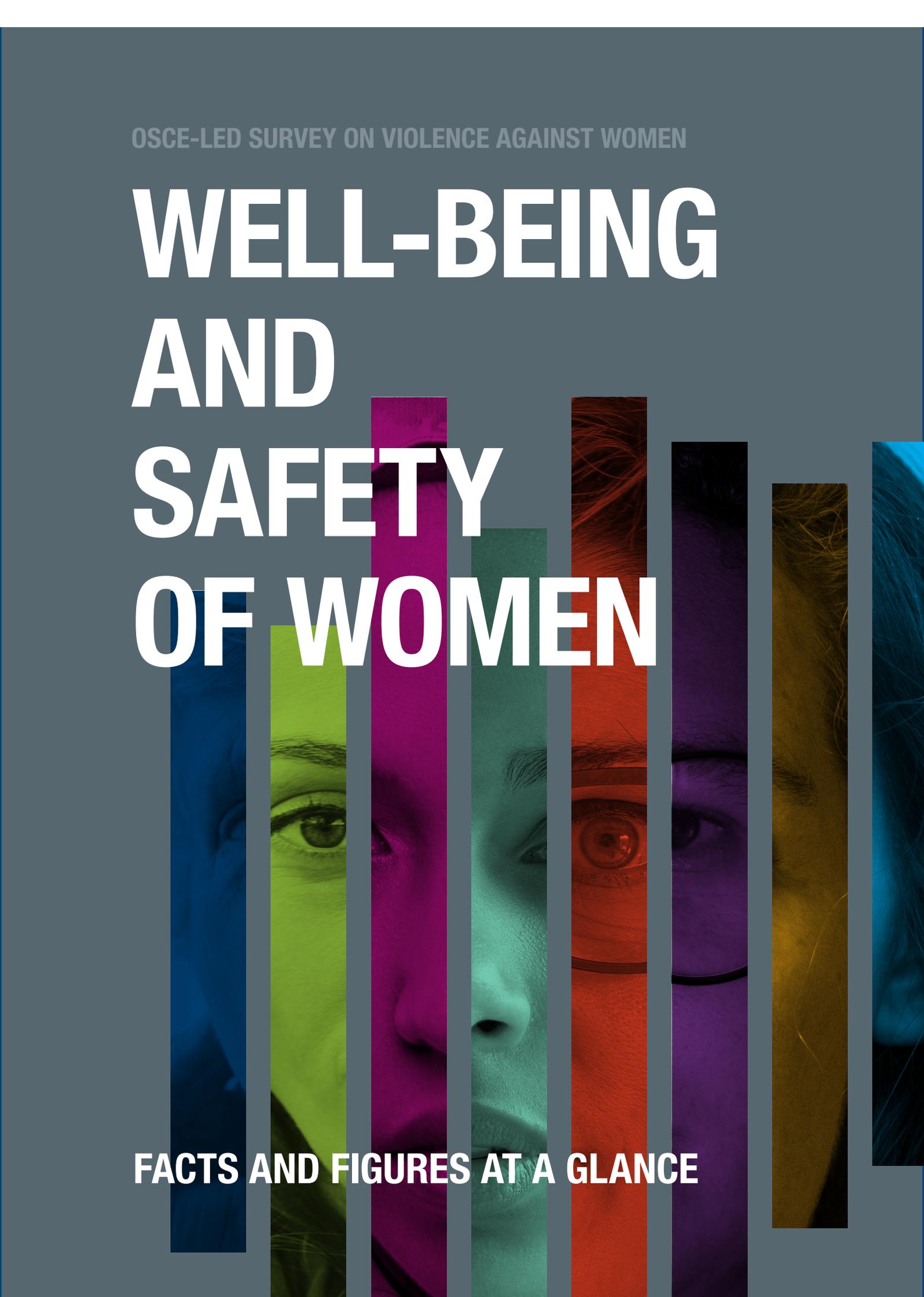


OSCE-LED SURVEY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

# WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF WOMEN



FACTS AND FIGURES AT A GLANCE

# Background Information

**Violence against women and girls is a persistent human rights violation that not only threatens the security and safety of its victims, but also hinders women and girls around the world from being full and equal participants in society.**

The OSCE recognizes violence against women and girls (VAWG) as both a threat to individuals and a broader security concern, and acknowledges the need to tackle it to achieve comprehensive security and reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2018 the OSCE implemented the OSCE-led Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women. In seven OSCE participating States, including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, Moldova and Ukraine. The research was also conducted in Kosovo.<sup>1</sup>

The OSCE-led survey is based on the methodology used by the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency for its EU-wide survey on violence against women, which was published in 2014.

## Research overview

The survey included a quantitative and qualitative component. The research examined violence that women experience in conflict and non-conflict settings, as well as the impact violence has on women.

**15,179**

**women aged 18–74 were interviewed** face-to-face using a multi-stage, random probability approach;

**114**

**key experts shared their views** on the current state of how governmental institutions and NGOs are working to prevent VAWG;

**63**

**focus group discussions were conducted** with women from different age groups, women living in urban and rural areas, women from different minority groups and women who have experienced conflict;

**35**

**in-depth interviews were conducted** with survivors of violence, including women with a disability.

<sup>1</sup> All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

# Main goal of the study

**The overarching goal of this study is to contribute to a reduction of violence against women. Identifying the scale of the problem is a first step.**

The data collected by the OSCE-led survey is comparable to the data collected by the FRA survey. Together, the two surveys cover 35 out of 57 OSCE participating States.

With its comparable data, the OSCE-led survey provides much-needed information that will help show the current situation concerning violence against women and girls in OSCE participating States. It will also enable the planning and development of cross-regional initiatives and actions as well as local policies and services.

## Key Conclusions based on the survey findings

- Enhanced efforts are needed to **implement legislation and improve action plans** that will address all forms of violence experienced by women and girls.
- **All women**, regardless of their economic or social status, **can experience violence, but some groups of women are at a higher risk**. These risks include being young, economically dependent or having children.
- **Characteristics and behaviour of perpetrators** also need to be taken into consideration as **possible risk factors contributing to intimate partner violence**.
- Violence has a **severe physical and psychological impact**, and women suffer from health problems as a result of their experiences.
- **Women do not report the vast majority of the most serious incidents** to the police and that they rarely seek support from other institutions.
- **Barriers to seeking help are rooted in attitudes** that silence women and protect abusers, as well as in women's lack of trust in the authorities to help and protect them.
- A majority of women do not know what to do if they experience violence and that they are not aware of local specialized organizations offering support.

# Major findings

**The OSCE-led survey reveals a number of trends and findings about the prevalence of VAWG, its impact and underlying social norms and stereotypes. It is important to take into account that different prevalence rates should be interpreted with care, and could be a reflection of changing attitudes and norms around violence against women in different locations.**

## **Norms and attitudes significantly impact violence against women and girls:**

- Women who agree that domestic violence is a private matter are almost twice as likely to say they have experienced current partner physical violence than those who disagree (18% versus 10% respectively).
- Women who think that their friends would agree that it is a wife's obligation to have sex with her husband even if she does not feel like it are also more likely to say they have experienced violence at the hands of their current partner than those who disagree.
- Women who agree that violence is often provoked by the victim or that women exaggerate claims of abuse or rape are generally more likely to say they have experienced all forms of violence.

## **More information can be found online:**

**Main results report:** <https://www.osce.org/secretariat/413237>

**At a glance report:** <https://www.osce.org/secretariat/418913>



**70% of women have experienced some form of partner violence or non-partner violence since the age of 15;**



**23% of women have experienced intimate partner physical and/ or sexual violence;**



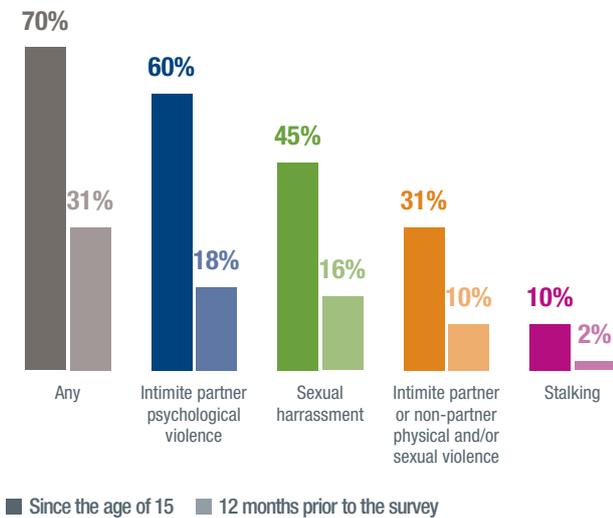
**18% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a non-partner.**

# OSCE-led survey results

A quantitative survey was conducted among a representative sample of women aged 18 to 74 living in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, Moldova and Ukraine. The survey was also conducted in Kosovo.<sup>1</sup> A total of 15,179 interviews were conducted face-to-face between April and September 2018. Data has been weighted to the known population profile.

## HIGH PREVALENCE OF DIFFERENT FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

### DIFFERENT FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



**16 million**

women have experienced some form of sexual harassment, stalking, intimate partner violence, or non-partner violence (including psychological, physical or sexual violence) since the age of 15

**4.9 million**

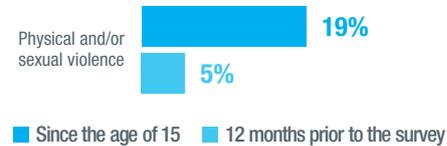
women have experienced intimate partner physical or sexual violence

**4.4 million**

have experienced non-partner physical or sexual violence

\*Approximate figures

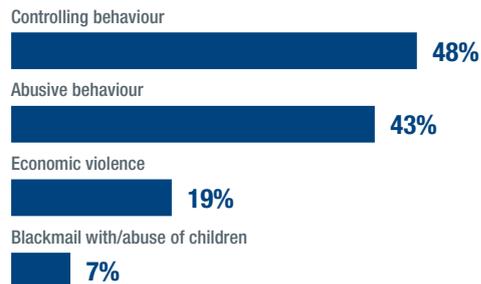
### ONE IN FIVE WOMEN HAS EXPERIENCED NON-PARTNER PHYSICAL AND/OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE



### INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE



### INTIMATE PARTNER PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE IS THE MOST WIDESPREAD FORM

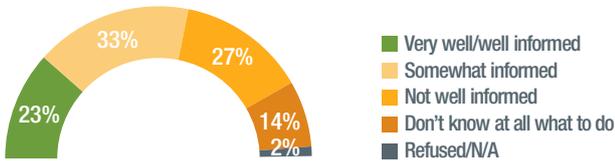


Base: Prevalence of intimate partner/non-partner violence, sexual harassment, stalking, and non-partner violence are based on all women aged 18-74 (15,179); intimate partner violence is based on all ever-partnered women (14,085)

<sup>1</sup> All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

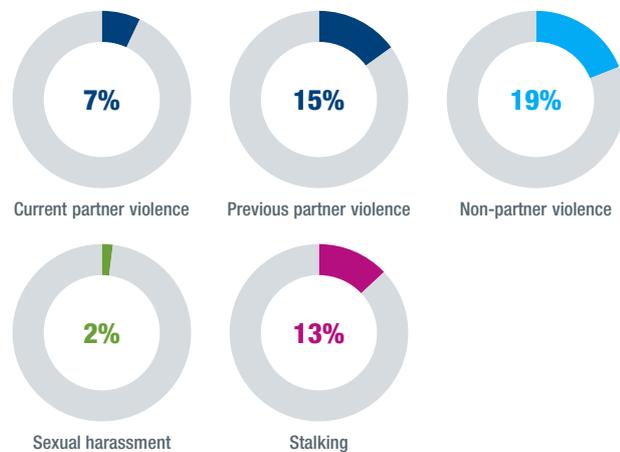
## LOW LEVELS OF REPORTING AND AWARENESS

MANY WOMEN DO NOT FEEL WELL INFORMED ABOUT WHAT TO DO IF THEY EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE



## LOW LEVELS OF REPORTING TO POLICE

% who contacted the police directly following the most serious incident of violence.



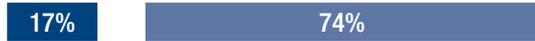
Base for how well informed women feel: All women aged 18-74 (15,179)  
 Base for reporting to police: All women aged 18-74 who identify a most serious incident of each form of violence - sexual harassment (3,514), stalking (885), current partner (1,068), previous partner (1,079), non-partner (1,298)

## SILENCING AND VICTIM-BLAMING ATTITUDES

■ Totally/tend to agree ■ Totally/tend to disagree

Q: Would your friends generally agree or disagree with the following statements?

It is a wife's obligation to have sex with her husband even if she doesn't feel like it



It is important for a man to show his wife/partner who is the boss



Q: To what extent would you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Violence against women is often provoked by the victim



Domestic violence is a private matter and should be handled within the family

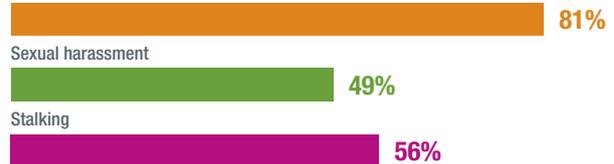


Base: All women aged 18-74 (15,179)

## IMPACT OF THE MOST SERIOUS INCIDENTS

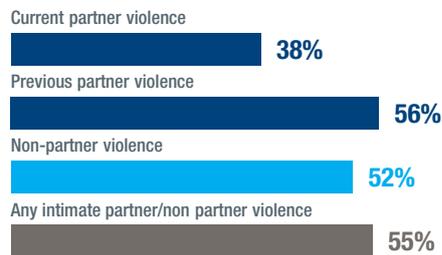
### VIOLENCE CAUSES PSYCHOLOGICAL SUFFERING

% who experienced one or more psychological consequences due to... Intimate partner or non-partner physical and/or sexual violence



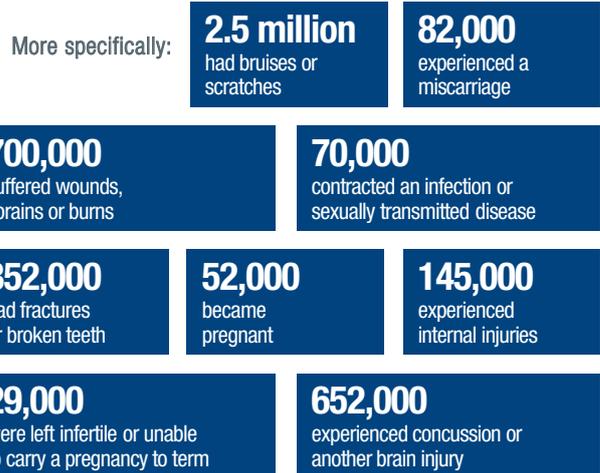
### VIOLENCE CAUSES PHYSICAL SUFFERING

% who suffered one or more physical consequences due to...



The figures regarding physical suffering have been updated - figures in earlier versions of this report should be disregarded.

**3.25 million\*** women in the region covered by the survey were left with an injury or physical consequence considering only the most severe cases of violence they identified during their adult lifetime.



\*Approximate figures

Base for psychological and physical consequences: All women aged 18-74 who identify a most serious incident of each form of violence - sexual harassment (3,514), stalking (885), current partner (1,068), previous partner (1,079), non-partner (1,298), any intimate partner/non-partner (2,763)

# How can OSCE participating States use the data?

## To inform policies, strategies and action plans at the national and local levels

- For the development and implementation of national strategies and action plans, like national gender-equality plans, plans for combating violence against women and national action plans on UNSCR 1325;
- As information for a wide range of ministries, including on social policy, interior affairs, defence, health and education;
- For the discussion within co-ordination bodies and working groups on gender equality and combating gender-based violence, as well as in the security and defence sector and the armed forces, in parliamentary working groups and caucuses;
- Inform gender-responsive budgeting at the municipal, provincial and regional Level.

## For monitoring and reporting on international commitments (if applicable):

- Reports to the CEDAW Committee;
- Beijing Platform for Action;
- National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325;
- Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 5 and Goal 16);
- GREVIO/Istanbul Convention;
- European Gender Equality Index;
- NATO reporting requirements.

## Further use of the data

- Use findings for communication and awareness raising activities;
- Conduct further research using the OSCE-led survey data set;
- Analyse differences in the prevalence, reporting and impact of violence against women at the local and regional level and develop specific recommendations at that level.



Psychological violence is the most widespread form of intimate partner violence reported in the survey;

45% have experienced sexual harassment, including online violence.



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OSCE Secretariat  
Gender Issues  
Wallnerstrasse 6  
1010 Vienna, Austria  
Email: [equality@osce.org](mailto:equality@osce.org)  
[www.osce.org/secretariat/gender](http://www.osce.org/secretariat/gender)



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