

Women' International League for Peace and Freedom

Bosnia and Herzegovina
UPR Recommendations

Joint submission:

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Association for Culture and Art – Crvena

Association of citizens – Oštra Nula

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
PEACE & FREEDOM



Areas of concern

- 1. The impact of economic reforms on gender equality and economic, social and cultural rights**
- 2. Shrinking space for activism and increase in repressive measures**
- 3. Rights of migrants and asylum-seekers**



Submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review of Bosnia and Herzegovina



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The impact of economic reforms on gender equality and economic, social and cultural rights

Relevant recommendations of the previous UPR cycle (Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, and Switzerland, Lithuania, China, Venezuela, Bahrain, Russian Federation, Germany):

- On gender equality, equal opportunities and poverty by providing adequate funds for non-discriminatory access to education, social welfare, health and other public services
- Regarding reduction of unemployment



The impact of economic reforms on gender equality and economic, social and cultural rights

New developments:

- Economic reforms that condition economic growth to structural reforms and fiscal consolidation, leading to cuts in public spending
- Investments focused in infrastructure sector while investments in social services not prioritized
- Decrease and likely further cuts in public services, in particular health
- Increase in protests around the country due to low salaries, increase in prices, unpaid benefits, or generally poor human rights situation in the country
- Economic reforms not planned in an inclusive, gender-sensitive and transparent way and without prior human rights impact assessments



Recommendations

- Create mechanisms that ensure systematic, meaningful and effective consultations with civil society, in particular with women's groups, in the planning, implementation and evaluation of economic reforms.
- Introduce mandatory ex-ante and ex-post gender and human rights impact assessments into the process of planning and undertaking reforms and investments in various sectors in society and use findings to take corrective actions where negative impacts are found, such as direct or indirect discrimination or increase in poverty levels.



Recommendations

- Conduct gender analysis of conditionalities linked to lending agreements with IFIs or other lending institutions, and where negative effects are detected, invest in effective mitigating programs.
- Put an end to austerity measures and assess their impacts, in particular in relation to access to economic and social rights, introducing strategies to rectify their negative effects, in particular on women and other marginalised groups.
- Invest in broadening and improving affordable public services specifically aiming at supporting women's participation in the formal economy and relieving them from the burden of unpaid care work.



Shrinking space for activism and increase in repressive measures

Relevant recommendations in previous UPR cycle (Croatia, Viet Nam, Ireland, Norway, Algeria, USA, Mexico, France, Latvia, Australia, Estonia, Lithuania):

- Related to strengthening of human rights mechanisms including through adoption of comprehensive national plan for human rights
- Strengthening of rule of law and institutions
- Improvement in programmes for human rights training, in particular for judges and law enforcement agencies
- Punishment of all cases of ill-treatment by police officers



Shrinking space for activism and increase in repressive measures

New developments:

- Since 2014 increase in repressive measures against human rights defenders and CSOs, including excessive use of force and militarisation of the police
- Examples: Justice for David and Women of Kruscica cases
- Repression used in relation to communities defending their right to water and right to adequate standard of living with regard to hydropower dams-related projects



Recommendations

- Take all necessary measures to protect and promote civil society space and ensure a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders and activists
- Adopt effective measures to realise, without discrimination, the right to water and to ensure environmental sustainability and democratic and transparent management of natural resources.
- Review and where necessary revise the allocation of permits pertaining to the construction of hydropower plants so as to ensure compliance with international human rights law, including the International Covenant on Economic and Social Rights.
- Take measures to ensure that private enterprises, including when contracted by the State, operate under adequate regulatory frameworks, that safeguard environmental sustainability, and comply with human rights standards, including by giving priority in the allocation of water to the right to water for personal and domestic use.



Recommendations

- Introduce measures to prevent abuses of the regulatory framework pertaining to environmental protection and investment in natural resources, through inter alia independent monitoring; informed and meaningful participation of affected communities and imposition of penalties for non-compliance.
- When conducting human rights and environmental impact assessments, take into account the impacts of investments on gender-based discrimination.
- Guarantee affordable and accessible legal aid to communities, with specific regard to the needs of women and marginalised groups, in lodging complaints about allegations of human rights abuses resulting from business activities and investigate all such allegations.



Rights of migrants and asylum-seekers

Previous UPR cycle:

- Issue not covered by the previous UPR cycle

New developments

- Sharp increase in migration flows
 - Between 1 January 2018 and 30 June 2019 **34,967 arrivals** (UN statistics)
- Substantial lack of accommodation capacities
 - Maximum available accommodation in June 2019: **4,145 places**
- The precarious situation puts many women and unaccompanied minors at risk of trafficking, violence and gender-based violence



Recommendations

- Uphold its obligations to protect and assist refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, including by taking effective control over the process of administration of camps.
- Ensure humane, dignified and lawful conditions of detention and accommodation of asylum-seekers and migrants, making sure that gender-sensitive measures and reception conditions respond to the specific needs of women and girls, and that appropriate procedures and oversight mechanisms are put in place to protect them from the risk of trafficking, abuse and other violations.
- Undertake systematic and continuous efforts to sensitise and build the capacities of public bodies, including the judiciary, police, border authorities, health and education personnel, civil servants, municipal and government officials, and others, to promote and protect the human rights of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, and to address discriminatory attitudes and stereotypes.
- Take measures to assist in the durable social integration of refugees and asylum seekers in economic, social and cultural life, ensuring that they have access to education, health services and housing without discrimination.



OŠTRA
NULA

UDRUŽENJE ZA KULTURU I UMJETNOST
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ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURE AND ART

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**Copies of the report are
available at the back of the
room**

Thank you for your attention

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