



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo
Qeveria - Vlada - Government
Ministria e Arsimit, Shkencës dhe Teknologjisë
Ministarstva za Obrazovanje, Nauku i Tehnologiju
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

THE SCHOOL INFORMER ON STANDARD ACTION PROCEDURES FOR PROTECTION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN KOSOVA



Entry

Domestic violence can be defined as a form of exercising one person's authority over another by using different forms. Violence as a phenomenon causes problems not only for society as a whole but also for the future of children coming from violent families because they suffer, even in indirect manner. Each of us has the right to live life safely and according to its needs. Domestic violence prevents peace and quiet, affects children, women, elderly people and other family members. Many people still suffer in secret, being not aware of their rights and help that can be provided by relevant institutions.

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo works with devotion for the protection of human rights, considering the family as the only cell of the society in general. In 2011-14, our country adopted the first National Strategy for Protection against Domestic Violence, which has started to be implemented successfully in this period. The focus of this Strategy was to raise public awareness, improve services and coordinate between institutions, by which victims will gain adequate protection throughout the territory of the Republic of Kosovo.

Starting from this, through the joint work and through the commitment of the state institutions, the civil sector and international institutions, the need for drafting the Standard Operating Procedures appeared (SOP). That gender equality is one of the essential values of a democratic society has been proven much earlier, therefore Kosovo to follow the path of European integration makes efforts to strengthen and protect gender equality through legal and sub-legal acts. Within this framework, on the initiative of ABGJ, were drafted PSV based on the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence no. 03 / L-182-2010.

SOP on protection against domestic violence in Kosova is not limited to the forms of domestic violence as defined by the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, but also includes all criminal offenses that are committed within the family relationships defined by the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo.



The purpose

The purpose of this informant is: information, awareness raising and education aimed at preventing violence, with particular focus on the family and gender-based violence.

In this brief informer for schools, we will present institutional mechanisms and other stakeholders directly involved in the prevention, treatment, protection and reintegration of victims of domestic violence.

Institutional mechanisms are:

1. Municipal Education Directorates (MEDs) and upbringing-education institutions
2. Kosovo Police.
3. Victims Advocacy / Office for Victims Advocacy and Assistance.
4. State prosecutor
5. Courts.
6. Centres for Social Works.
7. Health institutions: Primary, Secondary, Tertiary, and Mental Health Centers

Non-governmental supporting stakeholders:

1. Shelters and
2. Non-governmental organizations.

Each of these institutions has its duties and responsibilities described in the SOP and all the information and services listed are available for the victims of violence 24 hours free of charge.

KOSOVO POLICE

It is one of the main institutions for protection from violence. Usually it is the first contact for the victim. Each police station has the Investigation Units of Domestic Violence. The police have the duty to respond to any kind of threat, act of violence or violation of protection order and treats these cases urgently and seriously. The police have the duty to notify the victim about the rights, to instruct and accompany the victim, to immediately arrest the suspects for the criminal offense. The police conduct the investigation and prosecution of crimes committed in the family and other crimes in accordance with the Criminal Code and other applicable laws in Kosovo. The police implements protection orders under the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, and have other responsibilities as defined by other applicable laws.



Victim Advocacy / Office of Chief State Prosecutor

Victim Advocates are official authorized persons who provide support and assistance to crime victims in order to have access to justice, is the authorized representative who has the power to: inform the injured party of his / her rights and represent the interests of the victim in the proceedings before the prosecutor and the court; and when necessary, refers the victim to other service providers, acts on behalf of the victim when it is necessary and appropriate in order to stop the violation of the victim's rights and to seek action to guarantee their protection.

- The rights of these victims are:
- The right to protection and housing
- The right to treatment with respect and dignity
- The right to confidentiality
- The right to be informed of legal procedures
- The right to receive compensation and indemnity.

The Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo guarantees the protection of human rights and freedoms.

The state prosecutor has the responsibility to review evidence of a domestic violence case and to support criminal prosecution, including the violation of the protection order. The prosecutor has the authority to initiate criminal proceedings according to the official duty (expertise).

Courts consider cases of domestic violence with priority and are appointed specialized judges for dealing with these cases. Judges are responsible for treating the parties and individuals that appear before them in an impartial, dignified and respectful manner by providing adequate protection to all parties involved in the proceedings.

Centers for Social Work

- Centers for Social Work (CSWs) are municipal institutions that provide social and family services for victims of domestic violence until their reintegration.
- Any case involving the child, after receiving information from the Kosovo Police or the party itself, the social worker intervenes about the case.
- The CSW social worker is on guard for 24 hours, including weekends and holidays, and no interview is conducted with the minor without the participation of the social worker.
- The role of social worker is to provide assistance, protection and support for each child in a situation of violence
- The social worker also makes decisions about the child's housing in domestic violence cases.
- In certain cases if the child is not only a witness of domestic violence but also a direct victim, the CSW can initiate the case for obtaining parental right.
- Also, in cases of violence within the various spaces, with special emphasis on schools, in each case when all opportunities are exhausted by educational workers and school psychologists, the CSW intervenes for assistance and support.
- The CSW also participates in each judicial session and the key principle is protecting the best interest of the child.
- Each child has the right to express its opinion and to make a statement after the age of 10, not excluding the possibility if the professional team assesses even before this age.
- All available CSW information is confidential and is not published in any case.

Health institutions

Primary, secondary, tertiary health institutions and mental health centers provide free health services for cases of violence. These institutions identify, provide free medical assistance, notify the police and prepare a written report if requested by the competent authorities.

Shelters

The Safe House (Shelter) provides services 24 hours free of charge of housing for women and children, victims / survivors of domestic violence referred to from the above mentioned institutions and directly from the victim. The services provided are based on empowering women and based on their needs. Services that are provided in shelters include health, psycho-social

counseling, health care for reproductive health and mental health, medicines, legal services, legislation information, community presentations for community awareness of the consequences of violence and trainings with relevant institutions that treat victims.

In addition, for sheltered women, they offer professional courses and trainings for recovery from domestic violence, rehabilitation and reintegration into society, and all of these services provided are licensed by relevant institutions.

In addition to these services, shelters also provide the education service continuation for children victimized in the regular education system at the nearest existing school.

In the Republic of Kosovo in the municipalities: Pristina, Peja, Gjakova, Prizren, Mitrovica, Gjilan and Ferizaj there are 7 such shelters.



Non-governmental organizations

NGOs work in information, counseling and prevention of violence and are familiar with the problem of violence.

Upbringing-educational Institutions

The actions of each of these institutions are closely related to the education system. MEDs are responsible for educating victims of domestic violence under the law in force. Educational institutions are important sources for identifying and protecting child victims of domestic violence. These institutions have an important role in raising awareness of domestic violence and notifying other actors when a child needs protection.

Educational institutions have these responsibilities:

1. Identifying potential victims
2. The victim's registration in the Education Information Management System (SMIA) and the completion of the documentation on the basis of the form that is on PSV p. 24, 71, 80 and 81 which is on the website of the Agency for Gender Equality (AGE) with this link:

<https://abgi.rks-gov.net/>

3. Informing the CSW custody bodies or police if necessary.
4. Cooperation with all competent bodies for victim reintegration into educational institutions in regular and informal learning according to the regulations in force - AI no. 01/2014 "Organization and planning of the education process in vocational education and training" and AI no. 12/2014 "Exceptions in age on enrollment in adult education and training".

**INFORMATION ON EVENTUAL ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CASES CAN BE
MADE FREE OF CHARGE IN THESE TELEPHONE NUMBERS:**



MINISTRY OF HEALTH: 080017777

PROSECUTION OFFICE: 080011112



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