



# Kosovo Youth Forum on Gender Equality

Recommendations  
Report

December 2022



**Kosovo  
Youth  
Forum on  
Gender  
Equality**



## 1. Executive summary

This is a short version of the full final report of the Kosovo Youth Forum on Gender Equality, available in Annex 1.

The Youth Forum on Gender Equality was part of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kosovo project *Youth Development, Gender Norms and Human Security in Kosovo (2021-2022)*, which aimed to empower young people as drivers of gender equality, development and positive peace, and to support youth-led innovative and transformational development responses to the impact of gender norms and stereotypes. By enhancing the platforms, capacities, and tools for young people to lead on addressing the topic of gender inequality, and to voice their perspectives and solutions, the initiative had a positive impact on the civic engagement and participation of young women and men in Kosovo<sup>1</sup> public life. To this end, UNDP collaborated with the Kosovar Gender Studies Center (KGSC) to organize the Youth Forum on Gender Equality. The Forum brought together 72 participants (44 women) from Kosovo, aged between 18 and 29 and from diverse backgrounds, and committed to tackling gender inequality. Participants were carefully selected to represent the diversity of communities, gender, municipalities, and social backgrounds. They met on 20-21 August, 26-27 August and 03-04 September.

Participants developed recommendations inspired by the overall question: **“What are the main challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality in Kosovo from the perspective of youth, and how can stakeholders support us to tackle them?”**

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<sup>1</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

Organized on the model of deliberative democracy, over the three weekends the Youth Forum heard from panels of experts and stakeholders on:

- “Gender Equality in Kosovo: Challenges and Opportunities”
- “Gender Norms and Stereotyping”
- “Gender Equality and Education”
- “Gender Equality and (Un)Employment”
- “Gender Equality Advocacy, Rights and Policies”
- “Gender Equality, Media and Institutions”.

This was followed by individual reflection and group exploration of what was said and how it was understood. Participants identified six key themes and developed three concrete recommendations for each. Finally, in the decision-making stage of the event participants voted on those recommendations. The voting results below show the level of support for each of the recommendations.

When given the opportunity to learn with balanced information, discuss issues together in a safe manner and debate with people from diverse backgrounds, young people can develop solutions to some of society’s most pressing issues with sound recommendations about a way forwards. The recommendations of the Youth Forum should therefore be carefully considered by key stakeholders, and by anyone who believes in gender equality and women’s rights and building a Kosovo in which women and men have the same opportunities, rights and obligations.

# 1. Working group on Sexual Harassment



## Recommendation 1a

**Ensure that sexual crimes reporting forms are available and functional**

**78.6%**  
overall support ('support'  
and 'strongly support')



## Recommendation 1b

**Establish a public register for sexual offenders**

**62.5%**  
overall support



## Recommendation 1c

**Provide training for those responsible in institutions for tackling sexual crimes**

**62.1%**  
overall support

## 2. Working group on Education



Recommendation 2a

**Improve quality  
in education**

**64.9%**  
overall support



Recommendation 2b

**Provide safety in schools**

**59.6%**  
overall support



Recommendation 2c

**Ensure inclusive education  
at all levels**

**56.1%**  
overall support

### 3. Working group on Employment and Digitalization



#### Recommendation 3a

**Undertake institutional actions to guarantee meritocracy and integrity**

**47.4%**  
overall support



#### Recommendation 3b

**Strengthen regional employment offices and establish career orientation centers**

**54.4%**  
overall support



#### Recommendation 3c

**Establish an integrated Kosovo-wide platform for employment “e-punësimi”**

**57.9%**  
overall support

## 4. Working group on Healthcare



### Recommendation 4a

**Ensure necessary infrastructure  
for people living with disabilities**

**52.6%**  
overall support



### Recommendation 4b

**Organize awareness campaigns  
on sexual and reproductive health  
for pupils of 6-12 grade**

**50.9%**  
overall support



### Recommendation 4c

**Address discrimination based on  
gender, ethnicity, religion, and  
sexuality**

**54.5%**  
overall support

## 5. Working group on Media



### Recommendation 5a

**Include media education as an elective subject in pre-university education**

**56.1%**  
overall support



### Recommendation 5b

**Functionalize adequate educative programs for children and adolescents**

**49.1%**  
overall support



### Recommendation 5c

**Ensure school textbooks are inclusive**

**52.6%**  
overall support

## 6. Working group on Safety (in school, workplace, family, media)



### Recommendation 6a

**Establish independent safety councils in schools**

**66.7%**  
overall support



### Recommendation 6b

**Include gender perspective in mechanisms monitoring and regulating media**

**73.7%**  
overall support



### Recommendation 6c

**Implement gender budgeting in formal budgeting decisions**

**70.2%**  
overall support

The recommendation to functionalize sexual crimes reporting forms **got the highest score from participants**, with 78.6% strongly supportive and supportive votes.

The recommendations will be presented to stakeholders in a public event in December 2022, and the sixteen-strong Youth Panel will be following up on their implementation. The response and actions taken by stakeholders will also be monitored and overseen by regular meetings between the Youth Panel and relevant institutions, facilitated by UNDP Kosovo and the Kosovar Gender Studies Center.

## 2. Participants' views on the Youth Forum on Gender Equality

### 2.1. Survey results

(41 participants completed the post-Forum evaluation survey)

#### General feedback



**100%**

rated the Youth Forum as  
Good/Very Good/Excellent

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#### Views on the Youth Forum



**87.5%**

considered that the Youth  
Forum was an effective  
tool in promoting  
gender equality



**75%**

believe the Youth Forum on  
Gender Equality will lead to  
positive change in Kosovo

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#### Impact of the Youth Forum



Most participants now  
consider that advancing  
gender equality is  
Extremely Important



**92.5%**

met people they normally  
would not have

**92.5%**

felt included

**90%**felt part of something  
meaningful**87.5%**

felt respected

**80%**said they had plenty  
of opportunities to  
express their views  
during Forum  
discussions**87.5%**felt more knowledgeable  
about social and  
gender norms**95%**thought the information  
they received was fair  
and balanced  
discussions**87.5%**

learned new skills

**90%**felt more likely to  
engage in civic  
activities

## 5.2. Testimony from participants



**Urma  
Menekshe**

Even though we are in the 21st century, there is still gender inequality, and we still have gender discrimination. But the positive thing is that the young people of Kosovo are productive, have a strong will, hope, and enthusiasm, so together we will prevail. Our descendants should not need to cope with gender norms or live without gender equality.



**Albanota  
Hyseni**

Different perspectives from young people and participants in the panels attracted my attention to think about the problems we face when we talk about gender norms and how important it is to be more vocal. Something that surprised me – in a negative way – was when we learned about the number of women in decision-making as well as in the labour market, especially in certain fields such as STEM. I believe that this low representation of women requires urgent attention. In addition to the good environment and company, the Youth Forum on Gender Equality gave me the opportunity to share experiences and knowledge with peers from around Kosovo.



### Arber Selmani

I liked a lot of things during the Youth Forum on Gender Equality especially the interactions between the panel and the young people. The official statistics helped me build a more detailed understanding about the representation of gender in different life settings, and many things need improvement in this regard. I had not explored much research about gender equality, and thus some studies mentioned during the Youth Forum on Gender Equality were useful and informative resources for me.



### Arzu Farko Karaselo

Like every society, Kosovo has certain norms, customs, and traditions, and we all know how difficult it is to change or to break them. However, we know that we can make a change in society with education. I believe that youth activism can create positive changes for everyone.

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to everyone involved in the Youth Forum on Gender Equality. Together, the 72 young people from Kosovo have come up with concrete recommendations to tackle gender inequality in Kosovo. Our sincere thanks go out to all youth participants, facilitators, moderators, panelists, and support staff for making this Forum, organized jointly by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kosovo and the Kosovar Gender Studies Center (KGSC). The activity was as part of the project “Youth Development, Gender Norms and Human Security in Kosovo” funded by UNDP Funding Windows (Luxembourg, Republic of Korea, Sweden).

**Disclaimer:** The views expressed in this report are those of the participants and authors and do not necessarily reflect the official views of UNDP in Kosovo or the donors.









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