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**The Center for Legal Civic Initiatives (CLCI) organized a round table on "Final CEDAW Monitoring Observations and GREVIOs Report for Albania - action plans for non-profit organizations combating domestic violence and violence against women"**

The Center for Legal Civic Initiatives (CLCI) organized a round table on "Final CEDAW Monitoring Observations and GREVIOs Report for Albania - action plans for non-profit organizations combating domestic violence and violence against women" with the participation of 70 representatives from civil society organizations, responsible institutions and other actors.

This round table was organized in the framework of the project "Establishing a network of non-profit organizations for a better implementation of international standards on gender equality and gender-based violence in Albania" implemented by the CLCI. The project is funded by the European Commission and implemented with the support of UN WOMEN.

The event was opened by Prof. Dr. Aurela Anastasi, Executive Director of CLCI.

Further, the event was greeted by Ms. Vasilika Hysi, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Albania, Ms. Erinda Ballanca, Ombudsman, Ms. Enkelejda Bregu, Representative of the European Union Delegation in Albania, Ms. Agustela Nini Pavli, Representative of UN WOMEN and Ms. Merita Xhafa, representative of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection.

Ms. Vasilika Hysi, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Albania, shared with the participants the approval by the Assembly of the Resolution "On punishing violence against women and increasing the effectiveness of legal mechanisms for its prevention", the establishment of the permanent parliamentary subcommittee "On gender equality and preventing violence against women" at the Standing Committee on Labor, Social Affairs and Health, drafting an action plan for the implementation of GREVIO's recommendations, CEDAW, proposing necessary legal interventions that help improve the treatment of women and increasing their life security, as well as cooperation with network organizations to monitor international standards combating violence against women. Also Ms. Hysi shared with the participants the adoption of the Resolution "On the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda".

Ms. Erinda Ballanca, Ombudsman, focused on the role of the People's Advocate Institution in preventing violence against women, the need for education, awareness raising on the phenomenon of violence against women and domestic violence, by undertaking efforts to combat them in less developed areas.

The project objectives and the approach to issues raised in the CEDAW Committee and GREVIO reports for Albania were presented by Av. Aurela Bozo.

Some of the issues raised by GREVIO's report for Albania were discussed at this roundtable:

- the Albanian state should take measures that address all forms of violence against women,
- increasing the role of the Ombudsman and the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination as protectors of violence against women victims,
- addressing cross-sectoral discrimination,
- strengthening the structure of combating violence against women; inter-institutional cooperation in the Referral Mechanisms,
- providing funds for social services by municipalities for victims of all forms of violence against women,
- the role of health personnel and reporting cases of violence against women,
- increasing the number and capacity of shelters, increasing the access of vulnerable groups to shelters,
- financial sustainability of the new national line for counseling,
- the protection of victims of sexual violence,
- approving measures for guaranteeing the victims' right to compensation,
- criminalizing some forms of violence against women, such as forced sterilization and mutilation of female genitalia,
- developing standardized procedures for risk assessment and management,
- effective execution of immediate protection orders and protection orders,
- establishing an effective legal aid system for victims of all forms of violence against women,

The next presentation held by Ms. Ines Leskaj, Executive Director of AWEN Network, was about setting up and strengthening a network of NGOs combating domestic violence, discrimination and violence against women. Ms. Leskaj emphasized the previous experiences of NGOs and networks, which will serve as a basis for the creation of the network for monitoring the implementation of international standards.

After presenting the reports, the participants raised important issues for the implementation of their standards. Some of these issues were: the role of the media in preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, the role of the NGOs network in implementing the Assembly Action Plan, the inclusion of gender equality issues and violence against women in the curricula of various faculties at the University of Tirana and other universities, the lack of information on vulnerable groups and their rights, the increase of NGOs capacity in monitoring the implementation of international standards and coordination of work between them, in order to monitor the implementation of the CEDAW Committee and GREVIOs recommendations, etc. Representatives of various organizations expressed readiness to be part of the network of non-profit organizations for a better implementation of international standards on gender equality and gender-based violence in Albania.

## **ATTENDING INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS:**

Forum of Women Elbasan,  
Albanian Helsinki Committee,  
Community Center “Sot për të Ardhmen”,  
Psycho-social Center “Vatra”,  
Alo 116,  
Counseling Line for men in Tirana,  
Shoqata e Grave me Probleme Sociale,  
Stop Aids, AIPA,  
Jona Association Saranda,  
“Të ndryshëm dhe të Barabartë” Center,  
AWEN,  
AIPA,  
Center for Roma Women Rights,  
ACPD,  
Center for Rural Women Development,  
UNCHR,  
Res Publika,  
“Unë Gruaja” Association Pogradec,  
Association of people living with HIV/AIDS,  
“Gruaja tek Gruaja” Association Shkodër,  
“Aleanca Gjinore për Zhvillim” Center,  
Women’s Network for Equality in Decision-making,  
Ad Litem,  
QSHPLI,  
Roma Education Fund,  
Refleksione Association,  
Albanian Center for Human Rights,  
Roma Active Albania  
IPSED,  
EU DELEGATION  
UN WOMEN,  
United Nations Development Fund UNDP,  
UNCHR,  
The Albanian Parliament,  
Ministry of Health and Social Protection,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Ombudsman  
Commissioner for Protection against Discrimination,  
“Aleksandër Moisiu” University, Durrës,  
Faculty of Law, University of Tirana

## Photos from the event



*Photo from the event*



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