



The Gender Monitor



Journalism instructors from Turkmenistan's higher education institutions at an OSCE Centre-organized seminar on innovative methods of teaching journalism, Ashgabat, 21 February 2014. OSCE

In this Issue

AN ADDRESS BY...

Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh
*UN Women Afghanistan, 1325
 NAP Advisor; Professor at the
 Institute of Political Sciences,
 Paris*

SPECIAL FOCUS ON...

*Understanding Gender
 Responsive Budgeting*

FROM THE FIELD

*OSCE Mission to Skopje
 OSCE Mission in Kosovo*

RECOMMENDED READINGS

*A selection of reports and
 resources on gender issues*

UPCOMING EVENTS STATISTICS

An address by...

Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh

Enhancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the Eurasian Region



Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh leads the Specialization on Human Security at the Master's of Public Affairs (MPA) at the Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po) in Paris. Since 2010, she has also been working as a consultant for the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia on implementing the Global UN Counter Terrorism Strategy among the countries of Central Asia, and since the summer 2013, with the UN Women in Afghanistan on developing the National Action Plan for implementing Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. She is co-author of *Human Security: Concepts and Implications* (Routledge, 2007) and editor of the book *Rethinking the Liberal Peace: External Models and Local Alternatives* (Routledge 2011) as well as the author of a series of publications on Regional Security Complexes around Afghanistan (South Asia, Central Asia and Persian Gulf) in addition to numerous other books and articles on human security, Afghanistan, Central Asia human development and peacebuilding. During the 1990s, she was a staff member for seven years with the UNDP, working in New York and Central Asia. She contributes to the preparation of National Human

Development Reports (NHDRs) and has been editor of past reports in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Iran and Nepal among others. Tadjbakhsh holds a Bachelor's Degree from Georgetown University (1987) a Master's Degree (1991) and a Doctoral Degree (1994) from Columbia University. She resides in Paris.

Implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (WPS) and relevant UN Security Council resolutions, such as, UNSCR 1325, 1820, 1889, and 1960, can help solve broader insecurities of not only women, but those of society in general, and contribute to peace and security.

To do so however requires first of all to define the WPS Agenda within the Human Security framework. Because different conceptual frameworks used to describe causes and consequences of conflicts and insecurity could impact directly on the formulation and identification of concrete responses, it is important to decide on the appropriate framework. To be able to use the WPS agenda, it is necessary to broaden traditional views of peace and security from narrow approaches to security. These currently include the realist perspective, which sees causes of insecurity at the regional level as the projection of power and rivalry between states, and the liberal /institutional point of view which sees causes of conflicts as incomplete state formation, with

institutions still being immature, markets incomplete, networks still in formation. The alternative Human Security approach would seek the causes of conflicts and insecurities in ways that people or groups of people feel either socially, politically, or economically marginalized, excluded and insecure. Insecurity is both the cause and

“Insecurity is both the cause and the consequence of indignities that people feel within states.”

the consequence of indignities that people feel within states.

The way to resolve and prevent further malaise would be to provide human security; ensuring well-being and livelihoods, providing protection, and restoring dignity to people.

When we argue for the need to include the perspective of people or groups of people, such as, for example ethnic or religious groups, the traditional way to

argue for their inclusion is through the human rights approach: that these groups deserve to be included, and participation and inclusion in decision making is part of their rights and their freedoms. While the ‘rights’ framework is morally and ethically desirable, the ‘security or better said, the human security framework can also

be used to convince policy makers of the importance of focusing on the human predicament.

The lack of

human security of individuals (their lack of livelihoods, dignity and safety, or, in other words, their lack of freedoms from fear, from want and from indignities) can threaten not only them as individuals or groups, but also the overall stability of the nation and the cohesion of society. Without people's security, there cannot be stability, progress, good governance, functioning and meaningful institutions etc. The very coherence and *raison d'être* of the state can go under question. As

UNSCR 1325 stipulates, women should be more actively involved as agents to provide security and prevent conflicts, violence and lack of cohesion in society.

To take the Central Asian region as an example, it is possible to argue and demonstrate how insecurities within the region have impacts on women specifically and how implementing the WPS agenda and UNSCR 1325 can contribute to tackling insecurities in general. Though Central Asia is overall a peaceful region, a number of insecurities and vulnerabilities exist in the region as a whole which have direct impacts on women or are impacted by gender roles. In these cases, women are not only victims but can also be agents of peace building. These include:

- Unresolved or protracted conflicts: Where peace has not been achieved yet, women suffer as much as men, if not considerably more, from instability, war, displacement etc. It is therefore crucial that they be included in peace processes and sit at negotiating tables. However, given that they are not involved in warring parties as warriors, their presence is often ignored at negotiation tables. Yet, they

“Without people’s security, there cannot be stability, progress, good governance, functioning and meaningful institutions.”

are the ones that can ensure a sustainable peacebuilding in the long term, if peace is understood not only as the end of war but as a long term process of dialogue, cohesion, harmony, development and rights.

- Conflicts over the sharing of natural resources (water, gas, energy): Often emphasized as a national and regional issue, the reality is that the conflict stems from the sharing of these resources at the local level by communities and that ultimately, lo-

cal users are most often impacted. As consumers, women can play an active role in conservation or development of responses involving the management or sharing of resources.

- Crisis of governance: To varying de-

“Given that women are not involved in warring parties as warriors, their presence is often ignored at negotiation tables.”

grees, some states may be experiencing problems related to corruption, pluralism, and fears of a leadership vacuum. Women’s political participation can play a positive peacebuilding role, notably in easing state/society relations and promoting a more human face to governance.

- Criminality: Violence will increase or be more prevalent in areas where organized crime is present. Though security sector actors play an important role in the fight against organized crime, women can also be involved in

their communities to prevent (name and shame) support for organized crime networks.

- Trafficking of illicit drugs: Trafficking of illicit narcotics in the region is not only the result of increased production in Afghanistan and increased global demand for narcotics, but is also proving to be a very lucrative source for income for economically vulnerable populations. In this regard, women and children fall especially vulnerable. Economic empower-

ment is an important approach to the fight against the trafficking of illicit drugs.

- Religious radicalization: The promotion of certain interpretations of Islam, alien to the region and especially

conservative, can increase tensions between religious groups, society, and the state. The various interpretations put specific emphasis on what should be ‘proper’ behaviour for women. Education, communication campaigns and responses should integrate women’s perspectives.

- Economic insecurity: The root causes of insecurities in the region can be found in economic insecurity. In Central Asia, there is an increasing trend of women migrating with men out of economic need, leaving their kids in the care of orphanages. Providing economic opportunities for women can help ease family problems, social ills as well as forced economic migration.

In conclusion, it is important to stress that women’s problems are not isolated issues: They are part of larger insecurities of society. Because insecurities impact women as well, and are impacted by gender relations, women should be involved in the prevention of conflict and in restoration of positive peace, not only as victims but as agents of change.

*Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh
UN Women Afghanistan, 1325 NAP
Advisor, Professor, Institute of Political
Sciences, Paris.*

Special focus on...

Understanding Gender Responsive Budgeting

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) website. At the top left is the UN Women logo with the tagline 'United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women'. Below it are navigation tabs: 'UN WOMEN INITIATIVES', 'SUGGESTED READINGS', 'FIND A GRB EXPERT', 'NEWS, MEDIA & EVENTS', and 'RESOURCES'. The main header area contains the title 'GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING' and a search bar. A video player is embedded in the center, showing a woman speaking. Below the video, there are sections for 'Latest Site Additions' and 'Resource Search'. The 'Latest Site Additions' section lists three items: an article on the paradox of GRB in India, a global seminar on costing experiences in Bolivia, and a new financing strategy for gender equality. The 'Resource Search' section offers filters by language, region/country, theme/issue, and type.

Government planning, programming and budgeting processes have critical effects on the advancement of gender equality and the fulfilment of women's rights. If a gender perspective is not applied to these processes the outcomes may in fact reinforce existing inequalities, discrimination and negative stereotypes.

The effects can be particularly detrimental for equality initiatives in times of financial crisis when governments employ austerity measures in order to reduce public deficits and debt. In these difficult contexts a gender perspective can ensure that government planning and budgeting processes continue to contribute towards equality instead of placing an unfair burden on any particular segment of the population. For example, women's gender roles in many societies include an unequal burden of care for children and the elderly, so when budgeting cuts focus on education and health services the impact is disproportionately felt by women. But, gender gaps exist in a wide range of sectors other than education and health, including employment,

rule of law, justice, police services, food policies, and public transportation, just as examples.

Gender responsive budgeting (GRB) is a tool designed to promote equality in a wide range of thematic issues and refers to the process of "identifying and reflecting needed interventions to address gender gaps in sector and local government policies, plans and budgets."¹ GRB initiatives also analyse the impact of revenue-raising policies as well as the allocation of domestic resources from a gender perspective. The allocation of Official Development Assistance (ODA) towards foreign policy goals is also analysed from a gender perspective by many bilateral aid agencies as well as OECD-DAC, UN and other international organizations through "gender marker"² systems. This allows information to be collected on how well governments are meeting goals on mainstreaming gender in humanitarian, development, peacebuilding or political programmes.

The goal of gender responsive budgeting is to create an evidence base of how policies and budgets contribute or do not contribute to equality and simultaneously build capacity among government servants to understand the impact of their work on gender equality, but also build capacity among civil society to monitor and demand accountability from governments for planning and budgeting processes.

Throughout the OSCE region a number of governments³ at national, regional and local levels have employed gender responsive budgeting tools to reduce corruption, increase accountability and transparency in planning and budgeting processes and contribute towards gender equality. Key partners in these initiatives have included civil society, parliaments and regional and international organizations.

The third chapter of the Annual Evaluation Report of the Secretary General on Implementation of the Gender Action Plan (MC/DEC/14/04) to be presented in June 2014 will focus on the issue of gender responsive budgeting among OSCE participating States as an important tool for achieving gender mainstreaming.

In 2014 the OSCE marks the 10th anniversary of its Gender Action Plan, which is a strategic opportunity to raise awareness of the good practices participating States have developed on gender responsive budgeting as a tool for gender mainstreaming.

- 1 UN Women. Gender Responsive Budgeting Portal. <http://www.gender-budgets.org/>
- 2 Gender Markers are tools to code, usually on a 0 to 2 scale, whether or not humanitarian, development, peacebuilding or political programmes are designed to ensure that women/girls and men/boys will benefit equally from it or that it will advance gender equality in some other way. The resulting information provides indicative data on how well ODA funds are gender mainstreamed.
- 3 These include Albania, Austria, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Portugal, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain and the United Kingdom, among others.

From the Field...

The OSCE field operations provide the framework for OSCE projects and activities on the ground. It is through their work that the goals of the OSCE take shape. To promote the exchange of ideas and sharing of best practices, each issue of the Gender Monitor features projects from field operations that highlight the various methods of successfully incorporating a gender perspective into their work.

News from the Gender Working Group

by Vesna Ivanovik

When one is committed to the gender equality principles, supporting gender related initiatives becomes an inseparable part of the daily work. This has happened to the all the active members of the Gender Working Group of the OSCE Mission to Skopje. During the year 2013 they finalized a Gender Strategy (2013-2015) that was adopted by the senior Mission's management. Also good practice of delivering presentations on gender awareness for the new Mission Members during the internal orientation programme continued throughout the year.

For a second consecutive year the OSCE Mission to Skopje supported the Boys Camp of the Young Men Leadership Project organized by the NGO "YMCA" from Bitola and the USA Peace Corp. The Gender Focal Points and Gender Working Group members delivered presentation on the OSCE Mission commitments to gender mainstreaming and the Gender Working Group activities. In total 60 boys from the whole country, divided in four multi-ethnic groups, discussed with the working group representatives about gender diversity, gender stereotypes and prejudices and how the new generation of young men (MenEngage) could help challenge the gender stereotypes and prejudices in given traditional society.



Gender Working Group members discussing about gender diversity with the participants of the "Boys Camp".



Professor at the Law Faculty of the European University Mrs. Zoja Katru with Gender co-focal points presenting the best 4 essays on the GBV forms.

Gender Working Group members participated in the inter-cultural Summer Camp in Struga with students of different ethnic backgrounds from Skopje and Tetovo municipalities. The summer camp's goal was to promote integration and equality, conflict prevention and mediation among young people, to strengthen participants' understanding of the value of intercultural dialogue and solidarity and also promoting the message of tolerance. The International 16 Days Activism against Gender Based Violence Campaign was marked and fifteen students wrote essays on different types of gender based violence cases and later on participated in discussions on how to combat this global phenomenon through the international legal framework on Human Rights.

Vesna Ivanovik, Gender Focal Point, Mission to Skopje.

From the Field...



Municipal Assembly member, Puhie Demaku (far right) leads the Prishtinë/Priština Women's Caucus.

The municipal elections of 2013 witnessed the selection of the first female Mayor in Kosovo⁴

by Ana Maria Mendez Sanchez

Prior to the January municipal assembly session OMiK supported newly-elected female municipal assembly members by briefing them on specific provisions of the new Law on Gender Equality. The new law mandates to appoint a minimum of 40 per cent of both genders in assembly functions, but still only one female candidate was selected to serve on the nine-member policy and finance committee. However, persistent lobbying by female municipal assembly members was yielding some positive gains as five of the 11 assembly members chosen to form the working group for the municipal assembly's annual work plan were women. This allows women to review initiatives and to make recommendations towards fair and gender-inclusive strategic planning.

The OMiK is currently entering its fourth year to develop advocacy capacities of women caucuses at the municipal and regional levels. In 2014 OMiK will enhance its technical support on specific initiatives, including best practice exchanges for the adoption of gender responsive budgeting at the municipal level.

Ana Maria Mendez Sanchez, Human Dimension Officer, Regional Centre Pristina and Cornelius Nolen, Senior Democratization Officer, Regional Centre Pristina.

⁴ All references to Kosovo institutions/leaders refer to the Provisional Institutions of Self Government.

Women judges and prosecutors in Kosovo⁵ establish a professional forum

by Sebiha Mexhuani

On 30 November 2013, the Kosovo Judicial Council held its Third Annual Judicial Conference in Pristina with support from the OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OMiK). A key outcome was the establishment of a Kosovo Women Judges and Prosecutors Forum. Those in attendance (70 female judges and prosecutors) formally established the forum resolution titled "Regulation on Kosovo Women Judges and Prosecutors Forum". The resolution recognized the vital importance of the advancement, promotion and participation of women in the justice system. It is hoped that the forum is an initial step towards the establishment of a Kosovo Women Judges and Prosecutors Association.

Sebiha Mexhuani, National Coordinator, Legal System Monitoring Section, Department of Human Rights and Minorities.

⁵ All references to Kosovo institutions/leaders refer to the Provisional Institutions of Self Government.

From the Field...

Regional conference on women's property rights

by Ana Gay

On 9 December 2013, OMiK together with the Kosovo⁶ Agency on Gender Equality and the Kosovo Cadastral Agency organized a regional conference in Pristina to promote and enhance the equal protection of women's property rights in Kosovo. The conference brought together 70 participants to reflect on best

practices and common challenges in the protection of women's property rights. Participants presented recommendations, which focused on the need to continue raising awareness of women's property rights, particularly in rural areas, and to adopt affirmative action measures to address current gender inequalities in the enjoyment of property rights. The recommendations highlighted that cadastral and registration officers must register all co-owners of properties, as women owners are often omitted from such records, thus directly undermining their property rights, especially in relation to economic benefits of property ownership.

⁶ All references to Kosovo institutions/leaders refer to the Provisional Institutions of Self Government.

Anna Gay, Senior Adviser, Equality/Non-Discrimination/Anti-Trafficking Section, Department of Human Rights and Communities.

Improving gender-responsive budgeting in Kosovo⁷ municipalities

by Fatmir Zylfijaj

Since 2011 OMiK together with other international actors has worked with Kosovo municipalities to reduce gender inequality by promoting gender-responsive budgeting. In 2013, OMiK's Local Governance Section focused on promoting awareness and understanding of gender-responsive budgeting in five municipalities.

As a result of the 2013 OMiK capacity building programmes, municipal officials reported that there is a significant increase of understanding among municipal senior officials as well as intensified efforts to support activities that promote gender equality. The five municipalities have started to collect and analyse gender-disaggregated data on education, administration and health in order to have a more informed policy and budget development process. Municipal officials for gender equality are more involved in the budget process, there is more financial support for gender related activities, and in three of the five municipalities' gender related activities have their own budget codes. In 2014, OMiK will continue working with these municipalities and will expand to an additional five municipalities.



Mayor of Elbasan sharing experiences with the Kosovo municipal officials on gender and participatory budgeting.

Fatmir Zylfijaj, National Programme Officer, Local Governance Section, Democratization Department.

⁷ All references to Kosovo institutions/leaders refer to the Provisional Institutions of Self Government.

Recommendations

OSCE 2014

Women as Agents of Change - Proceedings from an Expert Roundtable

OSCE Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe

With this publication, the OSCE Gender Section aims to further the debate on how to empower women of marginalized groups to become leaders and agents of change, not only at a local level but also on a wider scale. This report is the outcome of discussions led during a two-day expert roundtable held on 6-7 September 2012, hosted by the OSCE Gender Section in

Vienna. The publication begins with a short introduction to OSCE commitments on gender equality, migration, minorities, as well as, Roma and Sinti. The main part of the publication focuses on the recommendations provided by the participants of the roundtable on how to address the challenges to the inclusion of women from migrant, minority and Roma and Sinti communities, as well as on policies and tools for empowering these women to act as agents of change. Further, this document contains short reports of the various sessions of the roundtable.

Synopsis from / report available on:
<http://www.osce.org/gender/115941>

UNFPA 2014

Brief on Engaging Men, Changing Gender Norms



This MenEngage UNFPA advocacy brief explores the importance of changing social norms related to men's ideas and behaviors and examines several questions.

It considers responses to these questions in three parts. The first part focuses on "Gender Relations, Gendered Social Norms, and

Masculinities," which discusses the context of societal gender norms and their impact on behaviors. The second part of the brief deals with "Building on the Changes that are Already Happening," and outlines the broad shifts

in men's attitudes, and the gender equitable policies and programs that are taking hold globally. Lastly, the final section puts forth "Principles and Key Recommendations for Promoting Gender Equitable Norms Among Men and Boys," which highlights underlying principles for work with and successful engagement of men and boys to transform gender norms.

Synopsis from / report available on:
<http://www.unfpa.org/public/cache/offonce/home/publications/pid/16168;jsessionid=D753618A5670DACBF3B3F235F9909491.jahia01>

Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) 2014

Women's Resilience to Food Price Volatility: A Policy Response



Rural women, traditionally responsible for providing food and health in the household, face major constraints in fulfilling their roles, rendering them more vulnerable to food price spikes. This discussion paper points to two aspects that, in general terms, reduce women's ability to absorb and respond to shocks in a high and volatile food price setting: the inequalities that create

a gender gap in rural development and women's traditional roles in society and the household.

Synopsis from / blog available on:
<http://www.fao.org/gender/gender-home/gender-resources/gender-publications/en/>

Recommendations

Shirin M. Rai and Georgina Waylen 2013

New Frontiers in Feminist Political Economy



This volume brings together the work of outstanding feminist scholars who reflect on the achievements of feminist political economy and the challenges it faces in the 21st century.

The volume develops further some key areas of research in feminist political economy – understanding economies as gendered structures and economic crises as crises in social reproduction, as well

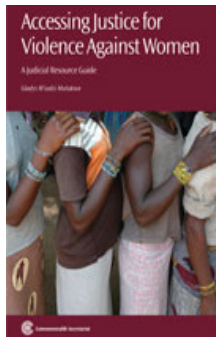
as in finance and production; assessing economic policies through the lens of women's rights; analysing global transformations in women's work; making visible the unpaid economy in which care is provided for family and communities, and criticising the ways in which policy makers are addressing (or failing to address) this unpaid economy.

Synopsis from / factsheet available on:

<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415539814/>

Gladys M'sodzi Mutukwa 2014

Accessing Justice for Violence Against Women: A Judicial Resource Guide



Violence against women is disturbingly persistent and pervasive in the Commonwealth with women's subordinated status, prevalent gender-biased norms and practices including patriarchal mind-sets contributing to such violations. Most Commonwealth countries have either a specific law to address the rights of women or broad legislation that covers domestic violence. However, the implementation of such laws has not been without

problems as cultural norms and practices often impede women's access to justice.

This publication aims to strengthen jurisprudence of equality on violence against women by bringing together theory and practice, particularly the analysis and summary of significant case law, to serve as a resource for the judiciary in jurisdictions connected by the common law.

It challenges the reliance on gender stereotypes which have influenced judicial decisions and elaborates on the relevant human rights standards for judiciaries to consider when adjudicating cases on violence against women.

Synopsis from / report available on:

<http://publications.thecommonwealth.org/accessing-justice-for-violence-against-women-986-p.aspx>

ITU and UNESCO 2014

Doubling Digital Opportunities: Enhancing the Inclusion of Women & Girls in the Information Society



Doubling Digital Opportunities: Enhancing the Inclusion of Women & Girls in the Information Society frames the challenges and opportunities we face in achieving gender equality in an era of rapid technological change. It closely examines critical gender issues with respect to new information

and communication technologies (ICTs) and broadband. Most important, it shows ways in which we can further advance the sustainable development agenda by promoting the use of new technologies in support of gender equality and women's empowerment.

Synopsis from / manual available on:

<http://www.media-alliance.org/article.php?id=2316>

Upcoming Events

10 - 21 March 2014

New York, UN HQ. Commission on the Status of Women. *The 58th annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women brings together hundreds of representatives of governments, civil society, academia and research institutions to discuss implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. This year's priority theme will focus on challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls and will review access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work.*

30 June - 1 July 2014

Brussels, Belgium. EU Gender Summit 4. *The GS4-EU will bring together experts from research, industry and policy to jointly establish practical and effective ways of improving quality and impact of research and innovation through the inclusion of gender in science knowledge making and application. The 2014 European Gender Summit will focus on strategies, tools, and processes that promote the concrete integration of the gender dimension into the European Commission's current Horizon 2020 and European Research Area programmes.*

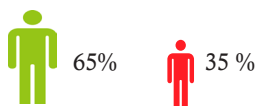
10 -11 July 2014

Vienna, Austria. OSCE Gender Equality Review Conference. *The OSCE Gender Equality Review Conference, to be organized jointly by the Swiss Chairmanship, the Gender Section and ODIHR on 10-11 July 2014 in Vienna, Austria, will be an opportunity to bring together national stakeholders from government, academia and civil society. Participating States will discuss: progress on implementation of their gender equality commitments across the three dimensions; the gender equality mechanisms within the OSCE as well as their coordination; and initiatives for enhanced implementation.*

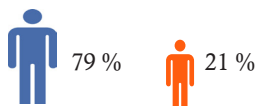
8 - 9 September 2014

Vienna, Austria. Conference on Safeguarding Freedom of Expression Principles while Combating Gender-Based Discrimination. *The OSCE Gender Section and the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media are jointly organizing a conference to bring together journalists and media professionals to discuss the intersection of freedom of expression and gender based discrimination and to collect good practices on safeguarding freedom of expression while also implementing self-regulation strategies to prevent discrimination.*

Statistics



Women currently occupy 35 per cent¹ of higher management positions², as compared to 37 per cent in December 2013.



Within the 57 Permanent Missions to the OSCE, currently 21 per cent¹ of Heads of Delegation are women, which is the same as in December 2013.



Within the 57 Permanent Missions to the OSCE, currently 32 per cent¹ of Heads of Delegation are women, which is the same as in December 2013.

¹ Data as of March 2014.

² P5+, Heads and Deputy Heads in field operations, Institutions and the Secretariat.

Gender Section | Wallnerstrasse 6A | A-1010 Vienna

For subscriptions and other information, contact: equality@tosce.org

Disclaimer : The OSCE Secretariat Gender Section provides the information contained in this newsletter and links to websites solely as a resource. All views, opinions, links and accounts included or referred to in this newsletter are those of the authors, and their inclusion does not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE. The intellectual property of OSCE articles is vested in the OSCE and therefore any use requires prior written permission from the OSCE. While the OSCE Secretariat Gender Section tries to provide high-quality content in its newsletter, it does not guarantee the accuracy, reliability, or timeliness of this information, and therefore, the OSCE will not be liable in any capacity for damages or losses to the reader that may result from the use of this information. Please note that the newsletter may contain links to external websites that are operated by third parties, which may contain materials that are protected by copyright or other third party rights. The OSCE assumes no responsibility or liability for the availability or content of external Internet websites. The OSCE, likewise, will not be responsible for any errors, omissions or inadvertent alterations that may occur in the disclosure of content in this newsletter or on its website. All photos are copyright OSCE unless otherwise marked.