as stated within the National Development Strategy and Reform Agenda of Kosovo, and in your address last night, the opening of these centres has been very slow. Making child, elderly and disability care more available and affordable across Kosovo is essential to enabling women to enter the labour force. Indeed, KWN's [research](#) shows this could create more than 9,900 new jobs, particularly for women, transforming unpaid work into paid work.

While these are our key recommendations, we hope that the Government will continue to utilise our research, evidence-based recommendations and expertise to inform other forthcoming changes to laws, policies and programs. We call up on the government, in the spirit of inclusive, participatory democracy, to ensure that women's rights groups are involved in all governmental working groups so that we may lend our expertise to supporting these important reforms.

We look forward to close cooperation with the new Government and all ministers towards protecting, promoting and advancing women's rights in Kosovo.

Respectfully,

Igballe Rogova
Executive Director
Kosovo Women's Network