

OSCE-LED SURVEY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF WOMEN

ALBANIA
RESULTS REPORT



OSCE-led survey on violence against women: Albania



This project is funded
by the European Union



www.osce.org

ISBN: 978-3-903128-20-0

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Background

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the world's largest regional security organization, deals with a broad range of security-related challenges, including the protection of human rights and promotion of gender equality. Among the Organization's main areas of focus are fostering regional security co-operation, as well as conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict management. The OSCE comprises 57 participating States, covering a region that spans across all of Europe and includes the United States, Canada and Central Asia, as well as Mongolia. Through the work of the Secretariat, three specialized institutions and 16 field operations, the OSCE works to address numerous security challenges and assists participating States with the implementation of their comprehensive political commitments.

The OSCE recognizes violence against women and girls (VAWG)¹ as both a threat to individuals and a broader security concern, and it therefore sees preventing and combating VAWG as one of its priorities. VAWG is a persistent human rights violation that threatens the security and safety of countless women and girls all around the world. It affects not only their lives, hindering their full and equal participation in society, but also the lives of those who are close to them; it ultimately has a lasting impact on their health and well-being as well as their children, communities and society at large as well.

Gender inequality lies at the root of gender-based violence against women and girls. The OSCE plays a key role in working with national stakeholders to build their capacity to prevent gender-based violence and to protect survivors.² Under the slogan "Bringing Security Home", the OSCE has stressed that women and girls need to be safe both in public and at home, so that they can reach their full potential and contribute to political, economic and social development.

Violence against women and girls also occurs in times of conflict, and the OSCE commissioned this qualitative and quantitative study in order to shed light on the prevalence of different forms of VAWG in non-conflict and conflict-affected settings in selected OSCE participating States: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, Moldova and Ukraine. Research was also conducted in Kosovo.³

This study, the first such representative survey conducted in South-Eastern Europe or Eastern Europe to provide comparable data across the region, encompasses gender attitudes and the experiences of women from minority groups.⁴ Its aim is to provide robust data in order to develop more comprehensive and evidence-based policies, strategies, programmes and activities to prevent and combat VAW. The ultimate goal of this research is to provide evidence for informed decision-making and advocacy at different levels and thereby contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and to a reduction of VAW in the target regions, improved services for survivors and greater security for women

¹ The terms "violence against women" (VAW) and "violence against women and girls" (VAWG), which are used interchangeably in this report, include physical, sexual and psychological violence by intimate partners and non-partners, as well as stalking and sexual harassment.

² This report uses the terms "survivor" and "victim" interchangeably.

³ 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.

⁴ The questionnaire used in this study was based on, and is comparable to, the questionnaire used by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in the 28 EU member states in 2012.



Executive summary

Introduction

This report presents the findings from the OSCE's qualitative and quantitative study in Albania on violence against women. Implemented in spring/summer 2018, the study involved:

- **fourteen key expert interviews**, which provided an overview of issues related to VAW and of conflict-related acts of violence;
- a survey of a **representative sample of 1,858 women aged 18-74 living in Albania** to establish the prevalence and consequences of violence using a multistage, stratified, random probability sample design;
- **seven focus groups** with women from various backgrounds, such as coming from rural or urban areas or from minorities (Roma), about their attitudes towards VAW;
- **four in-depth interviews** with women to review, in more detail, the impact of the violence they have experienced.

Key findings

Women are concerned about the issue of violence in Albania. Eighty-eight per cent think that violence against women is common and 53% think that it is very common. Thirty-two per cent of women surveyed personally know someone among their family or friends and 37% know someone in their neighbourhood who has been subjected to violence. Many women, who have been interviewed for the quantitative part of this research, indicated that they have heard of services available to help affected women; 68% had heard of at least one of the victim support organizations asked about. However, few women have actually accessed those services – just 1% of those who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence contacted a women's shelter or a victim support organization following the most serious incident.

Twenty-two per cent of women say they have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of a partner or non-partner since the age of 15. The prevalence is highest for previous partner violence: 23% of women who have had a previous partner have been subjected to one or more forms of violence by a previous partner since the age of 15. In comparison, 18% of those with a current partner indicate that they have experienced intimate partner violence at the hands of their current intimate partner, and 11% of women overall indicate that they have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of non-partners. Thirteen per cent of women report having been stalked. Thirty-four per cent report that they have experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15, and 17% report having been sexually harassed in the 12 months prior to the survey.⁵ Women in paid employment are more likely to indicate that they have experienced sexual harassment both ever (40%) and in the 12 months prior to the survey (21%).

The impact of the violence can be severe and long-lasting. More than half of survivors state they were left with feelings of anger and annoyance, while over a third felt fear. The psychological effects described include anxiety (25%) and difficulty sleeping (24%) following the most serious incident.

⁵ Also see a recent study by UN Women: Sexual Harassment and Other Forms of Gender based Violence in Urban Public Spaces in Albania (Tirana: UN Women Country Office Albania and IDRA Research & Consulting, 2018), accessed 3 February 2019, <http://un.org.al/publications/sexual-harassment-and-other-forms-gender-based-violence-urban-public-spaces-albania>

Only 3 % of women who have experienced violence at the hands of their current partner reported what they considered their most serious incident to the police

Violence against women is both a cause and a consequence of gender inequality that is perpetuated by existing norms and attitudes. The women who were interviewed for the qualitative research said that Albania was a society where women were restricted in their choices and behaviour and were expected to put their family first. Forty-seven per cent of women surveyed believe that most of their friends would agree that “a good wife should obey her husband even if she disagrees”. Nineteen per cent believe that friends would agree that it is a wife’s obligation to have sex with her husband even if she doesn’t feel like it.

However, such attitudes are changing. Indeed, on a range of attitudinal statements tested in this research, younger women, those who are better educated and more comfortable financially on their current income are distinctly less likely to go along with broad notions of women’s subservience to a male partner. However, it is important to recognise that this does not negate forms of violence within these groups. For example, women aged 18-39 are more likely than those over 60 to indicate that they have experienced non-partner violence (14% compared with 6%), while women who have completed at least some tertiary education are much more likely to indicate that they have experienced sexual harassment (60%) than women with only primary education (18%).

Twenty-six per cent of women also say they experienced incidents of physical violence at the hands of an adult before they were 15 years old, from slapping to being hit very hard, mainly by their parents, often on more than one occasion. This is perhaps a result of the fact that corporal punishment is considered a normal way to discipline children, a notion that is deeply rooted in tradition.

Women who have experienced armed conflict are almost twice as likely to have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of their current partner than those who have not experienced conflict

The years of instability during Albania's post-communist history resulted in widespread violence. A fifth of women in Albania are identified through the survey as being affected by conflict,⁶ almost all of whom experienced the near civil war in 1997 and 1998. Forty-four per cent of women say that the most serious incident of non-partner violence they have been subjected to was connected to this period, which was characterized by insecurity and the arming of much of the population. This research also shows that women who were affected by the events of 1997–1998 or other conflicts in the region are more likely to indicate that they have been subjected to current partner violence. For example, almost twice as many conflict-affected women state that they have experienced physical or sexual violence at the hands of their current partner compared to those who are not conflict-affected (28% versus 15%).

The research shows that women tend not to access services in the event of being subjected to violence. Fifty-three per cent of women who have been sexually harassed talked to no one about their experiences; most women say that they were able to deal with it themselves. For those who *did* talk about their experience of sexual harassment, the most common people to talk to were friends or family members.

Even following the most serious incidents of *physical and/or sexual violence*, 97% of those who experienced current partner violence *did not report it to the police*, and the same is true for 84% of the most serious incidents of previous partner violence. This may be linked to the belief, held by 48% of women, that domestic violence is “a private matter” that should be kept within the family. According to official statistics on the number of reported cases of domestic violence, women were the victims in 1,109 of 1,549 cases in 2017.⁷

Such attitudes are among the barriers that prevent women from accessing services. Some women express the belief that violence is not worth reporting, most commonly because it is not serious enough, but also because no one would be able to help. Additionally, some women are fearful about what might happen if the perpetrator finds out. The qualitative research discovered that women had little awareness of specialist services and a lack of trust in institutions like the police (see Chapter 5).

However, societal norms about speaking openly about violence appear to be changing, with younger women more likely to disagree that domestic violence is a private matter.

⁶ Women considered conflict-affected are those who have lived in a situation where there was an active and armed conflict for a period of at least one week and who answered “yes” to at least one of the questions listed in Chapter 4.

⁷ Women and Men in Albania 2018 (Tirana: INSTAT, 2018), accessed 3 February 2019, <http://www.instat.gov.al/media/4764/burra-dhe-grate-ne-shqiperi-2018.pdf>.

Conclusions

The findings of the survey and the qualitative research point to the following three key conclusions:

Cultural norms and attitudes in Albania support women's obedience to men, and sexual violence in intimate partner relationships is widely accepted.

Many women in Albania believe that women should obey their husbands, and sexual violence within intimate relationships is considered widespread and normal. These beliefs contribute to an environment where violence against women is tolerated.

Violence against women is under-reported, and women are not consistently accessing services or receiving protection.

Although the majority of women in Albania believe that violence against women is common and one in five have shared that they have experienced physical and/or sexual violence, most women do not report violence to the police or other institutions/organizations. Shame, fear of the perpetrator, lack of trust in the institutions and lack of financial support represent barriers to reporting. The national referral mechanism is a step in the right direction to address these barriers, but more needs to be done in developing the full capacity of this system.

There are gaps in the legislation, the implementation thereof and data collection.

There have been a number of recent legislative and policy changes in Albania, which will make a difference to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) when implemented. However, there are still gaps, such as the fact that the definition of rape in the Criminal Code, whereby the use of force or a threat of force is required to prove rape, is not aligned with the Istanbul Convention. Both experts and survivors of violence expressed the belief that it was important to *improve the rates of prosecution* of perpetrators

Recommendations

The recommendations that follow are based on the survey findings and conclusions outlined in this report, the qualitative research and a validation round-table discussion that involved the main governmental and NGO actors:

For the government

1. Implement awareness-raising campaigns on sexual violence, especially in intimate partner relationships, in co-operation with women's CSOs.
2. Analyse the causes and consequences of the failure of responsible state institutions to react in accordance with the rules and legislation.⁸ This analysis would serve to prepare specific recommendations to improve the work of the responsible actors and institutions.

**Shame, economic dependence,
fear of retaliation by the perpetrator
and mistrust of services are the
main barriers to reporting**

⁸ The validation round-table took place on 8 November 2018 in Tirana where 30 key stakeholders were invited.

For the Ministry of Health and Social Protection

3. Invest in establishing emergency shelters and additional rape crisis centres to destigmatise the reporting of sexual violence and offer proper health and psychological services to survivors of sexual violence.
4. Support NGOs in their efforts to promote intergenerational discussions to enable the sharing of perspectives and challenge the culture of silence that surrounds violence against women. This could include engaging more outspoken women, especially in rural and remote areas to reach out to other women who still consider violence a normal aspect of a marriage/relationship.
5. Conduct information sessions, especially with rural women, about resources, institutions and processes that deal with cases of violence against women.
6. Train healthcare professionals to play a more active role in referral mechanisms, in encouraging women to report cases of violence in general and in supporting survivors.
7. Continue effective management of the REVALB system in co-operation with municipality officials and other relevant actors.

For the Ministry of Justice

8. Ensure proper access to free legal aid for victims of gender-based violence.
9. Train judges and prosecutors on the issues of violence against women and domestic violence and provide them with training on relevant new legislations.
10. Collaborate with all stakeholders to collect all relevant national data on GBV court cases in one central database and carry out systematic studies on the data.

For the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth

11. Establish a curriculum for both girls and boys in elementary and high schools in co-operation with CSOs in order to prevent gender inequality and violence against women at an early age.

For the Ministry of Internal Affairs

12. Use community policing as a preventive tool to improve communication between police officers and the general public and as an efficient way to increase trust in the police and encourage more victims to report cases of gender-based violence.
13. Ensure data collection on GBV crimes in co-operation with relevant actors and ensure that the data is shared with stakeholders in charge of the database on court cases and the REVALB system.

For local government authorities and local referral mechanisms

13. Strengthen collaboration between central institutions and local mechanisms. Share best practices from municipalities throughout the country to help other communities that are struggling with their referral mechanism.
14. Establish and implement programmes for perpetrators as part of a co-ordinated community response associated with an effective criminal justice system and services for survivors in order to ensure a victim-centred approach that treats the safety of the victim as the first priority.
15. Ensure that the REVALB system is functional in all municipalities.

For the media

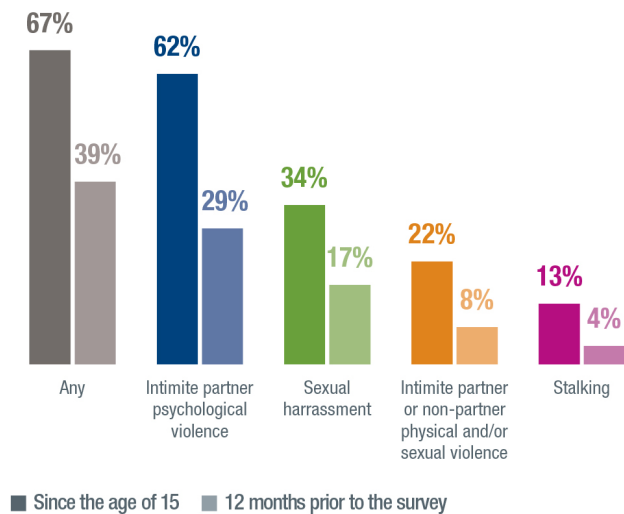
16. Support gender-related ethics training for the media to better tackle existing gender biases that reach a wide audience. Also, train young journalists on fair reporting of gender-based violence to avoid blaming the survivor for the violence she experienced.



A quantitative survey was conducted among a representative sample of women aged 18 to 74 living in Albania. A total of 1,858 interviews were conducted face-to-face between April and August 2018. Data have been weighted to the known population profile.

HIGH PREVALENCE OF DIFFERENT FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

HIGH PREVALENCE OF DIFFERENT FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



700,000*

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

170,000*

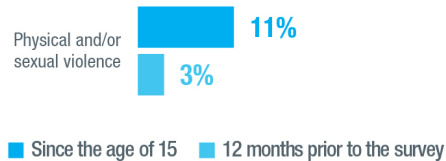
women have experienced intimate partner physical and/or sexual violence

120,000*

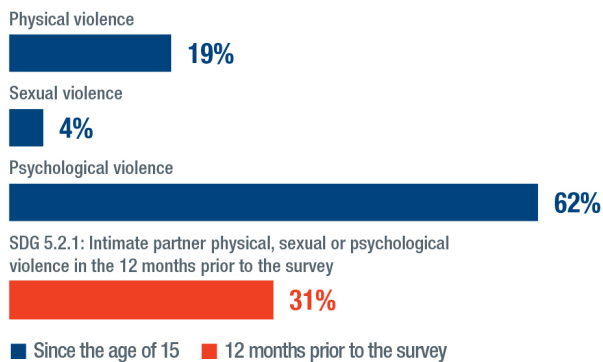
have experienced non-partner physical and/or sexual violence

*Approximate figures

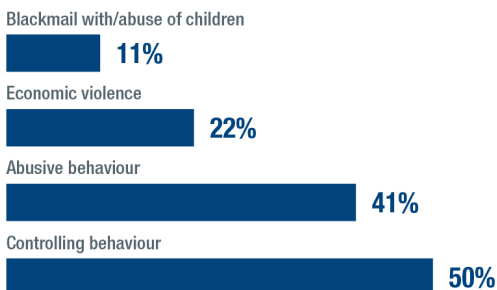
ONE IN TEN WOMEN HAS EXPERIENCED NON-PARTNER PHYSICAL AND/OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE



INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE



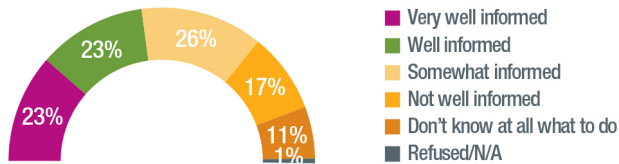
INTIMATE PARTNER PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE IS THE MOST WIDESPREAD FORM



Base: Prevalence of sexual harassment, stalking, and non-partner violence are based on all women aged 18-74 (1,858); intimate partner violence is based on all ever-partnered women (1,660)

LOW LEVELS OF REPORTING AND AWARENESS

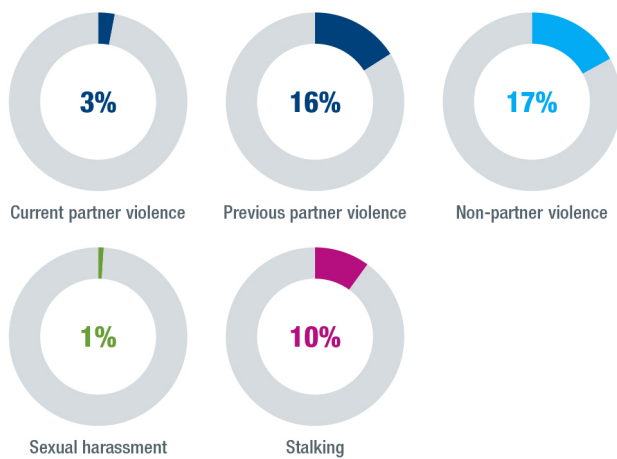
MANY WOMEN DO NOT FEEL INFORMED ABOUT WHAT TO DO IF THEY EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE



Base: All women aged 18-74 (1,858)

LOW LEVELS OF REPORTING TO POLICE

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



Base: All women aged 18-74 who identify a most serious incident of each form of violence - current partner (200), previous partner (68), non-partner (148), sexual harassment (419), stalking (168)

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

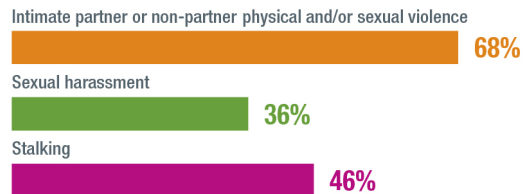


Base: All women aged 18-74 (1,858)

IMPACT OF THE MOST SERIOUS INCIDENTS

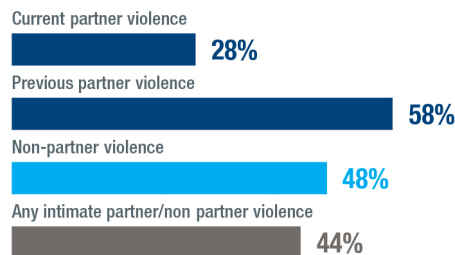
VIOLENCE CAUSES PSYCHOLOGICAL SUFFERING

% who experienced one or more psychological consequences due to...



VIOLENCE CAUSES PHYSICAL SUFFERING

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

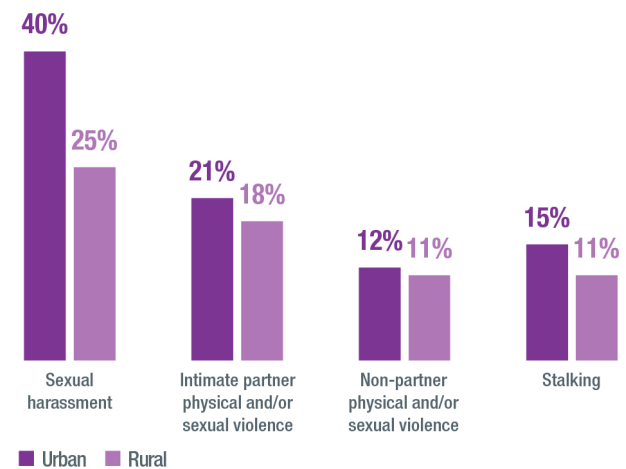


This translates into **78,000 women*** who were left with an injury or physical consequence, considering only the most severe cases they identified during their adult lifetime.

*Approximate figures

Base: All women aged 18-74 who identify a most serious incident of each form of violence - sexual harassment (419), stalking (168), current partner (200), previous partner (68) non-partner (148), any intimate partner/non-partner violence (329)

PREVALENCE OF VIOLENCE BY RESIDENTIAL AREA



Base: All women aged 18-74 living in urban areas (1,006), rural areas (852); All ever-partnered women aged 18-74 living in urban areas (891), rural areas (769)

The figures regarding psychological violence and physical injuries have been updated - figures in earlier versions of this report should be disregarded

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1. How to read the data

Introduction and main research goals

The OSCE led survey is the first survey that captures prevalence of violence against women in the Republic of Albania based on a representative sample of the adult population of women (1,858 women aged 18–74). The key demographics used in research were women’s age, relationship and work status, whether they have children, whether they lived in rural or urban areas and whether they were affected by conflict or not. The main goals of the study are to provide evidence of the prevalence of VAWG and its consequences for women’s health and well-being for the purposes of policy-making. The main research questions were:

- What is the extent of violence experienced by women in Albania?
- What is the extent of violence experienced by women in Albania?
- Which forms of violence do women experience in Albania?
- Who are the perpetrators of violence against women?
- What are the consequences of violence for women’s health and well-being?
- Do women report their experiences to the police or other authorities or organizations? If not, why not?
- Are there differences between women’s experiences of violence depending on their age, education, professional status, income or whether they are from a minority group or a rural area?

The study also aimed to achieve a better understanding of the above in light of whether women had experienced an armed conflict based on the definitions used in the study (see more in Chapter 5).

The OSCE-led survey asked women to distinguish between incidents that have occurred since the age of 15 and in the 12 months before the survey interview. This provides data that are of direct policy relevance with respect to current practice, such as reporting and responses to victims.

Comparability with EU data and with the area covered by the OSCE-led survey

This research is based on the methodology used by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) for its 2012 survey on violence against women in 28 European Union member states.⁹ This OSCE-led survey is therefore comparable to the FRA’s survey. The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) uses the FRA’s data in its current work and plans to use the findings of this study in the future. Finally, the OSCE study includes selected Eurobarometer¹⁰ questions on attitudes towards VAW.

⁹ Violence against women: an EU-wide survey. Main results (Vienna: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2015), accessed 26 January 2019, <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2014/violence-against-women-eu-wide-survey-main-results-report>.

¹⁰ “Special Eurobarometer 449: Gender-based Violence”, European Commission, Directorate-General on Justice and Consumers, November 2016, accessed 26 January 2019, https://data.europa.eu/euodp/data/dataset/S2115_85_3_449_ENG.

Reluctance to share

In order to better understand the prevalence of VAW, context is very important. The OSCE added to the survey several questions on norms, attitudes and behaviour of both women and men in relation to violence and experiences of reporting abuse. In comparing the OSCE's data with the EU's data on gender attitudes and norms (Eurobarometer No. 449), this study suggests that where more women feel that domestic violence is a private issue, there is a tendency that fewer women report experiences with violence than in countries where there is a longer tradition of raising awareness of violence against women. The qualitative research confirms this and illustrates that the taboo and shame linked to sexual violence is particularly prevalent.

Prior research

Two national surveys on the prevalence of domestic violence against women in Albania were conducted by the National Institute for Statistics for the Republic of Albania (INSTAT) in 2007, 2013 and 2018.¹¹ The first two surveys used a similar methodology and provided similar results.¹² According to the 2013 survey, more than half of the women surveyed between 18 and 55 years of age experienced domestic violence during their lifetime. The most prevalent was psychological violence, with 58% indicating that they had experienced this form of violence (during their lifetime), followed by physical violence (24%) and sexual violence (8%). The survey indicated that 25% of women experienced both physical and sexual violence during their lifetime. When the results were compared with the 2007 survey, it was found that the proportion of women who had ever experienced domestic violence increased by 3 percentage points. A higher prevalence of domestic violence was found among women who were divorced or separated, younger women (18–24), women with lower education, women who were not employed and rural women. The prevalence of women who reported violence or looked for assistance was very low: in 2013, only 8% of women who had ever been abused and 7% of women currently being abused sought help for the domestic violence they had experienced or were experiencing at the hands of their intimate partner. Among the women who sought help, the vast majority (90%) went to their own family. In 2013, the proportion of women who reported violence to the police or sought medical, legal or social assistance increased slightly compared with 2008, though it still remained low (15% sought medical assistance, 14% contacted the police and less than 10% sought other forms of assistance). The 2018 INSTAT survey had a sample of 3,443 households where women aged 18-74 were interviewed. The 2018 survey reveals that one in two (52.9%) Albanian women have experienced violence during their life time. 65.8% of surveyed women experienced dating violence during their life-time, 47% have experienced intimate partner domestic violence, 1 in 5 women experienced physical and/or sexual violence and 18.2% of women experienced non-partner violence. Findings revealed that 46.5% of women maintained that all or most people believe that a woman should tolerate some violence to keep her family together. The OSCE-led and INSTAT research complement each other and provide more depth and understanding of changes over time.

A guide to interpreting survey data

Where the percentages provided do not add up to or exceed 100, this may be due to rounding, the exclusion of "don't know" responses or the fact that respondents were able to provide multiple answers to certain questions. Throughout, an asterisk denotes any value of less than 0.5% but greater than 0%.

Privacy and anonymity

Interviews were conducted face to face by trained and experienced female interviewers. Interviews were conducted by using a tablet and in private on the basis of the principles of informed consent. The women interviewed were informed that all the data collected would be confidential and anonymized.

¹¹ The methodologies used for the INSTAT prevalence surveys and this OSCE-led survey differ and are not directly comparable. However, the general trends in prevalence are similar.

¹² Robin N. Haarr and MilikaDhamo, "Domestic Violence in Albania: A National Population-Based Survey", INSTAT, 2009, accessed 3 February 2019, https://mdhamo.files.wordpress.com/2010/01/domestic_violence_robin_final_5_24_09.doc; Robin N. Haarr, Domestic Violence in Albania: 2013 National Population-Based Survey (Tirana: INSTAT and United Nations Development Programme), accessed 3 February 2019, <http://www.in.undp.org/content/dam/albania/docs/Second%20Domestic%20Violence%20Survey%202013%20englis h.pdf>.

Forms of violence covered

The findings presented in this report are based on a set of questions asked in the OSCE survey concerning violence against women perpetrated by a non-partner or an intimate partner, as well as instances of sexual harassment, stalking, childhood violence and the impact of conflict on gender-based violence. The questionnaire was based on the definitions established in the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).

To measure the (reported) prevalence of each type of violence, women were asked if they had experienced a range of different forms of violence in various reference periods as detailed in Chapters 4 and 5 of this report.

- Regarding **physical** and **sexual violence**, a list of questions that were asked in the research can be found on page 23 in Chapter 4.
- Regarding **psychological violence**, a list of questions that were asked in the research can be found on page 30 in Chapter 4.
- In terms of **sexual harassment**, women in the survey were asked the questions listed on page 32 in Chapter 4.
- For **stalking**, women in the survey were asked the questions listed on page 31 in Chapter 4.

In this research, childhood violence refers to violence before the age of 15. A list of questions that were asked about experiences of childhood violence can be found on page 38 in Chapter 4. The questions, methodology and the age of the respondents used in the OSCE-led survey differs from those used in the Adverse Childhood Experiences¹³ surveys as well as the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys¹⁴ and the prevalence rates of childhood violence are not comparable.

Regarding the chapter on conflict and gender-based violence (Chapter 5), **armed conflict** was defined for the purposes of this research as armed fighting between two or more organized groups, attacks on communities or general insecurity caused by conflict, while women considered directly conflict-affected are those who have lived in a situation where there was an active armed conflict for a period of at least one week and who answered “yes” to at least one of the questions listed on page 43 of Chapter 5.

Partners include individuals to whom the respondents were married, with whom they were cohabiting or with whom they were involved in a relationship without cohabiting. Non-partners include all perpetrators other than women’s current or previous partners.

The **most serious incident** is defined as the incident that had the biggest impact on the surveyed women, either physically or psychologically.

An overview of the qualitative research

Fifteen key experts working in Albania shared their views on the current state of how governmental institutions and NGOs are working to prevent VAWG, what support is available to women who have experienced VAWG and what improvements they recommend. These experts included representatives of international organizations and of governmental and non-governmental institutions.

13 World Health Organization, Adverse Childhood Experiences International Questionnaire (ACE-IQ) accessed 26 March 2019, https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/activities/adverse_childhood_experiences/en/

14 Ibid

OSCE-led survey on violence against women: Albania

Seven focus group discussions were conducted with women from different age groups, women living in urban and rural parts of Albania, including one with women from the Roma community. The aims of these discussions were:

- to understand societal attitudes towards women generally and to understand VAWG and the perpetrators of such violence;
- to explore how attitudes towards VAWG have changed over time, including in periods of conflict;
- to explore the degree to which women are aware of existing support measures, their views on those measures and any barriers that might prevent them from accessing support; and
- to identify how prevention and support could be improved.

Four in-depth interviews were conducted with survivors of violence, including women with a disability. The aims of these interviews were:

- to explore the forms of violence that women have experienced throughout their lifetime and the impact of conflict;
- to identify barriers to disclosing experiences and to seeking support, and to explore reasons why some women choose to disclose their experiences and others do not;
- to understand the support received, to identify gaps in service provision and to identify the unmet needs of women from specific minority groups (e.g., women from an ethnic minority or with a disability); and
- for women who have gained access to support (formal or informal), to understand how they were able to access such support and the impact this had on them.

2. Legal, institutional and policy context

This chapter briefly reviews the context, key legislation related to violence against women,¹⁵ and to preventing violence and protecting women against violence, data collection and the impact of conflict on women. It draws on the views of 15 key experts who were interviewed and a literature review, including reference to the latest Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)¹⁶ and the 2017 baseline evaluation report by the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO).¹⁷

Introduction

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) impacts the lives of millions of women and girls and hampers progress towards comprehensive security for all. The OSCE, as the world's largest regional security organization, recognizes that VAWG not only affects women's personal safety and security, but also prevents them from participating in society or from using their skills and knowledge to their full potential.

The OSCE-led survey focused on gender-based violence against women perpetrated by their partners, family members, friends, acquaintances and colleagues, as well as unknown perpetrators.

Violence against women is a violation of the rights and fundamental freedoms of women, and a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women¹⁸. As gender inequality lies at the root of gender-based violence, it is important to take into account the broader context of women's status in the OSCE region in order to assess their safety and well-being.

In Albania, like in many other countries in the region and around the world, these structural inequalities are visible in various areas: political and economic participation; access to assets, income and services; participation in the economy; living standards and quality of life.

Albania has made remarkable steps forward in increasing women's participation in the legislative branch. Before a law on gender equality was adopted in 2008, the number of women in parliament was consistently below 10%. Following the adoption of a 30% quota for female parliament candidates, however, the representation of women increased to 16%. The biggest surge was noted in the 2017 parliamentary elections, as a result of which 29% of MPs are now women.¹⁹ At the local level, the introduction of a 50% quota for municipal

15 Trafficking in human beings and, more specifically, trafficking in women and girls for purposes of sexual exploitation is a form of gender-based violence against women. It is a serious human rights issue and a security issue. This study did not include questions on this type of violence, as researching trafficking in human beings includes a very high risk for its victims, and a household survey is not the appropriate research method. The FRA survey on which the OSCE-led survey is based did not investigate trafficking in women and girls either.

16 "Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Albania", United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 2016, accessed 3 February 2019, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW/C/ALB/CO/4&Lang=En.

17 GREVIO's (Baseline) Evaluation Report on legislative and other measures giving effect to the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention): Albania (Strasbourg: Council of Europe, 2017), accessed 3 February 2019, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/albania>.

18 United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 1994.

19 INSTAT, Women and Men in Albania 2018, p. 97

council candidates has led to a significant increase in the percentage of women on these councils, which is currently at 37%, while 15% of the country's current mayors are women.

In terms of access to education, a consistently lower percentage of girls attend secondary education compared to boys. The numbers are reversed in the higher-education system, where women's enrolment is 67.9%, compared to 44.6% enrolment of men.²⁰ There is a disconnect between the high number of women graduating from university and the number of women actually participating in the labour market. Some 50.3% of women, compared to 64.3% of men, were employed in 2017, a slight improvement for women's employment compared to previous years. The most common reason for women's inactivity in the labour market is that they have to fulfil household duties (31.6% of women not currently active in the labour market). In stark contrast, only 2.1% of men are unemployed due to household responsibilities.²¹

Structural inequalities in the labour market also manifest themselves in the gender pay gap, which saw an increase from 6.3% in 2016 to 10.5% in 2017²² with the manufacturing sector displaying the largest gender pay gap (22%).²³ In addition, while 23% of women were employed in a family business without pay in 2017 there were 12% men with such an employment status.

Violence against women can only be fully understood and addressed within this context, as the instruments that might be able to eliminate it are limited or reinforced by actions in other areas of life in which women are not equal.

2.1: National legislative framework and implementation

In the decades since the collapse of the communist regime, Albania has ratified key international human rights and gender equality treaties and taken substantial steps at the legal and policy level to address gender equality in society, including:

- The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1994) and its Optional Protocol (2003).
- The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- In 2013, Albania ratified the Council of Europe's 2011 Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention).
- In 2015, Albania adopted the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aim to address global challenges, such as poverty, inequality and climate change, as well as to improve access to health and education and build strong institutions and partnerships. SDG5 on gender equality includes a number of specific targets, including 5.2: "Eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation".

²⁰ INSTAT, Women and Men in Albania 2018, p. 52.

²¹ Ibid, p. 69.

²² Ibid, p. 64.

²³ Ibid, p. 75.

2. Legal, institutional and policy context

However, it is not a party to the UN Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages (1962).

Albania's legislation covers gender equality, domestic violence, sexual harassment, sexual and physical assault, rape within marriage, mandatory reporting and sex-disaggregated data collection

- The 2006 Law on Measures against Violence in Family Relations²⁴ aims to prevent and reduce domestic violence and to provide protection for survivors. In 2018, following a wave of cases of violence against women, the law was amended to include protection for victims who were not sharing a residence with the perpetrator, the issuance of preliminary protection orders and the inclusion of children in protection orders.
- Article 130a of the Criminal Code²⁵ (2012, amended in 2013) made domestic violence a crime. The Criminal Code also recognizes stalking (Article 121a), sexual harassment (Article 108a) and rape, including rape within marriage (Article 102), as criminal offences. However, the definition of rape is based on proof of the use of force or a threat of force and not on the lack of consent.
- The 2008 Law on Gender Equality in Society includes provisions against sexual harassment and gender-based harassment, specifically in labour relations, and the 2010 Law on Protection from Discrimination includes provisions against gender-based discrimination.

The CEDAW Committee's 2016 report "commended Albania for the efforts in addressing gender-based violence and the ratification of the Istanbul Convention". It noted the criminalization of domestic violence and marital rape, the fact that legal aid was made more accessible for survivors of violence, that economic assistance was being provided for survivors under a protection order and that the amount of evidence needed in sexual harassment cases had been reduced. In addition, the Committee noted with concern that: "Gender-based violence still remained an important issue in the country: it was under-reported, mechanisms of redress were not well known, and there was a fear of bringing shame to the family and fear of reprisal by perpetrators".²⁶

Most of the experts interviewed for this study agreed that while the legislative framework is comprehensive, problems remain with its implementation, particularly in terms of the effectiveness of protection orders. A two-year monitoring study of the district court in Tirana showed that 74% of women do not go through the process of getting a protection order.²⁷

As noted in the 2017 GREVIO baseline report for Albania, there are both legal gaps and divergent interpretations of laws in practice. This makes it more difficult for survivors to access justice and appropriate services. One such implementation challenge is "promoting a narrow interpretation of the offence of domestic violence or by introducing mandatory conciliation in the procedure applying emergency [restraining] orders". Other weaknesses, especially in terms of national referral mechanisms, concern the lack of proper enforcement of emergency restraining orders and protection orders, inadequate responses from the justice system and insufficient knowledge on the part of healthcare professionals and forensic experts about their duties and responsibilities in relation to victims of violence.²⁸

24 An English translation of Albania's Law No. 966918 December 2006 (with subsequent amendments in 2008 and 2010) "On Measures against Violence in Family Relations" is available on the OSCE's Legislation line website at: <<http://www.osce.org/albania/30436?download=true>>.

25 An unofficial English translation of Albania's Criminal Code is available on the Euralius website at: <<http://www.euralius.eu/index.php/en/library/albanian-legislation/send/10-criminal-law/56-criminal-code-en>>. Article 130/a of the Criminal Code.

26 An unofficial English translation of Albania's Criminal Code is available on the Euralius website at: <<http://www.euralius.eu/index.php/en/library/albanian-legislation/send/10-criminal-law/56-criminal-code-en>>. Article 130/a of the Criminal Code.

27 Respect of the Rights of Victims/Survivors of Domestic Violence in the Judicial Process (Tirana: Human Rights in Democracy Centre, 2017). Online: <http://www.hrdc.al/index.php/en/news/56-monitoring-of-tirana-district-court-protection-orders>

28 GREVIO's (Baseline) Evaluation Report.

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The same report noted with concern that “public opinion in Albania lacks an ... understanding of [the gender dimension of] violence against women and... [that] there is a tendency to promote forgiveness under the pretext of traditional family values”.

On the whole, the experts interviewed expressed the opinion that the legislative framework in Albania has improved in recent years. For example, laws have been amended to include crimes of marital rape, domestic violence and sexual harassment and to introduce protection measures for women who were cohabiting with their abuser; however, full funding of services and implementation of these laws is needed. It was also noted that the above-mentioned legislative amendments still leave certain gaps and are not completely in line with the Istanbul Convention. One of these gaps is stalking, as the experts noted that most support and protection services were only accessible to women who were living under the same roof as the perpetrator. The second gap is psychological violence, which is seen mostly as a result of physical and sexual violence but is not defined as a type of violence itself (even though it can be prosecuted based on the Criminal Code).

2.2: Institutional mechanisms and co-operation

A number of strategies that address human rights protection and the prevention of discrimination have been put in place, including the National Strategy and Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016–2020,²⁹ which aims to secure equal empowerment of women and men, reduce violence against women and domestic violence, and strengthen the co-ordination and monitoring role of the national gender equality mechanism. In 2018, Albania has adopted the first National Action Plan to implement the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. The action plan includes measures on how to improve policies dealing with the protection of victims of gender-based violence (GBV).³⁰ Albania has also adopted strategies and action plans to support the integration of gender perspectives in policies related to discrimination against minority and other disadvantaged groups of women and girls.³¹ In 2017, the Albanian Parliament issued a resolution that condemned violence against women and called for improved legal mechanisms for the prevention thereof.³² At the same time, the Parliament established a Permanent Committee on Gender Equality and Preventing Violence against Women. The Ministry of Health and Social Protection is the main body responsible for preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. The Ministry of Health’s National Council on Gender Equality provides advice and monitors the government’s commitments, especially in terms of the Istanbul Convention.

Albania’s national referral mechanism (NRM)³³ offers an integrated approach to services for survivors of violence against women and ensures protection and support for them at the local level. The deputy prime minister is the national co-ordinator for gender equality and is authorized to strengthen the NRM. A 2015 assessment³⁴ concluded that, while the NRM has generally performed well in its responsibilities, its functionality and responsiveness vary for several reasons. The findings of the 2015 assessment indicated that there is a lack of political leadership on the part of mayors to drive the adequate functioning of the system, that some mandated NRM members have failed to act in accordance with their legal obligations for effective case management and information exchange, that the human and financial resources provided are inadequate for extensive and comprehensive specialized

29 National Strategy and Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016-2020 (Tirana: Government of Albania, 2016), accessed 3 February 2019, <http://awenetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/SKGJB-EN-web.pdf>.

30 The Action Plan on the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, 2018-2020, accessed 10 March 2019, [https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Albania%20Action%20Plan%20on%20Resolution%201325_ENG%20-%20CMD%20524-11.09.2019%20\(1\)%20\(2\).pdf](https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Albania%20Action%20Plan%20on%20Resolution%201325_ENG%20-%20CMD%20524-11.09.2019%20(1)%20(2).pdf)

31 United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, “Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women Considers the Report of Albania”, news release, 8 July 2016, accessed 3 February 2019, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20263&LangID=E>.

32 Resolution “On denouncing violence against women and girls, and increasing the efficiency of legal mechanisms for its prevention” Government of Albania, 4 December 2016, accessed 3 February 2019, <http://www.qbz.gov.al/Botime/Akteindividuale/Janar%202017/Fletore%202012/REZOLUTE,%20date%204.12.2017.pdf>.

33 The co-operation agreement based on the Council of Ministers’ Decision no. 334, dated 17 February 2011 on the Mechanism of the Co-ordination of Work for the Referral of Cases of Violence in Family Relations and its Way of Procedure, describes the duties, responsibilities and mechanisms whereby all participating authorities must co-operate. Link: <https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/94182/110439/F-428843712/ALB-94182.pdf>

34 Elida Metaj, “Final Report: Analysis of the Functioning of the Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence at the Local Level in Albania”, 3 June 2015, accessed 3 February 2019, <http://www.al.undp.org/content/dam/albania/docs/misc/Final%20CCR%20Report%20June%202015%20engl.pdf>.

support services for survivors of domestic violence and that the frequent staff turnover at the NRM's representative institutions is problematic.

The 2014-2015 national report submitted to GREVIO³⁵ noted: "There are good experiences of effective inter-institutional co-operation in such mechanisms. However, such mechanisms do not manifest the same level of effectiveness in all the municipalities where they have been set up. Where there are interventions with external support, for example through international agencies, the projects implemented in co-operation with the NPOs and others have turned out to be more effective."³⁶

The People's Advocate, the Albanian office of the Ombudsperson, noted that only a small number of people from vulnerable groups benefited from the agreement with the State Commission for Legal Aid.³⁷ Albania's new Law on Free Legal Aid, which entered into force in June 2018, benefited from the input provided by civil society organizations (CSOs).

The Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination indicated that the implementation of legislation on violence against women suffers from the fact that it is not regarded by the authorities, especially the state police, as a form of discrimination.

2.3: Availability of administrative and other data

Administrative statistical data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, disability, geographical location and socio-economic background is necessary for an accurate assessment of the situation of women, gender inequalities and the extent and nature of violence against women. Without data, it is impossible to take evidence-based corrective action.

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection, in co-operation with the UN Development Programme, has been collecting data on every reported case of domestic violence since 2014. Stored in an online system called REVALB, this data can be used to evaluate how the authorities respond to cases of violence against women. The system is secure and confidential: codes are used to identify victims rather than their names.

The experts interviewed for this study reported that the data on violence against women and girls provided by state institutions tends to be inconsistent. There are significant geographical differences in reported cases of domestic violence, with women in larger cities reporting the crime more often than those in rural areas. Because of a lack of time, training or motivation, local co-ordinators do not always register every case of violence. The interviewed experts suggested that there is a need for a well-co-ordinated system that the relevant actors, such as local NRM co-ordinators, local police, the local courts and the healthcare system, can use to generate data and official statistics. The existing REVALB system requires trained staff to enter data. Local domestic violence co-ordinators have been trained on how to use the system, but implementation has been hampered both by staff turnover and by the fact that local co-ordinators also have to dedicate significant time to other duties, which makes it difficult for them to use the system in a systematic way.

In general, data on violence against women provided by state institutions is available to the public. In accordance with the Law on the Right to Information,³⁸ anyone can access public information for any reason. In addition, the Law on Official Statistics³⁹ requires that official statistics be disseminated, although confidential data cannot be shared.

Since 2013, the Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) has been publishing an annual statistical report titled "Women and Men in Albania", which presents sex-disaggregated data and

35 The Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) is the independent expert body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention).

36 The Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), Report submitted by Albania pursuant to Article 68, paragraph 1 of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Baseline Report), p.19. Online: <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016806dd216>

37 People's Advocate, "Report on the Implementation of the CEDAW Convention in Albania", presented to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Tirana, 2015. https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/ALB/INT_CEDAW_IFN_ALB_21837_E.pdf.

38 Law No. 119/2014 "On the Right to Information", Articles 3(1) and 3(3).

39 Law No. 9180 of 5 February 2004 (with subsequent amendments) "On Official Statistics".

information on gender issues in order to monitor “intersectoral policies in the context of achieving gender equality”.⁴⁰ A section of the report is dedicated to judicial data, which includes information on gender-based violence provided by the Albanian State Police, such as information on the prevalence of violence, the gender of the perpetrator and the victim, the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim and the type of violence committed.

2.4: Prevention, protection and support

Preventive activities can help raise awareness, develop understanding and effectively address violence against women. There are a number of broad preventive activities that are being carried out in Albania.

1. Development of the criminal justice system to hold perpetrators accountable

For example, domestic violence has been made a criminal offence, the penalties for perpetrators have been made more severe, marital rape has been made a separate criminal offence, committing a criminal offence against a victim subject to a protection order is an aggravating circumstance, and sexual harassment has been criminalized.

The CEDAW Committee noted that the number of criminal proceedings involving these types of offences increased after these changes were made.⁴¹

2. Provision of adequate legal, social medical and psychological assistance to survivors

So far, 39 out of 61 municipalities have set up national referral mechanisms, with the government planning to set up an NRM in every municipality in the country by 2020. The government also recently established the first National Crisis Centre for victims of sexual violence.

The functioning of the NRM has come under criticism recently, and the CEDAW Committee has also noted that support services were provided unevenly in different parts of the country.

3. Implementation of campaigns about violence against women and gender stereotypes

Albanian ministries, in co-operation with NGOs and international organizations, have organised several preventive campaigns. For example, the 2017 national campaign slogan was “End violence against women and girls. Report it!” Other examples include “HeforShe”, #*MosHesht* (Don’t be silent), “Men and boys, part of the solution. Show you are against violence!”⁴² and “UNiTE to End Violence against Women”.⁴³ The Ministry of Health and Social Protection⁴⁴ found that these campaigns increased awareness of violence against women, as the number of reported cases increased in the wake of these campaigns.

4. Challenge attitudes about gender roles

The most important form of prevention is challenging attitudes about gender roles that perpetuate inequalities between women and men. A variety of training has been provided for professionals who deal with violence against women. Introductory training at the School of Magistrates and the State Police Academy is mandatory for the police, judges and

40 Women and Men in Albania 2017 (Tirana: INSTAT, 2017), Accessed 3 February 2019, <http://www.instat.gov.al/en/publications/books/2017/women-and-man-in-albania-2017/>.

41 “Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Albania”, United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 2016, accessed 3 February 2019, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW/C/ALB/CO/4&Lang=En.

42 The Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), Report submitted by Albania pursuant to Article 68, paragraph 1 of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Baseline Report), p.19. Online: <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016806dd21643>

“UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign”, UN Women, accessed 3 February 2019, <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/unite>.

43 “UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign”, UN Women, accessed 3 February 2019, <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/unite>.

44 The Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), Report submitted by Albania pursuant to Article 68, paragraph 1 of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Baseline Report), p.19. Online: <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016806dd216>

prosecutors, as well as staff in other related professions. In-service training is also mandatory for these groups and for social workers, psychologists, counsellors, psychotherapists, shelter staff and local co-ordinators.

The experts interviewed for this study reported that a manual on how to respond to domestic violence was prepared for police officers as well as criminal justice professionals. Training on these topics has also helped prosecutors and judges overcome their own cultural biases.

The interviewed experts said that they regretted the fact that systematic evaluations were not carried out for training programmes to assess their impact, a problem exacerbated by continuous staff turnover in public institutions: every new government reportedly brings in its own new staff, who have not received training and do not know how to deal with violence against women. An academic expert interviewed for this study reported that healthcare workers and psychologists receive much less training than other professionals. Medical doctors need more specialized training on how to handle cases of violence, as evidenced by the fact that they do not always report cases of violence against women.

Women survivors of violence and those at risk of violence also need access to protection and basic services. There are nine women's shelters in Albania, four dedicated to survivors of human trafficking and five to survivors of domestic violence. Two are state-run and seven are managed by women's NGOs. They face a lack of financial resources and are only located in major cities. The 2017 GREVIO report on Albania congratulated the authorities for entering into an agreement with the Counselling Centre for Women and Girls, an NGO, to launch a single national hotline (116 117) that operates free of charge and around the clock in 2016.⁴⁵ However, GREVIO also urged the authorities to ensure the financial sustainability of the national SOS hotline. In recent years, local helplines have also been established, though most are not available 24/7 and are not free of charge.

2.5: Consequences of the political crisis of 1997 for women

The political crisis of 1997 that followed the collapse of pyramid banking schemes, in which much of Albania's accumulated wealth had been invested, led to a breakdown in the rule of the law and a period of violence and instability. Families were split apart, as many men went abroad for work. Organized crime was rife, and both citizens and criminal groups armed themselves. Institutions were weak, and corruption became endemic, leaving little space for proper justice.

The unstable economic and political situation provided the grounds for the re-emergence of traditional attitudes and values about women's role in society, which in turn contributed to violence against women. Amnesty International estimated in 2006 that the weapons that remained in circulation at that time contributed to higher rates of gun crime, including in cases of violence against women.⁴⁶ Human trafficking continued to spread as a common form of violence against women: a 2006 study found that around 10,000 young women from Albania were forced to become prostitutes in Italy and Greece,⁴⁷ often by their partners, who had promised to marry them and thus had permission from their families to take them out of the country. And if these women managed to escape from their abusers and return home, they could be killed by their male relatives in order to protect or re-establish family honour.⁴⁸ This historic context of violence sets the scene for the masculine values that still underpin violence against women in Albania, as reported by the 2016 CEDAW Committee.

45 GREVIO's (Baseline) Evaluation Report, p. 40, point 107.

46 Amnesty International, Albania: Violence Against Women in the Family: "It's Not Her Shame", 30 March 2006, EUR 11/002/2006, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/445616ae2>.

47 Mary P. Van Hook, Eglantina Gjermeni, and Edlira Haxhiymeri, "Sexual Trafficking of Women: Tragic Proportions and Attempted Solutions in Albania", *International Social Work* 49, No. 1 (2006): doi:10.1177/0020872806057086.

48 Gloria La Cava and Rafaella Nanett, "Albania: Filling the Vulnerability Gap", World Bank Technical Paper No. 460, February 2000, accessed 3 February 2019, <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/587091468742830114/pdf/multi-page.pdf>.



47%

Almost half of women in Albania aged 18–74 believe that their friends would agree that “a good wife obeys her husband even if she disagrees”.

19%

Almost one in five women aged 18–74 believe that their friends would agree that “it is a woman’s obligation to have sex with her husband even if she doesn’t feel like it”.

48%

Almost half of women aged 18–74 agree that domestic violence is a private matter and should be handled within the family.

88%

Almost nine in ten women aged 18–74 think that, in general, violence against women at the hands of partners, acquaintances or strangers is very common or fairly common.

3. Attitudes towards gender roles and violence against women

The research conducted for this report shows that norms and attitudes in Albania perpetuate gender inequality, creating clearly defined roles and expectations for men and women in both public and private spaces.

The women who took part in the qualitative research for this report said that the accepted role for women in Albania was to be loyal, obedient, quiet, caring, generous and strong and that they were expected to put all their time and energy into being a good mother, wife, daughter and daughter-in-law. Those who work outside the home are expected to strive to be a good colleague in addition to performing all their household and family duties.

The women who took part in the qualitative research said they were restricted in terms of what they could say and how they could act both in private and in public. In the family home, they may not initiate any family debates, and social interactions are limited due to the expectation that they should, instead, dedicate all their time to their family. In contrast, men were thought to have much more freedom to spend their time socializing with friends, drinking alcohol and gambling.

“Men are allowed to do everything. They can go out whenever they want, they can just stay in betting shops and drink alcohol and smoke cigarettes.”

Female, aged 36–55, urban

The women who took part in the qualitative research for this report said that they faced significant restrictions in their life choices, such as family planning decisions, which fell to their husbands and their family.

In the Roma community, women said that all decisions concerning their marriage were made by their family, including who to marry and when to have children. Some women got married at an early age and were also informed by their families when they had to finish their education.

“You should always obey your husband’s orders, do what your husband says, stay inside, and this is what your parents tell you: ‘What do you need school for? You are going to get married, and you just need to be good for your husband, your children. You don’t need school for that. What are you going to be, a member of parliament?’”

Female, aged 19–40, Roma

“We Roma women marry at a very early age. For example, I married when I was 12 years old, and I don’t want my daughter to do the same. I want my daughter to go to university. I want her to be someone in life.”

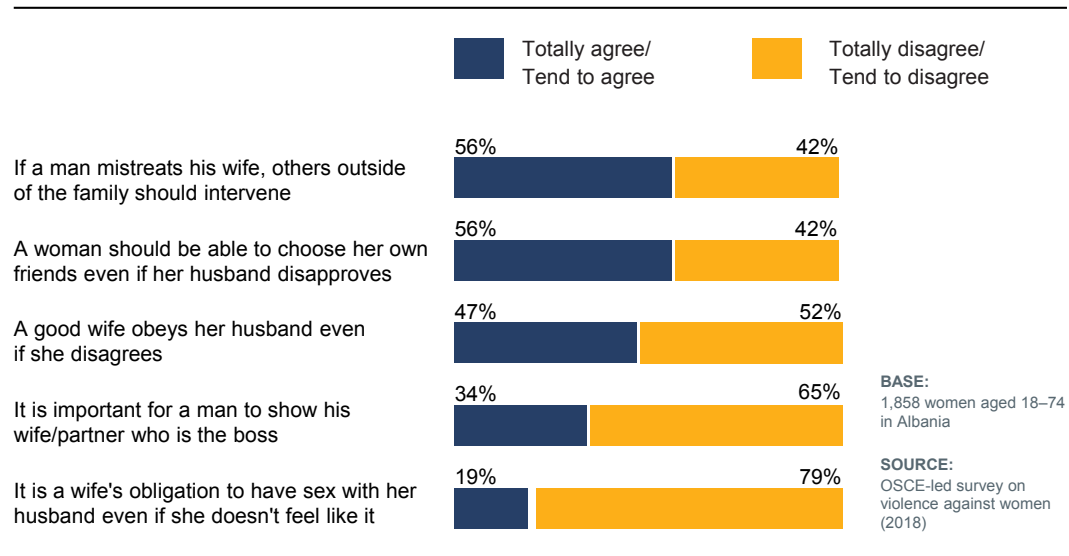
Female, aged 19–40, Roma

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The quantitative data shows that views are split in terms of what is acceptable behaviour for men and women at home. Fifty-six per cent of the women surveyed feel that their friends would agree, for example, that a woman “should be able to choose her own friends even if her husband disapproves” (Figure 3.1). Similarly, just 52% feel that their friends would disagree that “a good wife should obey her husband even if she disagrees with him”

Figure 3.1: Perceptions of social norms and acceptable behaviours

People have different ideas about families and what is acceptable behaviour for men and women in the home. Please tell me whether your friends would generally agree or disagree with the following statements.



Attitudes are most clear-cut on whether it is a wife’s obligation to have sex with her husband even if she does not feel like it, with 79% disagreeing that their friends would hold this view. That said, 19% say their friends would agree. Thirty-four per cent agree that a friend would think it is important for a man to show his wife who is the boss, while 65% disagree.

Views on whether others outside the family should intervene if a man mistreats his wife are consistent across different demographic groups. Only students (68%) are more likely than average to agree (56%).

Patterns by age, education and location become especially evident on societal views that challenge these attitudes and stereotypes. Women aged 18–29, with tertiary education, in paid employment, who are students, who do not have children in the household, who are comfortable or coping on their present income, who are from the central region or an urban area and who chose their spouse themselves are more likely to assume that their friends and family would disagree with the view that women should be subservient to a male partner.

In comparison, women over 60 with only primary education, women fulfilling domestic responsibilities, women with children in the household, those who are finding it very difficult to cope on their present income, those from rural areas, those whose parents decided who they should marry or women from ethnic minorities are more likely to subscribe to beliefs such as “a good wife obeys her husband even if she disagrees”.

3. Attitudes towards gender roles and violence against women

Respondents were given a range of scenarios and asked if sexual intercourse without consent could be justified in any of them, such as sex within a marriage or partnership, if either the woman or her assailant had been drinking or if the woman was wearing provocative clothing. The great majority of women do not think that having sexual intercourse without the woman's consent can be justified. More than three-fifths *strongly* disagree that sexual intercourse is justified in any of the scenarios given. Nevertheless, it is not a unanimous view. Around one in five women, for example, feel that sexual intercourse without consent could be justified when a woman does not clearly say no or does not put up a fight (22%), when she voluntarily goes home with someone (20%) or flirts with someone beforehand (20%). Seventeen per cent of women believe that sexual intercourse without consent is justified in a marriage or between partners who live together.

Women who are over 60, those who have had a previous partner, those affected by conflict, those with only primary education, those finding it very difficult to cope on their current income, those whose parents decided who they should marry or those who are from the north or south of the country are more likely to agree with such statements.

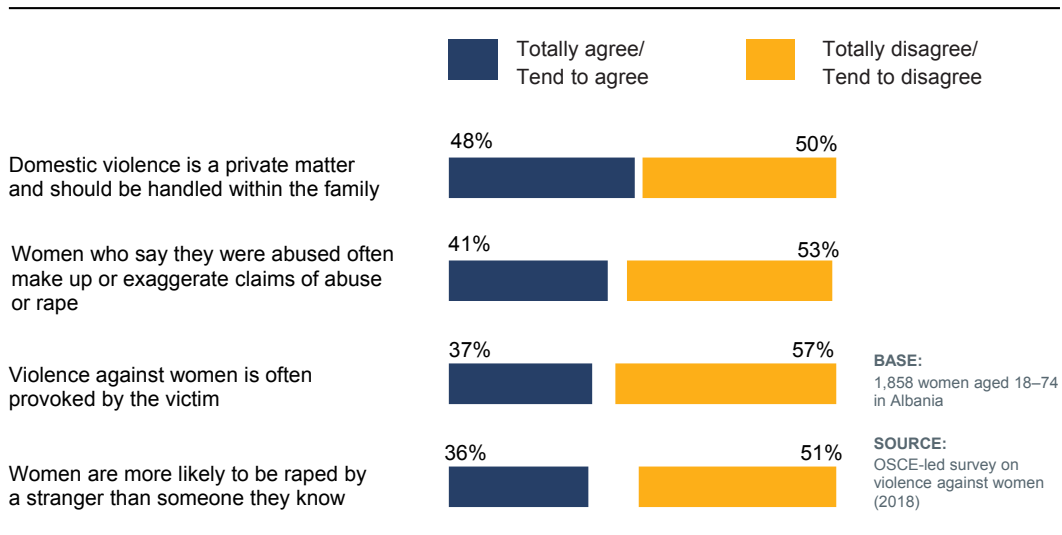
On the specific scenario of sexual intercourse without consent in a relationship, women aged 40–49 and women 60 years of age or older, women who have never had a partner, women with children in the household, women from rural areas or those from an ethnic minority are more likely to think this is justified. The groups of women who tend to be less likely to agree are those aged 18–29, those with at least some tertiary education, students from central Albania and those who chose who they married themselves.

Attitudes about violence are not completely clear-cut either. As Figure 3.2 illustrates, almost half of women believe that domestic violence is a private matter and should be handled within the family (48%, with 33% strongly holding this view). Women who consider themselves to be an ethnic minority are particularly likely to hold this view (70%). According to the European Commission's Special Barometer 449 on gender-based violence,⁴⁹ only 14% of women, on average, said the same in the EU. The EU range on this issue is from 2% in Sweden to 31% in Romania, showing that in countries with a longer tradition of raising awareness of gender equality far fewer women assume that their friends would agree to keep domestic violence private.

⁴⁹ "Special Eurobarometer 449: Gender-based Violence", European Commission, Directorate-General on Justice and Consumers, November 2016, accessed 3 February 2019, https://data.europa.eu/euodp/data/dataset/S2115_85_3_449_ENG.

Figure 3.2: Underlying attitudes to violence against women

Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.



Around four in ten believe that women who say they were abused often make up or exaggerate claims of abuse of rape (41%, compared with 19% of women in the EU, with a range from 7% in Sweden to 43% in Malta⁵⁰) and that violence against women is often provoked by the victim (37%, compared with 15% of women in the EU, ranging from 6% in the Netherlands to 58% in Latvia⁵¹). These views were recently publicly discussed in Albania in relation to an alleged physical assault. Discussions surrounding the veracity of the claims, which included accusations that the allegations were made for monetary gains, were given extensive coverage in the media.⁵²

These views are again more prevalent among women over 60, women who have been affected by a conflict, women with only primary education, women who have children in the household or women who are finding it very difficult to cope on their current income. As has been the pattern on other issues, women aged 18–29, those with at least some tertiary education and students are less likely to hold any of these beliefs.

The quantitative research found that women overwhelmingly feel that violence against women is common in Albania, with 88% saying that it is common and 53% saying that it is very common (Figure 3.3). This proportion is higher than in the EU, where 78% of women feel that violence against women is common (ranging from 54% in the Czech Republic to 93% Portugal), according to the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights Survey conducted in 2012.⁵³

50 “Special Eurobarometer 449: Gender-based Violence”, European Commission, Directorate-General on Justice and Consumers, November 2016, accessed 3 February 2019, https://data.europa.eu/euodp/data/dataset/S2115_85_3_449_ENG.

51 Ibid.

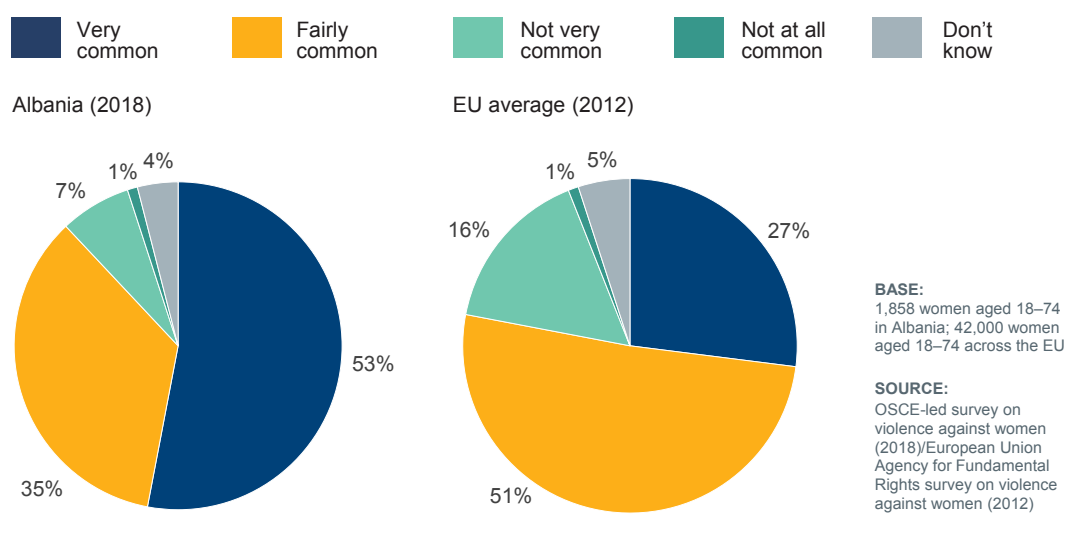
52 News article in Gazette Shqiptare, accessed 29 March 2019 <http://www.gsh.al/2018/10/03/fol-psikologjen-xhisiela-trauma-e-madhe-pas-intervistave/>

53 Violence against women: an EU-wide survey. Main results (Vienna: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2015), accessed 3 February 2019, <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2014/violence-against-women-eu-wide-survey-main-results-report>.

3. Attitudes towards gender roles and violence against women

Figure 3.3: Perceptions of the pervasiveness of violence against women

How common do you think violence against women by partners, acquaintances or strangers is in Albania?



Thirty-two per cent of women personally know someone among their family and friends who has been subjected to violence, and 37% know someone in their neighbourhood who has experienced violence.

Both figures are higher among women with a previous partner, women with at least some tertiary education and women who are in paid employment or studying.

In the qualitative research, women thought that psychological, physical and economic violence were all fairly common experiences for women in Albania. Psychological violence was considered the most common form of violence. In fact, it was viewed as so commonplace and socially acceptable that it was not considered to be violence at all but a standard part of how women in Albania are treated. Psychological violence included verbal abuse, controlling behaviour, restriction of freedom, humiliation and threats.

Sexual violence within a relationship was also thought to be common but not something that was generally discussed. Women believed that it was widely accepted that a woman should submit to her husband and that there is no such thing as marital rape.

“People don’t see it as sexual violence as long as it is being done by your husband... Besides, women are expected to satisfy their husbands sexually.”

Female, aged 18–35, urban

The women who took part in the qualitative research expressed the view that physical violence was less common and less socially acceptable than other types of violence but not unusual in Albania. They said that such violence is kept within the family, which means that their neighbours and society more generally may be unaware of the nature and extent of the problem.

“I think there is physical violence too, but it often goes unnoticed, because women don’t talk about it, because they are afraid of their husbands. [Their husbands], on the other hand, tell them, ‘Don’t tell anyone, because I will kill you’”

Female, aged 18–35, urban



One in eight women aged 18–74 state that they have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of a non-partner since the age of 15.



Almost one in five women aged 18–74 who have ever had a partner say they have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of an intimate partner since the age of 15.



Psychological violence perpetrated by a partner has affected three in five women aged 18–74 who have ever had a partner.



A third of women aged 18–74 indicate that they have been subjected to sexual harassment at some point since the age of 15.

4. Violence against women in Albania

4.1: Physical and sexual intimate partner violence

Sixty-three per cent of women who have, or have had, a partner say they have experienced intimate partner violence. For the most part, this violence has been psychological, but 19% of women state that they have experienced physical violence,⁵⁴ and 4% say that they have experienced sexual violence.⁵⁵ The indicated prevalence of intimate partner physical violence is similar to that of the EU, where an average of 20% of women (ranging from 11% in Austria to 31% in Latvia) have indicated that they have experienced physical violence, while the average for sexual violence is 7% (ranging from 3% in Croatia to 11% in Denmark).⁵⁶

Women in Albania aged 18–29 are much more likely to indicate any type of intimate partner violence (72%) than those aged 30–39 (68%), while women over 60 years of age are less likely (55%). Women with only primary education are more likely to indicate physical violence at the hands of a current partner (22% versus 17% overall).

Women who agree that domestic violence is a private matter are more likely to say they have experienced intimate partner violence than those who disagree (23% versus 16%). Furthermore, women who believe that their friends would agree that it is a wife's obligation to have sex with her husband are also more likely to say that they have experienced intimate partner violence (25%) than those who don't believe their friends would agree with this statement (18%).

Differences in indicated prevalence rates across countries:

It is important to note that countries with longer traditions of gender-equality policies and awareness-raising campaigns (such as the Nordic countries and in Western Europe) also have higher rates of women reporting experiences of violence.

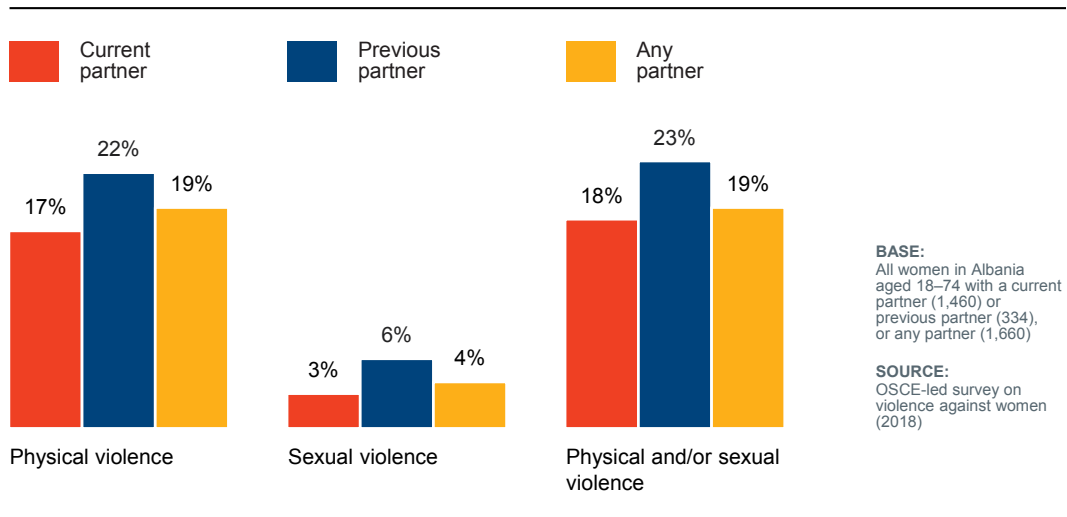
For example, according to the FRA survey across the EU, the three countries where women were most likely to say they had experienced physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of a partner or a non-partner since the age of 15 are Denmark (52%), Finland (47%) and Sweden (36%). The indicated prevalence rate is lowest in Croatia (21%), Austria (20%) and Poland (19%).

⁵⁴ With regard to physical violence, women in the survey were asked the following questions: has someone/a current partner/previous partner ever 1) pushed you or shoved you? 2) slapped you? 3) thrown a hard object at you? 4) grabbed you or pulled your hair? 5) punched you or beaten you with a hard object or kicked you? 6) burned you? 7) tried to suffocate or strangle you? 8) cut or stabbed you or shot at you? 9) beat your head against something? In this report, the prevalence of physical violence is based on respondents who report having experienced at least one of these forms of violence on at least one occasion. The prevalence of physical violence is provided for current partners, previous partners, any intimate partner (either current or previous) and non-partners. The reference period for non-partner violence was since the age of 15/in the 12 months prior to the survey, and for partner violence it was whether this had ever happened during their relationship or in the 12 months prior to the survey.

⁵⁵ Concerning sexual violence, women were asked: Since you were 15 years old and in the past 12 months, how often has someone 1) forced you to have sexual intercourse by holding you down or hurting you in some way? 2) Apart from this, how often has someone attempted to force you to have sexual intercourse by holding you down or hurting you in some way? 3) Apart from this, how often has someone made you take part in any form of sexual activity when you did not want to or were unable to refuse? 4) Or have you consented to sexual activity because you were afraid of what might happen if you refused? The prevalence of sexual violence is based on respondents who reported having experienced at least one of these forms of violence on at least one occasion. The prevalence of sexual violence is provided for current partners, previous partners, any intimate partners (either current or previous) and non-partners. The reference periods are as above.

⁵⁶ *Violence against women: an EU-wide survey. Main results.*

Figure 4.1: Prevalence of intimate partner physical and/or sexual



Women in the qualitative research expressed the belief that sexual violence within relationships was very common but was not discussed. It was widely accepted that a woman should submit to her husband and that there was no such thing as marital rape. There was a perception that some husbands forced women to abort female foetuses due to the societal preference for male children.

The women interviewed said that physical violence against women was the least accepted form of violence within relationships, as its potential impacts were seen as more serious than those of other types of violence.

Slapping was the most often described form of physical violence at the hands of both current and previous partners (Table 4.1). By comparison, the most prevalent form of physical violence in the EU is being pushed or shoved. The prevalence of being slapped is much higher in Albania than in the EU in relation to both current partners (16% compared to 4% in the EU) and previous partners (21% compared to 15%).

19% of women who have, or have ever had, an intimate partner say they have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of a partner

4. Violence against women in Albania

Table 4.1: Forms of intimate partner physical violence

How often has your current partner/your previous partner done any of the following to you?

	Current partner % ever happened	Previous partner % ever happened
Slapped you?	16	21
Pushed you or shoved you?	6	13
Grabbed you or pulled your hair?	4	10
Beat you with a fist or a hard object, or kicked you?	2	7
Beat your head against something?	2	7
Thrown a hard object at you?	1	5
Tried to suffocate you or strangle you?	1	4
Cut or stabbed you, or shot at you?	0.3	2
Burned you?	0.1	1

BASE: All women in Albania aged 18–74 with current partner (1,460) or previous partner (334)
SOURCE: OSCE-led survey on violence against women (2018)

Among women who currently have a partner, 3% indicate that they have experienced sexual violence, while the prevalence of sexual violence at the hands of a previous partner is 6%. Being forced into sexual intercourse is the most common form of sexual violence women disclose experiencing (Table 4.2).

Table 4.2: Forms of intimate partner sexual violence

How often has your current/your previous partner done any of the following to you?

	Current partner % ever happened	Previous partner % ever happened
Forced you into sexual intercourse by holding you down or hurting you in some way?	2	5
Have you consented to sexual activity because you were afraid of what might happen if you refused?	1	4
Apart from this, attempted to force you into sexual intercourse by holding you down or hurting you in some way?	1	4
Apart from this, made you take part in any form of sexual activity when you did not want to or you were unable to refuse?	1	2

BASE: All women in Albania aged 18–74 with current partner (1,460) or previous partner (334)
SOURCE: OSCE-led survey on violence against women (2018)

OSCE-led survey on violence against women: Albania

The women interviewed in the qualitative research described sexual violence in relationships, including marital rape and deliberately causing unwanted pregnancies. Some women said that they did not have the freedom to decide if and when they wanted to have children. Some said they had been forced to have sex with their partner against their will, including by being physically restrained. It is seen as the norm in Albania for women to submit to their husbands and to have sex with them whether they want to or not. The women interviewed expressed the belief that if they confided in another family member about marital rape, they would be told that it is their duty.

Patterns in intimate partner violence⁵⁷

The evidence suggests that violence in relationships can occur over a long period of time. Of those women who say they experienced the first incident of physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of their current partner five or more years earlier, 26% experienced the most recent incident in the 12 months prior to the survey and a further 6% say the most recent incident occurred between one and four years prior to the survey. For 29% of survivors of current partner violence who experienced their first incident of violence between one and five years before the survey, the most recent incident took place in the 12 months before the survey.

Of the women who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of their current partner 87% were living with their partner at the time of the first incident (or threat thereof), compared to 82% in the EU. When it comes to previous partner violence, 63% of women were living with their partner at the time of the first incident of violence (or threat thereof), compared to 65% in the EU).

Among women who were pregnant during their relationship with their partner and who experienced violence (or threats thereof) during their relationship, 23% indicate physical or sexual violence (or threats thereof) by their current partner during their pregnancy, compared to the EU average of 20%, while 34% say the same of a previous partner, compared with 42% on average in the EU.

The pattern of violence is broadly similar whether committed by a current or previous partner (Table 4.3). The most common form of violence described in respect of the most serious incidents indicated by women is being slapped, which almost three-fifths of women mention, twice as many as the EU average. Women subjected to violence at the hands of previous partners are more likely to say they have experienced most of the types of violence asked about, notably being pushed or shoved, being punched or beaten with a hard object or having their head beaten against something.

⁵⁷ While the reporting rates/prevalence of physical and sexual violence discussed above do not include threats of such violence, other questions related to when such violence occurred and the details of the most serious incidents do include threats of violence.

4. Violence against women in Albania

Table 4.3: Most serious incident of intimate partner violence

I would like you to think about the most serious incident by your current/previous partner. Which of the things on this card happened at that time? By "most serious", we mean an incident that had the biggest impact on you.

	Current partner %	Previous partner %
Slapped you	57	57
Threatened to hurt you physically	15	26
Pushed you or shoved you	14	32
Grabbed you or pulled your hair	13	22
Threw a hard object at you	5	16
You have consented to sexual activity because you were afraid of what might happen if you refused	4	3
Tried to suffocate you or strangle you	4	10
Beat you with a fist or a hard object, or kicked you	3	18
Forced you into sexual intercourse by holding you down or hurting you in some way	3	12
Made you take part in any form of sexual activity when you did not want to or you were unable to refuse	2	5
Beat your head against something	2	15
Attempted to force you into sexual intercourse by holding you down or hurting you in some way	1	11
Cut or stabbed you, or shot at you	1	5
Threatened you with violent sexual acts (like rape, forced pregnancy, etc.) in a way that really frightened you	1	1
Burned you	0	2

BASE: All women in Albania aged 18–74 who have ever experienced violence from a current partner (265) or previous partner (81)

SOURCE: OSCE-led survey on violence against women (2018)

Around three in ten women say that children living with them have been aware of violence by their current partners (27%) or previous partners (31%). Women with only primary education, women who are finding it very difficult to cope, women who live in the northern part of the country and women who are conflict-affected are more likely to indicate that children have witnessed violence at the hands of their current partner.

Women in the qualitative research who had experienced violence described being hit and beaten regularly by their husbands, with some saying that they were beaten until they lost consciousness on some occasions. Few women in these situations were allowed by their partners to work, and the ones who did said that their partner took away their income.

Case study: E.'s story

- At the age of 12, E was attending school, but stories about girls being kidnapped in the area frightened her mother, and she was forced to leave school.
- At the age of 17, E was pressured by her family into marrying a man she did not know, who lived in a different town. She moved in with her husband and his brothers and parents.
- From the start of their marriage, E was subjected to physical violence by her husband: he beat her, slapped her and kicked her. She was also subjected to sexual violence, and if she did not want to have sex with her husband, he complained to his mother, who would force her to comply with his wishes.
- E was also subjected to verbal and psychological abuse by her mother-in-law, who would frequently invade her privacy.
- E's parents realized something was wrong and took her back to live with them, and E divorced her husband.
- E then married again due to pressure from her mother. Her second husband also physically assaulted her. After serving a prison sentence for a different crime, however, he stopped hurting her.

Physical and sexual violence in the 12 months prior to the survey

Seven per cent of women state that they experienced physical violence by a current or previous partner in the 12 months prior to the survey, and 1% indicate that they experienced sexual violence during this period.

The most prevalent forms of physical or sexual violence that women report that they experienced in the 12 months before the survey at the hands of their current partners are being slapped (6%), being pushed or shoved (3%) and being grabbed or having their hair pulled (2%). Being slapped (2%) or pushed or shoved (2%) are also the most prevalent forms of violence at the hands of previous partners in the 12 months prior to the survey.

4.1.1: Intimate partner psychological violence

The qualitative research showed that psychological, physical and economic violence were all fairly common experiences for women. Psychological violence, which includes verbal abuse, controlling behaviour, restriction of freedom, humiliation and threats, was thought of as the most common form of violence in relationships regardless of where the couple lived, their age or their education level. In fact, it was viewed as so commonplace and socially acceptable that it was not considered to be violence at all but a standard part of how women in Albania were treated.

The women who took part in the qualitative research expressed the belief that psychological violence was a common experience for women in Albania and that it started at a young age. Women said that young girls were often subjected to this type of violence by their fathers and brothers growing up and were then further subjected to it by their partners once they were married.

Psychological intimate partner violence (IPV) was viewed as the most common form of violence in Albania, so common that it was unremarkable unless it became particularly severe. Women in the qualitative research were able to provide numerous examples of psychological violence they had experienced, witnessed or heard about.

“The husband comes back home. ‘What have you done today? Why did you do this? Why didn’t you do that? I told you to do this!’ She tries to justify what she did. He gets angry and starts insulting her. Then a heated debate starts, where he loses his mind. The woman cannot do anything but withdraw, or justify herself, or tremble. Four or five hours pass by without talking to one another. He says he wants to eat. She says, ‘You can make it yourself.’ So, this takes a toll on the children. The next day comes, again they quarrel about something else. So, men are not tolerant. Lunch is not ready at 1:00 p.m., but it is not the end of the world. He should wait half an hour. This leads nowhere.”

Female, aged 36–50, urban

For some women, psychological violence became so severe that they had no control over their lives. Some of the women who experienced IPV said they had been prevented from having any contact with friends or family, were not allowed to work and could not leave the house. Women with these experiences described the long-term impact this violence had on their mental health and sense of self-worth. Those who had experienced physical violence as well said that the impact of psychological violence was more serious and longer-lasting than any physical mistreatment they had experienced.

“If you are not allowed to do anything and if you’re just like a football at the feet of a man, with men using you, ordering you about, that is the worst type of violence. Why do I say this? I say this because it deprives you of your identity. You have no respect for yourself. You cannot take any decisions for yourself. So, your life is in somebody else’s hands, while your husband’s life is not really in your hands.”

Female, aged 36–50, urban

Indeed, the survey findings indicate that more than three in five women who have ever had a partner state that they have encountered psychological violence at the hands of their current or previous partner (62% compared to the EU average of 43%). Eighteen per cent of women who have been or are in a relationship say they have experienced intimate partner psychological violence in the 12 months prior to the survey.⁵⁸

The various forms of psychological violence asked about were categorized into four broad types as follows.⁵⁹

**More than three in five women
who have ever had a partner
state that they have encountered
psychological violence at the hands
of their current or previous partner**

⁵⁸ See Annex 3, SDG 5.2.1 for details on how the 12 Month prevalence of psychological violence is calculated.

⁵⁹ The forms of psychological violence in italics were not asked about in the FRA survey.

Economic violence, which includes being prevented from making decisions about family finances and from shopping independently and being forbidden to work outside the home.

Controlling behaviours, which include situations where a woman's partner tries to keep her from seeing her friends, *restricts her use of social media sites (such as Facebook, Twitter, etc.)*, tries to restrict contact with her birth family or relatives, insists on knowing where she is in a way that goes beyond general concern, gets angry if she speaks with another man, suspects that she has been unfaithful, *forbids the use of contraception or otherwise restricts decisions on family planning, prevents her from completing school or starting a new educational course, wants to decide what clothes she can wear or expects to be asked for permission so she can see a doctor.*

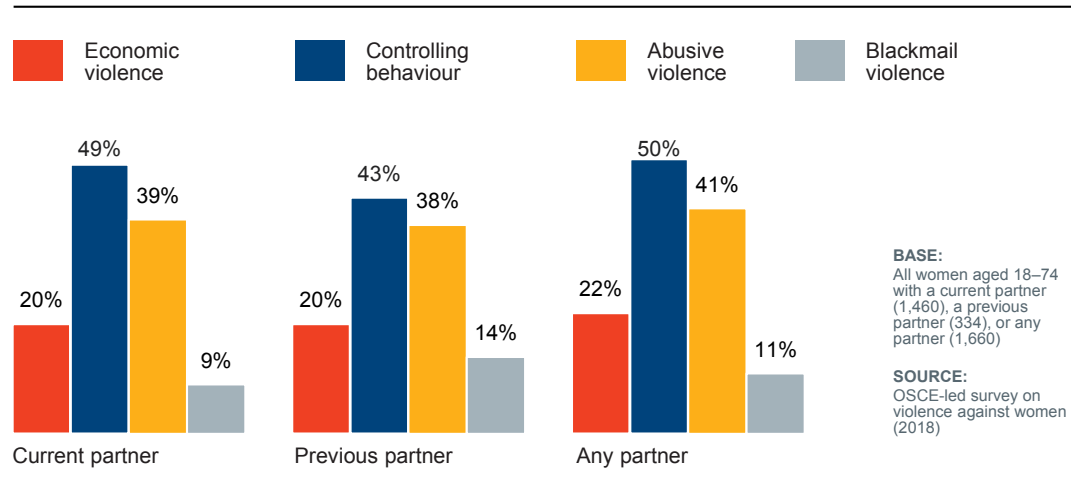
Abusive behaviours, which include situations where a woman's partner forbids her to leave the house at all or *forbids her to leave the house without being accompanied by a relative*, takes away her car keys or locks her up, belittles or humiliates her in front of other people or in private, purposefully scares or intimidates her (e.g., by yelling or smashing things), makes her watch or look at pornographic material against her wishes, threatens to hurt or kill someone she cares about (other than her children), threatens to hurt her physically, *threatens her with violent sexual acts (like rape, forced pregnancy, etc.) and hurts or threatens to hurt her when visiting, picking up or bringing back her children (previous partner only).*

Blackmail a woman with her children or abusing her children, which includes threatening to take her children away, threatening to hurt her children, hurting her children or making threats concerning the custody of her children (previous partner only).

Women who are in a relationship were asked if any of these things had happened sometimes, often or all of the time or had never happened, while women who had been in previous relationships were asked if any of their previous partners had ever done any of these things to them.⁶⁰

Overall, 50% of women who have ever had a partner have experienced controlling behaviours and 41% abusive behaviours. One in five (22%) say they have experienced economic violence, while 11% of ever-partnered women who have children say they have been blackmailed with their children or their children have been abused.

⁶⁰ In relation to being threatened with physical or sexual violence, women were asked how many times their current and/or previous partner had ever done this and how often they had done it in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Figure 4.2: Prevalence of the different forms of intimate partner psychological violence

The three forms of psychological violence most commonly mentioned in relation to current partners are insisting on knowing where the woman is going beyond normal concern (31% versus 8% in the EU), being belittled or humiliated in private (29% versus 11% in the EU) and the partner getting angry if the woman speaks with another man (27% versus 9% in the EU). These are also the most common forms of violence indicated in relation to a previous partner, along with suspicion that the woman is being unfaithful. While the same three forms of psychological violence by current partners are also the most common forms prevalent in the EU, the prevalence is three to four times higher in Albania.

4.2: Stalking

Thirteen per cent of women have been stalked⁶¹ at some point since they were 15 years old. This is lower than the EU average of 18%, which ranges from 8% in Romania to 33% in Sweden, although it is in line with the prevalence in Croatia of 13%. Four per cent of women experienced this in the 12 months prior to the survey. The most common forms of stalking are offensive, threatening or silent calls (7%, compared to the EU average of 11%) and being deliberately followed around (5%, compared with 8% in the EU). Among those who have been stalked, 18–39-year-olds are more likely than older women to indicate that they have received offensive emails and text messages in relation to the most serious incident they have experienced.

Perpetrators of stalking are most likely to be unknown to the woman (69%), but 11% of women who have experienced stalking identify a current or previous partner and 19% someone the woman knew (but who was not further identified) as the perpetrator.

In 49% of the most serious cases, the stalking ends after a few days, and in 74% of cases it ends in less than three months. Sometimes, however, stalking continues for a long time. In 14% of cases, for example, it lasts over two years, and in 8% over five years, compared to the EU average, where stalking lasts over two years in 10% cases and over five years in 11% of cases.

The most serious experience generally made the woman feel angry or annoyed (42% and 38%), but in 35% of cases it also frightened the woman. Embarrassment was the most common emotion among 18–29-year-olds (46%), followed by fear (42%).

⁶¹ For stalking, women in the survey were asked the following questions: Since you were 15 years old until now/in the past 12 months, has the same person repeatedly done one or more of the following things to you: 1) sent you emails, text messages (SMS) or instant messages that were offensive or threatening? 2) sent you letters or cards that were offensive or threatening? 3) made offensive, threatening or silent phone calls to you? 4) posted offensive comments about you on the Internet? 5) shared intimate photos or videos of you on the Internet or by mobile phone? 6) loitered or waited for you outside your home, workplace or school without a legitimate reason? 7) deliberately followed you around? 8) deliberately interfered with or damaged your property? The prevalence of stalking is based on respondents who reported having experienced one or more of the forms of stalking listed above.

Longer-term psychological consequences include anxiety (22%) and difficulty sleeping (22%). Women 18–29 years old were more likely than average to feel vulnerable (24% compared to 14% overall).

Following the most serious incident, almost half of women talk about it with friends or relatives (48%, compared to 77% in the EU). In about a quarter of cases, the woman confronted the perpetrator (24% versus 43% in the EU), while 15% threatened the perpetrator with police or legal action. The police were informed about 13% of the most serious incidents (compared to 26% in the EU, ranging from 8% in Greece to 40% in Austria). Those who have children are more likely to have reported stalking (16% compared to 2%). The main reason for not reporting the most serious incident to the police was that the victim decided to deal with it themselves or involved friends/family (49%) or they felt that it was not serious enough to report (35%).

4.3: Sexual harassment

Thirty-four per cent of women indicate experiencing at least one form of sexual harassment⁶² (as listed in Table 4.4) since they were 15 years old.

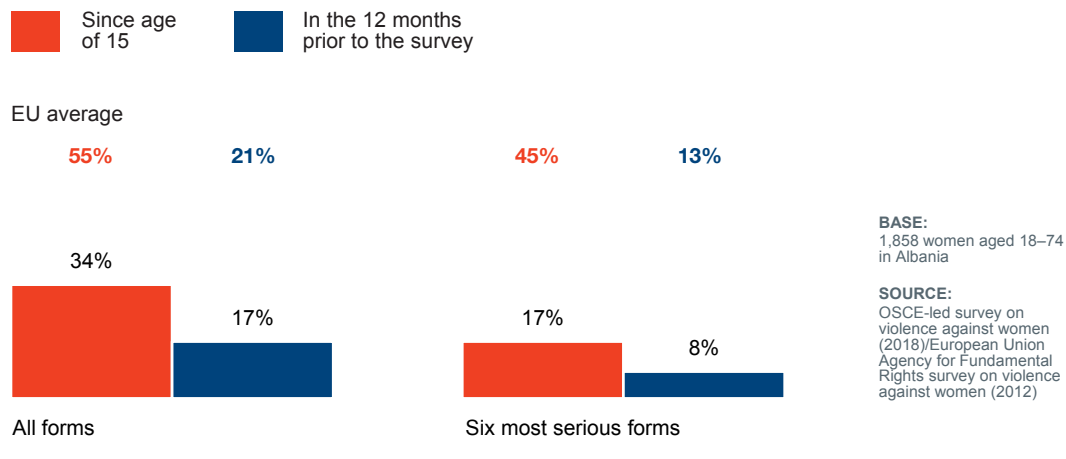
Seventeen per cent of women say that they experienced sexual harassment in the 12 months prior to the survey. And 17% state that they have experienced more serious sexual harassment, including 8% in the 12 months prior to the survey.⁶³

A third of women have experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15

⁶² In terms of sexual harassment, women in the survey were asked: How often from the time you were 15 years old until now/in the past 12 months have you experienced any of the following: 1) unwelcome touching, hugging or kissing? 2) sexually suggestive comments or jokes that offended you? 3) inappropriate invitations to go out on dates? 4) intrusive questions about your private life that offended you? 5) intrusive comments about your appearance that offended you? 6) inappropriate staring or leering that you found intimidating? 7) somebody sending or showing you sexually explicit pictures, photos or gifts that offended you? 8) somebody indecently exposing themselves to you? 9) somebody made you watch or look at pornographic material against your wishes? 10) unwanted sexually explicit emails or SMS messages that offended you? 11) inappropriate advances that offended you on social networking websites such as Facebook or in Internet chat rooms? With regard to each form of sexual harassment, women could indicate whether they had experienced it never, once, two to five times or six times or more. The prevalence of sexual harassment is based on respondents who reported having experienced one of the listed items at least once. Six forms of sexual harassment were selected for their severity, and they are referred to in this report as “the most severe forms” of sexual harassment.

⁶³ The most serious forms of sexual harassment are reported as “unwelcome touching, hugging or kissing”, “sexually suggestive comments or jokes that offended you”, “somebody sending or showing you sexually explicit pictures, photos or gifts that offended you”, “somebody indecently exposing themselves to you”, “somebody made you watch or look at pornographic material against your wishes” and “unwanted sexually explicit emails or SMS messages that offended you”. The prevalence of the most severe forms of sexual harassment is based on respondents who report having experienced at least one of these six forms of sexual harassment on at least one occasion.

Figure 4.3: Prevalence of sexual harassment



The average proportion of women in the EU who stated that they had experienced sexual harassment is 55%, ranging from 24% in Bulgaria to 81% in Sweden. The figure for Albania is lower than the EU average and also lower than the figure for Croatia (41%). Countries with longer traditions of gender-equality policies and awareness-raising campaigns (the Nordic countries and Western Europe) also have higher rates of women sharing their experiences of sexual harassment.

Younger women indicate more often that they have experienced sexual harassment: 54 % of 18–29-year-olds have had one or more such experience since the age of 15 compared with 27% of 40–49-year-olds, 25% of 50–59-year-olds and 18% of those over 60.

Women in the qualitative research said that they thought it was fairly common for women to experience sexual harassment in public places or in the workplace. They said that sexual harassment outside relationships was viewed as unacceptable by society, but that it was rarely spoken about.

Sexual harassment covers a wide range of experiences. The most common form indicated by women since they were 15 years old is intimidation through staring or leering, which is mentioned by 21% of women, followed by intrusive questions about their private life (13%) (Table 4.4). In the EU, staring and leering is the most common type (30%), closely followed by unwelcome touching, hugging or kissing (29% on average in the EU compared to 7% in Albania).

Table 4.4: Prevalence of sexual harassment

At times you may have experienced people acting towards you in a way that you felt was unwanted and offensive. How often since you were 15 years old, until now, have you experienced any of the following?

	Never %	Once %	2-5 times %	6+ times %
Unwelcome touching, hugging or kissing	92	3	3	1
Inappropriate staring or leering that made you feel intimidated	78	4	9	9
Sexually suggestive comments or jokes that made you feel offended	90	2	5	2
Somebody sending or showing you sexually explicit pictures, photos or gifts that made you feel offended	97	1	1	1
Inappropriate invitations to go out on dates	90	3	5	2
Intrusive questions about your private life that made you feel offended	87	3	6	3
Intrusive comments about your physical appearance that made you feel offended	90	3	4	3
Unwanted sexually explicit emails or SMS messages that offended you	88	2	2	1
Inappropriate advances that offended you on social networking websites such as Facebook, or in internet chat rooms	81	2	2	1
Somebody indecently exposing themselves to you	96	2	1	0.4
Somebody made you watch or look at pornographic material against your wishes	97	0.2	0.1	0

BASE: 1,858 women aged 18–74 in Albania
SOURCE: OSCE-led survey on violence against women (2018)

Women who have experienced sexual harassment most commonly say this is perpetrated by someone they did not know (73%, compared with the EU average of 68%). However, 30% of women in Albania (similar to the EU average of 31%) mention a friend, acquaintance or neighbour, while 39% of women (35% in the EU) mention someone else they know but without specifying further.⁶⁴

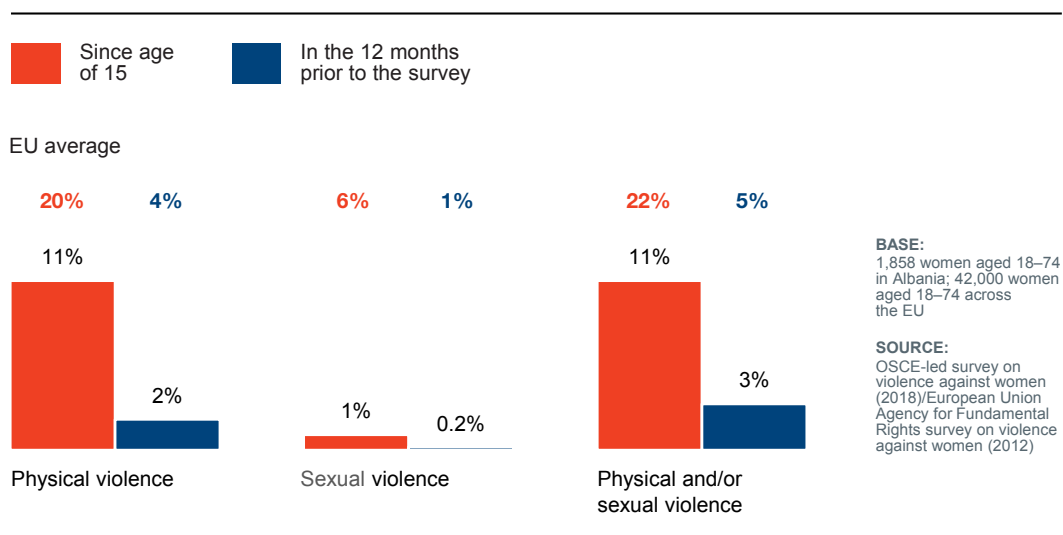
While perpetrators of sexual harassment tend to be men (men are involved in 91% of cases), this is not always the case. For example, when perpetrated by a woman’s own family or her partner’s family, it is more likely to be a woman than a man, while in two-thirds of cases perpetrated by a friend or acquaintance, the perpetrator was a woman (27% say the perpetrator was a woman, 35% that both men and women were involved and 38% that only a man was involved). In a fifth of cases of the most serious incidents, more than one person was involved (20%).

64 The categories were “current partner”, “previous partner”, “boss/supervisor”, “colleague/co-worker”, “client/customer/patient”, “teacher/trainer/coach”, “fellow student”, “doctor/healthcare worker”, “relative/family member (other than partner)”, “partner’s relative/family member”, “a date/someone you just met”.

4.4: Physical and sexual violence at the hands of non-partners

According to the survey results overall, 11% of women state that they have experienced one or more forms of physical violence at the hands of a non-partner since they were 15 years old (2% in the 12 months prior to the survey), while 1% say they have been subjected to forms of sexual violence (0.2% in the 12 months prior to the survey) (Figure 4.4). Overall, 11% indicate either physical and/or sexual violence by a non-partner since the age of 15. These results are lower than the EU average of 20% of women who have experienced physical violence at the hands of a non-partner (ranging from 10% in Austria, Greece, Poland and Portugal to 36% per cent in Denmark). Six per cent of women in the EU have experienced sexual violence at the hands of a non-partner, ranging from 1% in Greece and Portugal to 12% in Sweden. Non-partner violence is more often indicated by 30–39-year-olds (15%) and less so by women over 60 (6%). Women who agree that domestic violence is a private matter are more likely to say they have experienced non-partner violence than those who disagree (14% versus 9%).

Figure 4.4: Prevalence of non-partner physical and/or sexual violence

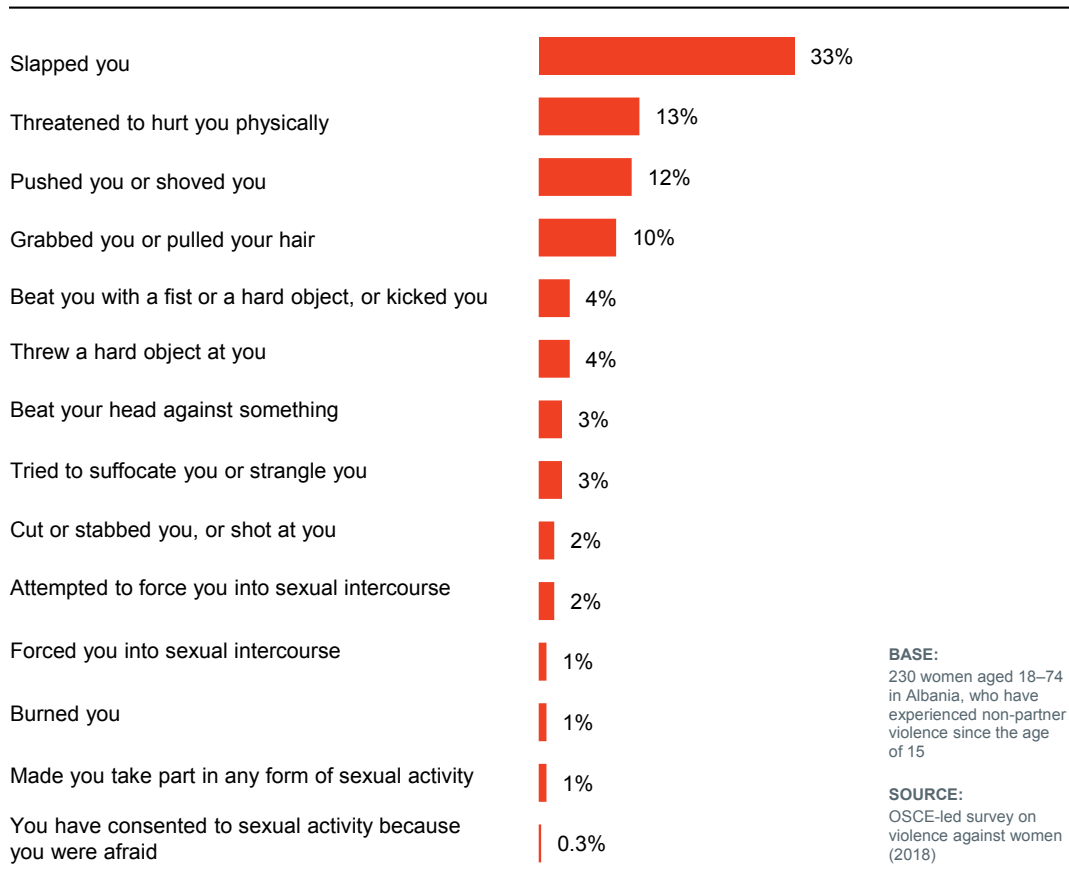


The most prevalent form of physical violence women say they have been subjected to by a non-partner since the age of 15 is being slapped, which is mentioned by 8% of women, the same as the EU average. Two percent of women experienced this in the 12 months prior to the survey. Between 0.3% and 0.5% of women say they have experienced each form of sexual violence asked about.

The most serious incidents (i.e., the one that has had the most impact on the woman, including threats of violence) involving non-partners (Figure 4.5) include being slapped, which is mentioned by 33% of women, and being threatened with physical violence or being pushed or shoved, each of which is cited by around one in eight of those who have ever experienced any form of violence at the hands of a non-partner.

Figure 4.5: Women’s most serious incidents of non-partner violence

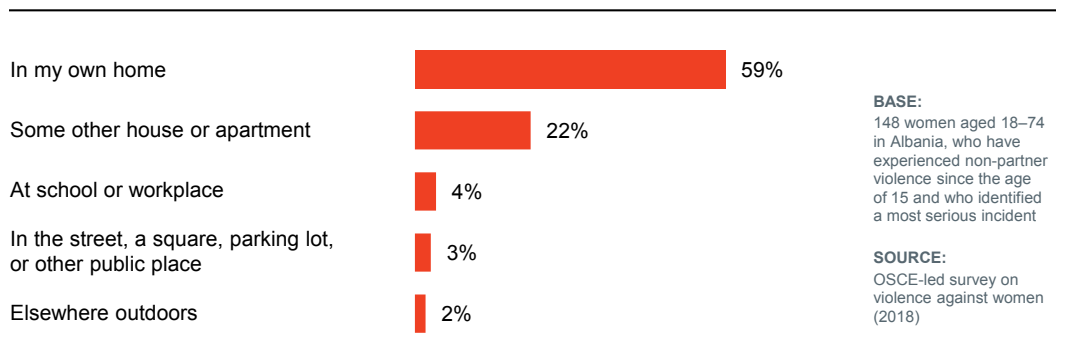
I would like you to think about the most serious incident by a non-partner. Which of the things on this card happened at that time? By “most serious”, we mean the incident that had the biggest impact on you.



Fifty-nine per cent of the most serious incidents took place in the woman’s own home (which is more than twice the EU average of 27%), and 22% of such incidents took place in some other house or apartment (Figure 4.6).

Figure 4.6: Location of the most serious incident of non-partner violence

Thinking about the most serious incident of non-partner violence, where did it take place?



4.4.1: Perpetrators

Most non-partner physical violence in Albania is perpetrated by someone known to the woman, notably by a relative or family member (not including partners, 62%), their partner's relatives (9%), a friend, acquaintance or neighbour (10%) or someone else they knew but did not specify any further from among the categories presented (14%).⁶⁵ While relatives were also among the most commonly identified perpetrators in the EU, they are mentioned less frequently than in Albania (by 31% in the EU compared with 7% in Albania). Someone that the victim did not know is mentioned more often in the EU (31%) than in Albania (5%).

Men are identified as the perpetrators of non-partner physical violence by 65% of those women who have experienced non-partner violence, with 40% of survivors mentioning a man only and 25% that both men and women were involved. Women are identified by 53% (with 28% mentioning women only). The remainder (7%) do not know the gender of the perpetrator or prefer not to say.

In three out of four of the most serious incidents, perpetrators acted alone. A quarter of the most serious incidents were perpetrated by someone who was drunk (22%) or under the influence of drugs (2%).

The women participating in the qualitative research said that perpetrators of non-partner violence would most likely be from the victim's birth family (typically during childhood, but not necessarily) or her husband's family, which is reflected in the survey results. Perpetrators within the birth family include the mother, father, step-parents, siblings and aunts and uncles. Perpetrators within the husband's family tend to be the parents-in-law, since the couple will typically move in with them, but it could include anyone in the family.

The women participating in the qualitative research expressed the belief that the main type of violence perpetrated by family members was psychological violence, primarily verbal abuse and controlling behaviour. They described how, from a young age, their family members, including uncles and cousins, would not let them see their friends or leave the house. They also described having life choices taken away from them, e.g., being forced to leave school at a young age or being forced to marry against their will at a young age.

On marrying their partner, women tend to move in with their husband's family. For some, this means that, apart from intimate partner violence, they were also subjected to psychological (and in some cases physical) violence by their parents-in-law, typically their mother-in-law. This included verbal abuse, highly controlling behaviour and making threats. In one case, the woman's mother-in-law threw objects at her, threatened to kill her and was highly controlling and verbally abusive.

“My first episode of physical violence was a week after I got married because I didn't burn the wood in the garden properly. The main reason for my husband's abusive behaviour was that he used to spend a lot of money on gambling and billiards and drinking with his friends. He was jealous, and he believed that roughness established a man's authority and masculinity. My mother-in-law also abused me psychologically and verbally when I was living with my husband. She started fights between me and my husband, threatened me with a knife, threw objects at me and was verbally abusive.”

Female, survivor of violence, aged 60+

⁶⁵ Other categories include: “boss/supervisor”, “colleague/co-worker”, “client/customer/patient”, “teacher/trainer/coach”, “fellow student”, “doctor/healthcare worker”, “relative/family member (other than partner)”, “partner's relative/family member”, “a date/someone you just met”.

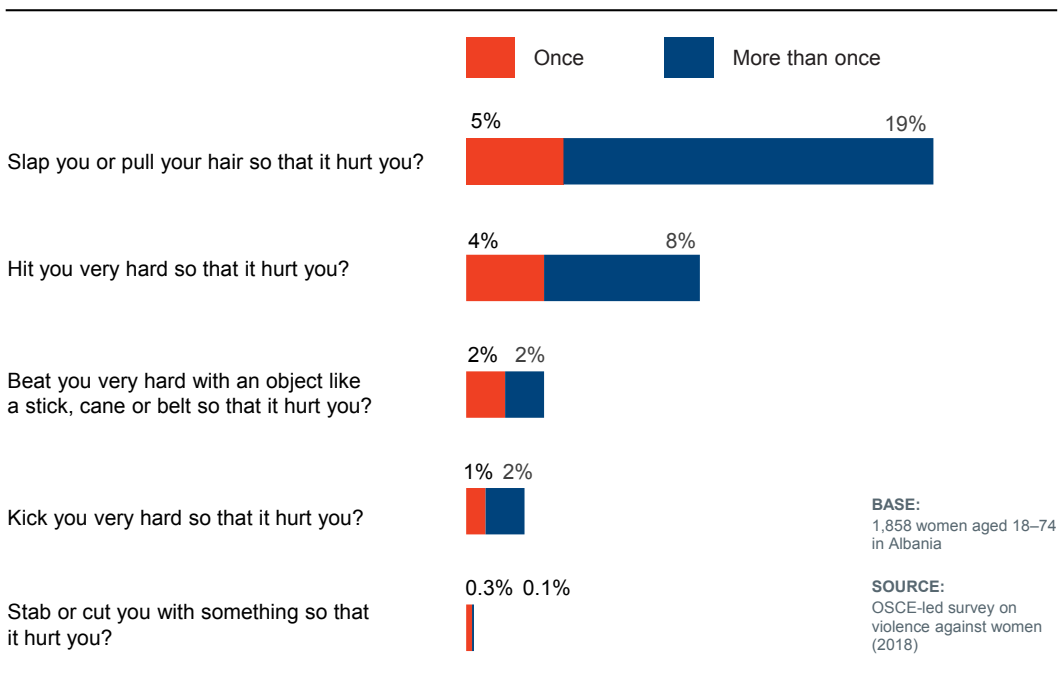
4.5: Experience of violence during childhood

Twenty-six per cent of women say they experienced a form of physical violence at the hands of an adult before they were 15 years old,⁶⁶ which is similar to the average prevalence in the EU (27%). Most commonly, they were slapped or had their hair pulled so that it hurt (experienced by 24% of respondents, which is also similar to the EU average of 22%). About one in eight (12%) were hit very hard so that it hurt (Figure 4.7). Parents were the primary perpetrators of this violence, with mothers and fathers equally likely to be responsible.

Such violence is unlikely to be a one-off event. Aside from being stabbed or cut with something, all forms of childhood physical violence were described as being experienced more than once by at least half of those experiencing each type of violence.

Figure 4.7: Experiences of physical violence before the age of 15

Before you were 15 years old, how often did any adult, do any of the following to you



⁶⁶ Childhood violence refers to violence before the age of 15. In terms of physical violence before the age of 15, women were asked the following questions: Before the age of 15, how often did an adult who was 18 years of age or older do the following to you: 1) slap or pull you by the hair so that it hurt? 2) hit you very hard so that it hurt? 3) kick you very hard so that it hurt? 4) beat you very hard with an object like a stick, cane or belt? 5) Stab or cut you with something? In terms of sexual violence before the age of 15, women were asked the following questions: Before the age of 15, how often did an adult who was 18 years of age or older do the following to you when you did not want them to: 1) expose their genitals to you? 2) make you pose naked in front of any person or in photographs, video, or on an Internet webcam? 3) touch your genitals or breasts against your will? 4) force you to have sexual intercourse? In terms of psychological violence before the age of 15, women were asked the following questions: Before the age of 15, how often did an adult family member do the following to you: 1) say that you were not loved? 2) say that they wished you had never been born? 3) threaten to abandon you or throw you out of the family home? Before the age of 15, how often did an adult who was 18 years of age or older do the following to you: threaten to hurt you badly or kill you?

The prevalence of psychological violence in childhood was much lower (4%). Sexual violence at this age is even less common, with less than 1% of women stating experiences. This is much lower than the EU average of 12%, ranging from 1% in Romania to 20% in France and the Netherlands. Croatia had a rate of 2% and Bulgaria 3%. Again, countries where women feel that domestic violence is a private issue and where there is a culture of silence tend to have lower rates of women indicating that they have had experiences than countries with a longer tradition of raising awareness of violence against women.

Violence during childhood is experienced more often by students (36%), women fulfilling domestic responsibilities (41%) and women who are finding it difficult or very difficult to cope on their present income (32% and 34% respectively).

Women who experienced some form of childhood violence are more likely to say they have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of both non-partners and partners: 24% of women who experienced childhood violence say they have experienced non-partner physical and/or sexual violence, compared with 7% of those who did not experience childhood violence. For intimate partner physical and/or sexual violence, the respective figures are 35% and 14%.

35% of women who experienced childhood violence say they have experienced intimate partner physical and/or sexual violence later in life



Almost a fifth of women could be defined as directly conflict-affected in Albania.⁶⁷

5. Conflict and violence

5.1: Experiences related to the 1997 crisis

Armed conflict is defined for the purposes of this research as armed fighting between two or more organized groups, attacks on communities or general insecurity caused by conflict.

Twenty-one per cent of Albanian women say that they have lived in a situation where there was an active armed conflict for a period of at least one week. For the vast majority (20.5%), their personal experience of conflict relates to the fall of pyramid schemes and the near civil war that followed in 1997 and 1998 (0.2% indicated they had lived through some other conflict). Women from the north and women from urban areas are more likely to have lived through a period of armed conflict as defined in this study than those from the central region and rural areas.

Among those who lived through this period of crisis, 91% heard gunshots in the local area, and 56% lived where armed personnel (regular military or other armed groups) were stationed for at least a week. Fifty-one per cent saw fighting first-hand where they were living. Twenty per cent of women had their property destroyed or seriously damaged, 12% had their property taken by armed groups, 48% were unable to find work and 8% had to flee their home, all of whom were later able to return home.

Overall, 19% of women can be considered directly conflict-affected, which is defined as having lived through a period of conflict or crisis and having at least one of the conflict-related experiences discussed above.

Those defined as directly conflict-affected were also asked about other consequences of having lived through conflict or crisis from the availability of public services to the loss of family members and experiences of violence.

Seventy-three per cent endured at least one of the experiences listed in Table 5.1. Forty-nine per cent were without health services or law enforcement for a prolonged period of time. As discussed in Chapter 5, when asked why they did not report the most serious incident of non-partner violence to the police, 7% said they were not able to do so because of armed conflict/crisis. One in ten women said that women in their area were subjected to deeply humiliating practices by members of armed groups, and 6% have had an immediate family member or partner injured or killed due to fighting.

67 The definition of "conflict-affected" is having lived in a situation where there was an active armed conflict for a period of at least one week and answering "yes" to at least one of the following questions: "Did you hear gunshots, the sound of bombing or shelling in the local area where you were living at the time of the conflict?" "Did you live for at least a week in a location where armed personnel (regular military or other armed groups) were stationed or moving in larger numbers? This may include local residents participating in the conflict." "Did you witness fighting in the local area where you were living at the time of the conflict?" "Was the property (e.g., your home, car, livestock) of your immediate family destroyed or seriously damaged due to the conflict?" "Was the property (e.g., your home, car, livestock) of your immediate family taken by an armed group?" "Was it impossible to find work in the local area due to the conflict (office/factories were closed or destroyed, it was too dangerous)?" "Did an immediate family member or your spouse or partner take part in the conflict or participate in fighting as a member of an armed group?" "Did you play an active part in fighting during the conflict?" "Were civilians from the local area where you were living detained or imprisoned?" "Did civilians in the local area where you were living die due to the conflict?" "Were you personally physically attacked or injured due to the conflict?" "Did you have to flee your home during (any of) the conflict(s) you experienced?"

Table 5.1: Experiences of directly conflict-affected women

Please tell me whether you experienced any of the following during the armed conflict(s) that you have experienced.

	Yes %
Health services (including women's health services) that you previously used were unavailable or inaccessible for a longer period of time.	52
No law enforcement (police or other organization to keep law and order) present in your local area, for a prolonged time	49
Armed groups deliberately used threats, rumours or actual violence against women to terrify the local population in the area where you lived	12
Members of armed groups harassed local women in the area where you lived	12
Members of armed groups employed deeply humiliating practices against local women in the area where you lived, such as forcing women to strip naked in public, mutilating their bodies, having them undergo internal body cavity searches for no reason, etc.)	10
Circumstances caused women to offer sexual services in exchange for essential goods or for ensuring the safety of their family in the area where you lived.	8
Men in your family (husbands, fathers, brothers) were away from home and the family, (because they had to flee, fought in the conflict, were detained, went missing)	7
Women in your family had to go into potentially dangerous places (i.e. through frontline/boundary line or close to explosives like mines) for work or to fetch essentials for the household (firewood, food, drinking water, fuel, etc.)	7
An immediate family member or your spouse or partner was injured or died due to fighting / violence?	6

BASE: 386 women aged 18–74 in Albania who had been directly affected by armed conflict
SOURCE: OSCE-led survey on violence against women (2018)

5.2: Conflict or crisis and violence against women

There was a perception among the women participating in the qualitative research that violence against women had always been common in Albania, but that it worsened during the regime transition and the 1997 political and economic crisis. Women thought that, during the communist era, people had been more afraid of the state and that this meant that rates of all types of crime, including violence against women, were lower. They said that, during the transition period, there was instability in law and order and that this led to people arming themselves and using these firearms against women. These changes were seen to have led to an increase in intimate partner violence, as well as broader issues such as trafficking and forced prostitution of women and girls.

Directly conflict-affected women were asked whether any of their experiences of violence were connected to an armed conflict/crisis or not. Among those who indicate experiencing non-partner physical and/or sexual violence, 26% say that this was the case, rising to 44%⁶⁸ when asked about the most serious incident of physical and/or sexual violence experienced.

⁶⁸ Caution should be applied here because of the low base size (42).

A similar pattern is seen with current partner violence, with 46% connecting any experience to an armed conflict/crisis, which rises to 66%⁶⁹ when asked about the most serious incident of physical/sexual violence. For stalking, the equivalent figures are 33% and 36% per cent, respectively.⁷⁰ The figure is much lower for sexual harassment, with 4% connecting the most serious incident to an armed conflict/crisis. The same proportion of women (4%) attributes any of their childhood experiences of violence to an armed conflict/crisis.

Alongside significant proportions of directly conflict-affected women who connect their experiences of violence to conflict/crisis, the indicated prevalence of several types of violence is higher among those who are defined as directly conflict-affected.

- Twenty-seven per cent of directly conflict-affected women state that they have experienced physical violence at some point at the hands of a current partner compared to 14% of women who are not conflict-affected. In terms of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey, the figures are 16% and 5% respectively.
- Seven per cent of directly conflict-affected women say they have experienced sexual violence at some point at the hands of a current partner, versus 1% of women who are not conflict-affected. The same pattern is seen over the 12 months prior to the survey (5% versus 1%).
- Thirty per cent of directly conflict-affected women say they have experienced previous partner physical violence compared with 19% of those not conflict-affected. In the 12 months prior to the survey, the figures are 8% and 2% respectively.
- Directly conflict-affected women are three times as likely to say that they experienced psychological violence in childhood (9% versus 3%).

Directly conflict-affected women who have experienced violence at the hands of a partner or non-partner are more likely to indicate that the most serious incident had a psychological impact on them: 80% state that they have experienced one or more of a variety of psychological impacts, compared to 63% of those who are not conflict-affected. In particular, conflict-affected women are twice as likely to say they have experienced depression (34% versus 16% of those not conflict-affected), loss of self-confidence (28% versus 15%), difficulties in relationships (26% versus 14%), and they are also more likely to say they have had difficulties sleeping (34% versus 19%).

Physical injuries caused by the most serious incident of partner or non-partner violence were also more common among directly conflict-affected women; 44% say they had no injury, while 57% of those not conflict-affected say the same.

Among women who experienced armed conflict and suffer from an illness or disability today, 4% attribute this to that conflict.

The proportion of women overall who say they have been assaulted or threatened with a firearm is very low, and the data should be treated with appropriate caution. Less than 1% of women have been assaulted and just under 1% have been threatened. This totalled 25 respondents, the majority of whom experienced this event more than a year prior to the survey. Among those who have experienced violence at the hands of a partner or non-partner, 3% say they have been assaulted or threatened with a firearm (totaling 14 respondents).

The women who took part in the qualitative research said that, during the transition period and the 1997 economic and political crisis, a high number of people acquired firearms, adding that this meant that women were frequently killed by their partners for minor relationship conflicts.

⁶⁹ Caution should be applied here because of the low base size (55).

⁷⁰ Caution should be applied here because of the low base size (50 and 42).



More than six in ten survivors of physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of a non-partner say that they have suffered from at least one of a range of psychological reactions in response to the most serious incident.



More than four in ten women who identified a most serious incident of intimate partner or non-partner physical and/or sexual violence suffered from one or more physical injuries as a result of the incident.



Only 3% of women who experienced current partner violence contacted the police following the most serious incident.

6. Impact of violence on women's lives and barriers to seeking support

This chapter provides an overview of the impact of violence on women's well-being, as well as information about whether they reported their experiences to anyone, and, if they did, how satisfied they were with the response. Throughout the interviews, women were asked about the impact of the most serious incident of physical or sexual violence, including threats of both. The most serious incident was defined as the one that had the most impact, either psychologically or physically, on the woman.

6.1: Psychological effects and physical injuries

Almost all of the women who shared experiences of physical or sexual violence experienced at least one of the emotions set out in Table 6.1. Women who experienced violence at the hands of current partners were most likely to have felt anger and annoyance following the most serious incident. These are also the most-often-mentioned emotional responses to the most serious incident of violence at the hands of a previous partner, with shock and fear also each mentioned by around half of respondents. Fear, annoyance and anger are each mentioned by around four in ten respondents in relation to the most serious incident of non-partner violence. These three responses are also the most common in the EU.

Table 6.1: Emotional responses to physical and/or sexual violence (most serious incident)

Thinking about the most serious incident, did you feel any of the following as a result?

	Current partner	Previous partner	Non-partner
	%	%	%
Annoyance	56	64	40
Anger	53	62	42
Shock	22	55	26
Shame	20	25	16
Aggressiveness	20	33	14
Fear	20	45	44
Embarrassment	18	33	13
Guilt	11	13	8
None of the above	4	3	11

BASE:
Women in Albania aged 18–74 who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence since age of 15 and who identified a most serious incident: current partner (200), previous partner (68) or non-partner violence (148)

SOURCE:
OSCE-led survey on violence against women (2018)

OSCE-led survey on violence against women: Albania


Similar emotions resulted from sexual harassment. Almost all the women who indicate that they have experienced sexual harassment report feeling at least one of the emotions in Table 6.1. While fear was less often evoked in response to the most serious incident of harassment, almost half of respondents felt embarrassed (44%) and 38% were angry.

The longer-term psychological reactions listed in Table 6.2 were experienced by 84% of women in relation to the most serious incident of previous partner violence. Fewer women state the same for current partner violence (61%) and non-partner violence (62%).

The most common psychological impacts of the most serious incident of previous partner violence are difficulty sleeping (46%) and anxiety (45%), with several others mentioned by around three out of ten women, including difficulty concentrating (35%), difficulties in relationships (33%), loss of self-confidence (34%) and depression (29%). Difficulty sleeping and anxiety are also the most commonly described reactions to the most serious incident of current partner violence, albeit by smaller proportions (26% and 20% respectively). Depression (21%) and panic attacks (18%) are most likely to be experienced following non-partner violence. Anxiety, depression and vulnerability were the most commonly described reactions in the EU.

Table 6.2: Psychological consequences of physical and/or sexual violence (most serious incident)

Thinking about the most serious incident, did you suffer from any of the following as a result?



	Current partner	Previous partner	Non-partner
	%	%	%
Difficulty in sleeping	26	46	11
Concentration difficulties	21	35	11
Anxiety	20	45	16
Loss of self-confidence	17	34	12
Difficulties in relationships	16	33	11
Depression	16	29	21
Feeling vulnerable	15	28	13
Panic attacks	8	13	18
None of the above	39	16	36

BASE:
Women in Albania aged 18–74 who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence since age of 15 and who identified a most serious incident: current partner (200), previous partner (68) or non-partner violence (148)

SOURCE:
OSCE-led survey on violence against women (2018)

Sexual harassment did not lead to the same extent of psychological reactions as physical or sexual violence. Three-fifths of the women surveyed say there was no longer-term psychological impact to the most serious incident. However, about one in ten felt vulnerable (11%), anxious (10%) or experienced a loss of self-confidence (also 10%).

The women participating in the qualitative research who had experienced violence described a wide range of physical and psychological impacts. Physical or sexual violence tended to result in immediate physical impacts, including bruising or more serious injuries, such as stab wounds. Some women said they had needed urgent medical care following an assault.

Women who took part in the qualitative research described that psychological consequences seemed more long-term than the physical injuries. They described feeling

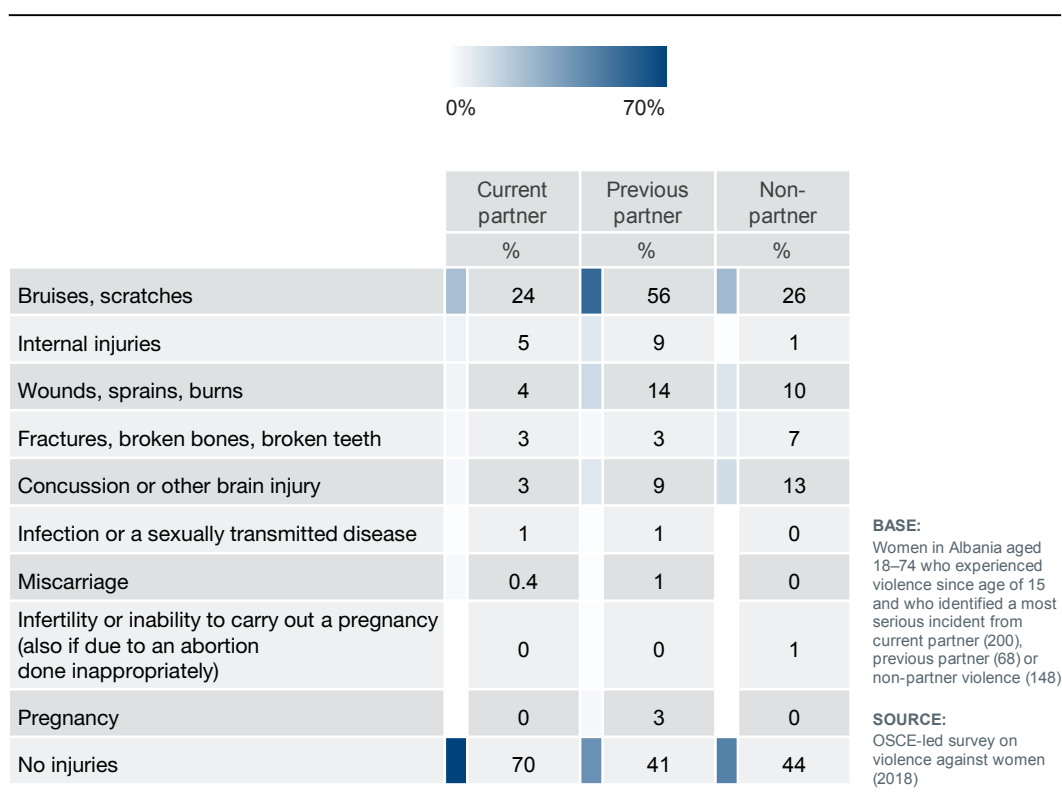
6. Impact of violence on women's lives and barriers to seeking support

isolated by their experiences of violence and, as a result of their partner's controlling behaviour, were often prevented from seeing friends or family members and so had no emotional support. One woman described how years of abuse caused her to feel depressed and aggressive and that these feelings led her to self-harming and attempting suicide.

A similar pattern can be seen in the survey, where fewer women state that they suffered from a physical injury or consequence, than an emotional or psychological impact, following the most serious incident of current partner violence. However, the proportion of women who say they suffered a physical injury is still significant, with this more commonly noted in relation to the most serious incidents of previous partner violence (58%) and non-partner violence (48%) than in relation to current partner violence (28%). Bruises and scratches are mentioned most often (Table 6.3).

Table 6.3: Physical injuries arising from physical and/or sexual violence (most serious incident)

Thinking about the most serious incident did it result in any of the following?



6.2: Support that survivors of violence want

All respondents who had experienced physical and/or sexual violence were asked if they needed any type of assistance following the most serious incident that they had experienced.

The most-mentioned source of information, advice or support women say they wanted after their most serious incident of physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of a partner, both in Albania and in the EU, was just someone to talk to who could provide moral support. Information from the police, practical help and protection from further victimization/harassment were also wanted by around a fifth of survivors of violence at the hands of previous partners (Table 6.4).

Table 6.4: Types of information, advice and support wanted following an incident

What types of information, advice or support would you say you wanted following the most serious incident you experienced?

	Current partner	Previous partner	Non-partner
	%	%	%
Someone to talk to/moral support	33	49	25
Protection from further victimisation/harassment	10	18	15
Practical help	9	20	11
Information from the police	9	21	10
Information about security/crime prevention	7	16	12
Financial support	7	12	4
Medical help	4	13	13
Help in reporting the incident/dealing with the police	3	8	9
Help with insurance/compensation claim	2	17	2
None of these/did not want any support	48	33	30

BASE: Women in Albania aged 18–74 who experienced violence since age of 15 and who identified a most serious incident from current partner (200), previous partner (68) or non-partner violence (148)

SOURCE: OSCE-led survey on violence against women (2018)

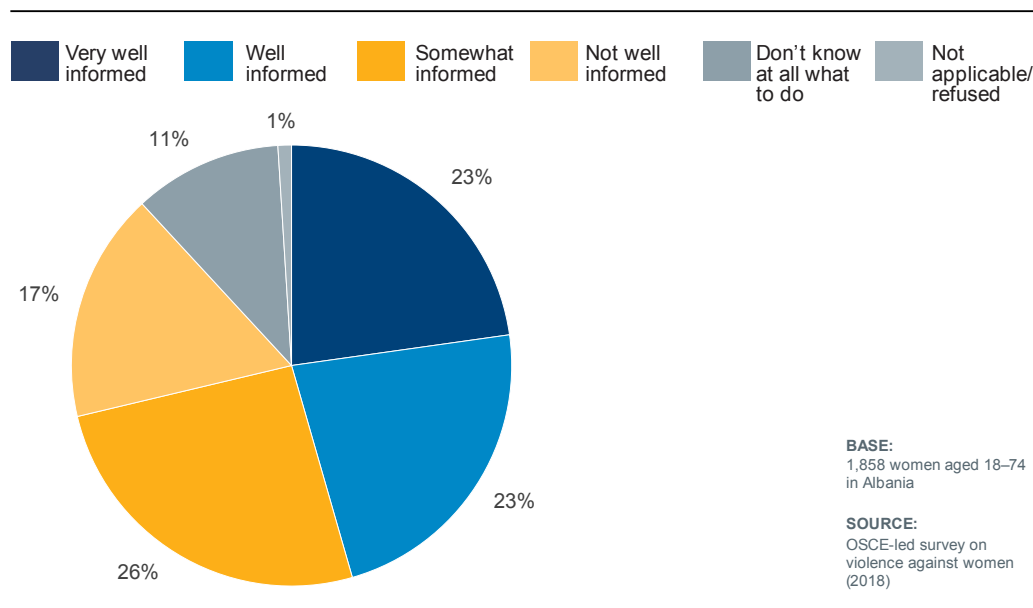
The type of support women want following experiences of violence was discussed in more detail during the in-depth interviews. One of the key unmet needs for women who had experienced intimate partner violence was psychological support. Some women were referred to a psychologist through the police or the courts. Others were referred by the police to an NGO, which helped them access legal aid as well as counselling. One woman was referred to a free-of-charge session with a psychologist, but then the psychologist asked her to pay for the session. Women were not aware of other services that they could approach independently, which meant that the women who did not report their experiences or those who reported their experiences to a less knowledgeable or less understanding professional were unlikely to get the support they needed.

6. Impact of violence on women’s lives and barriers to seeking support

Less than half of women say they feel very well or well informed about what to do if they experience violence (46%), while 28% say they do not feel well informed or do not know at all what to do.

Figure 6.1: Awareness of what to do after experiencing violence

How well informed do you feel about what to do if you experience violence?



Women over 60 are more likely than average to say they do not feel well informed or do not know what to do (37%), as are those who have no formal or only primary education (42%) and those who live in rural areas (35%).

In the survey, women were asked if they had heard of three organizations that offer support to victims of violence. Awareness of the Counselling Line for Girls and Women was highest, with 65% of women having heard of it. Around two-fifths had heard of the Gender Alliance for Development Centre (GADC) (44%) and the Centre for Legal Civic Initiatives (CLCI) (41%). Awareness of all three organizations is lower among women over 60, women with only primary education and women who are fulfilling domestic responsibilities, and it is higher among women with at least some tertiary education and women who are in paid employment. Awareness of the GADC is particularly high among 18–29-year-olds (50%), while the CLCI is not as well known in the central region of the country (35%). Awareness of the Counselling Line for Girls and Women is higher in urban areas than in rural areas (72% versus 57%).

While over two-thirds of women have heard of at least one of these organizations, they are not generally a woman’s first port of call after experiencing incidents of violence or sexual harassment, regardless of the perpetrator, as discussed in section 6.3.

Sixty-six per cent have seen campaigns about violence against women, with awareness particularly high among women with at least some tertiary education (78%) and in paid employment (77%), while women with only primary education (57%), women living in rural areas (60%) and women who are retired (57%) are less likely to recall seeing such campaigns.

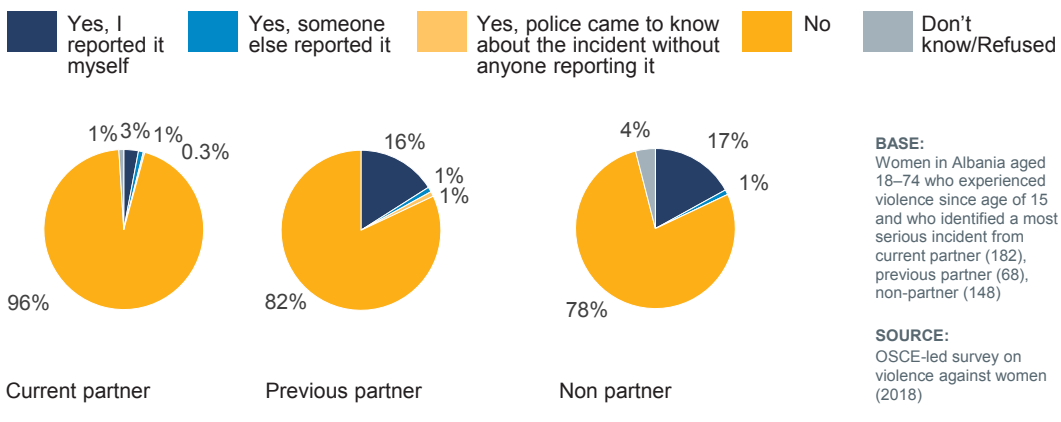
6.3: Reporting experiences of violence and harassment

In the survey, women were asked whether the police or other organizations were informed about their most serious incident of physical or sexual violence, including threats of physical and sexual violence.

Even following the most serious incidents of physical and/or sexual violence, the police were not informed about the incident in the majority of cases, as seen in Figure 6.2 below.

Figure 6.2: Contact with the police following the most serious incident of physical and/or sexual violence

Did the police come to know about the [most serious] incident?



Women tended not to contact other services either. In relation to current partner violence, almost nine in ten who identified a most serious incident did not contact the police or another organization (87%) and the same is true for seven in ten cases of the most serious incidents of previous partner (70%) and six in ten for non-partner violence (61%) (Table 6.5).

Table 6.5: Contacts after the most serious incident of physical and/or sexual violence

Did you contact any of the following services as a result of the [most serious] incident?

	0% — 87%		
	Current partner	Previous partner	Non-partner
	%	%	%
Hospital	7	18	10
Doctor, health centre or other health care institution	6	18	14
Police (self reported)	3	16	17
Another service/organization	1	3	0.4
Women's shelter	1	3	0
Church/faith-based organization	1	2	6
Legal service/lawyer	0.4	14	7
Social services	0.4	4	0
Victim support organization	0	3	0
No organization or police contacted	87	70	61

BASE: Women in Albania aged 18–74 who experienced violence since age of 15 and who identified a most serious incident from current partner (200), previous partner (68) or non-partner violence (148)

SOURCE: OSCE-led survey on violence against women (2018)

6. Impact of violence on women's lives and barriers to seeking support

The main reason for not reporting the most serious incident of violence to the police is that the victims decided to deal with it by themselves, perhaps only involving friends and family, and in the case of current partner violence in particular, they considered it too minor. Other reasons include not wanting their partner to be arrested, wanting to keep it private and fear of the perpetrator, as detailed in Table 6.6.

Table 6.6: Reasons victims did not contact the police

Why did you not contact the police?

	Current partner	Previous partner	Non-partner
	%	%	%
Dealt with it myself/involved a friend/family matter	43	43	43
Too minor/not serious enough/never occurred to me	41	13	16
Didn't want my partner/the offender arrested or to get in trouble with police	11	12	1
Didn't want anyone to know/kept it private	8	19	11
Shame, embarrassment	5	6	2
Fear of partner/offender	5	11	5
Did not want the relationship to end	5	4	0
Did not think they would do anything	3	0	7
Too emotionally upset to contact the police	3	6	4
Afraid I would lose the children	3	3	0
Somebody else stopped me or discouraged me	2	2	1
Would not be believed	1	0	1
Did not think they could do anything	1	9	0
Thought it was my fault	1	3	0
My partner did not let me	1	0	0
Went someplace else for help	1	3	0
Fear of reprisal from someone other than partner/offender	1	0	1
Somebody else had reported it, or police came to know about it on their own	1	0	0
Could not contact police because of conflict	0	0	7

BASE:
All women in Albania aged 18–74 who identified a most serious incident and who did not report to the police: current partner (194), previous partner (57), non-partner (121)

SOURCE:
OSCE-led survey on violence against women (2018)

OSCE-led survey on violence against women: Albania

The reasons given for not contacting other services are similar to those given for not contacting the police (Table 6.6). Deciding to deal with the incident themselves is the most common reason given for not contacting the police or other services (as in the EU).

As discussed in Chapter 3, the quantitative research found that almost half of women in Albania said that domestic violence should be kept in the family.

Barriers to reporting were discussed in some detail in the qualitative research. The women who took part expressed the belief that the first response of any woman in Albania who was experiencing violence would be to endure it. After this, if the violence continued, the women said that the first person that a woman would talk to would be someone who they thought would not judge them, such as a close friend or a sister. Some thought that their friend or family member might encourage them to change their behaviour, such as talking more softly to their husband in order to prevent future conflict. The women said that they expected that victims would be encouraged to try again and to give their partner a second chance.

Seventy-six per cent of women think that it would be acceptable for doctors to routinely ask women who have certain injuries whether they were caused by violence.

The barriers below, identified in the qualitative research, may contribute to women's preference for dealing with incidents of violence themselves.

Box 6.1: Barriers to reporting identified in the qualitative research included:

1. **Shame:** fear of judgement by their family and their community
2. **Lack of awareness of specialist services:** many women did not know of anywhere, other than the formal health and police services, where they could get help.
3. **Lack of trust in institutions:** Many women expressed the belief that the police would be indifferent to IPV and would fail to provide adequate support.
4. **Fear of repercussions:** Many women said they were afraid that physical violence would escalate upon reporting violence.

One of the key barriers to reporting violence identified in the qualitative research was shame. Many of the women who took part expressed the belief that most people would assume that a woman had done something to deserve the violence she experienced. The women said that most communities would be indifferent to violence and that women who experienced violence would be concerned about what their friends, family, colleagues and community would think. They also said that many women did not want to report violence because it was seen as a step towards divorce, which they also viewed as shameful.

6. Impact of violence on women's lives and barriers to seeking support

Because many women believe that society views violence as a normal part of marriage, they expressed the view that a woman's family and friends would be critical of a woman if she left her partner because of violence. The women said that even families who wanted to take their daughter back might still be worried about what the community would say, particularly in smaller communities. In some communities, women said that if a woman returned to her birth family shortly after marrying, it would be assumed that she had to return because she was not a virgin when she married.

“At first, I didn't want to tell my parents, because I didn't want to upset them. I had been married for only one month and was afraid that people would think that I wasn't a virgin when I got married and that's why I was returning to my father's home. After the violence continued and I had talked about the abuse with my family, my father didn't want me to go to the police station to report the violence, because he was ashamed of what the community would think about our family. He wanted to solve the problem through the intervention of both birth families.”

Female, survivor of violence, aged 19–40

“Here, people would say: ‘Come on, how could she report her husband to the police? It's her husband. He is a man after all. Wasn't she ashamed? She has three children.’”

Female, aged 19–40, Roma

There is also specific shame involved in reporting sexual violence. The women who took part in the qualitative research said that they would not want to admit that they had experienced sexual violence because they might then be seen as “damaged” and that a man might not accept them in the future because of this.

Some women in the qualitative research were aware that they could go to a psychologist for counselling. However, some thought that there was a stigma associated with going to a psychologist, while others were concerned about the cost involved. Some women also thought that a psychologist would be likely to advise them to stay with their husband and to encourage him to change his behaviour.

Some of the women from the qualitative research said they were unaware of any specific services that would provide them with support if they were subjected to violence. The only services that they thought that could go to were the police and the health services. This is somewhat contradictory to the finding that 70% of women say they feel that they are informed about what to do if they experience violence.

The Roma women who took part in the qualitative research said that they thought that if they reported intimate partner violence it would be ignored by the police. They expressed the belief that the attitude towards their community was that violence was normal and part of their lifestyle. They said that they would be very reluctant to approach any institutions and would rely on the help of family instead. They said that a woman's birth family would try to help them by intervening on their behalf and talking to the woman's husband and his family.

“It is completely normal to share [your experiences] within your family... In the case of Roma families, it is a bit shameful when what is said goes beyond the family, when the neighbourhood hears [about it]... that’s the problem”

Female, aged 19–40, Roma

Many of the women who took part in the qualitative research were unsure about the kind of treatment that they would receive from the health services. They expressed the belief that if they did not have much money or were from certain minority groups, then they would be treated differently by medical staff. Some women also said that if they told their doctor the truth about how they received their injuries, the doctor would report it to the police whether they wanted them to or not.

“You don’t even need to be Roma. Let’s take the example of two women, one who is a member of parliament or a director of some institution and one who is retired, who has been an honest worker. So, who do you think would get better treatment? The first one, of course. They would pay no attention to the worker, even though the worker might be a very good woman. The director only needs to introduce herself as a director.”

Female, aged 56+, Rural

The women who were interviewed in-depth said that they would be *reluctant to report violence out of fear that it might escalate further*. They were concerned that if their husband found out that they had reported him, then he would kill them. In one case, a woman whose husband was in jail had threatened to kill her when he was released.

“Ever since my husband has been in prison, I have felt very calm. I go to work, and when I get home, I go out with my kids for an hour or two. Sometimes, however, I feel threatened when my husband calls from prison. One time, he said to me: ‘Enjoy life as long as you can, you’ll see when I get out.’ He continues to ask our children to convince me not to divorce him, because he can’t live without his family.”

Female, survivor of violence, aged 19–40

6. Impact of violence on women's lives and barriers to seeking support

Case Study: R.'s story

R met her boyfriend at age 13 and was forced by her mother to marry him at age 15.

R's husband subjected her to years of physical and psychological abuse. He beat her, kicked her, stabbed her and put out cigarettes on her. He also subjected her to sexual violence, including forcing her to have sex against her will.

Her husband prevented her from leaving the house. Later, he started locking her in her bedroom and would not allow her to wash or use the toilet.

R's main reason for not reporting this violence was her fear of her husband and what he might do to her. She told her mother, who said that he was her choice and that she had to endure it.

She told the police, but they released her husband after he promised not to hurt her again. He did not hurt her for one month and then started again.

Finally, after enduring more than 20 years of violence and following a serious physical attack, R's children told her that she had to divorce their father. This time, when she reported the violence to the police, they helped her by referring her to an organization that provided free legal aid, which enabled her to get a divorce. The organization also helped R take a course and find a job.

R still lives with her ex-husband, as she cannot afford to live elsewhere. She is still subjected to verbal abuse from him, but he no longer physically attacks her.

Reporting sexual harassment

Half of the women surveyed talked to no one about the most serious incident of sexual harassment they experienced (53%). For the most part, these women said that they were able to deal with it themselves (65%) or that it was too minor and that it had never occurred to them to report it (43%). A minority cited embarrassment or shame (3%) or said that they wanted to keep it private or did not think it would help to report their experiences (both 4%).

For those who *did* talk about their most serious incident of sexual harassment, the people they talked to most often were a family member or relative (24%), a friend (23%) or a boyfriend/partner (7%). Only 1% contacted the police, and none of the women surveyed contacted a victim support or aid organization.

6.4: Satisfaction with services

Women participating in the qualitative research who had reported violence to the police had mixed experiences. In one case, a woman had low expectations of the police but found them to be very supportive. The woman had been subjected to intense beatings, and when she reported this to the police, they were understanding, non-judgemental and informed her of services providing free legal aid and psychological support.

However, other survivors of intimate partner violence had less-positive experiences of reporting violence to the police. One woman from a minority ethnic group had been subjected to physical and psychological violence by her husband. After a particularly serious physical assault, she went to get medical care, and the doctor reported the violence to the police. The police told the woman that they would not look for her husband, but that she should call them when he came home. The police later arrested him but forced the woman to also come to the police station. They then pressured her to drop the charges, even though she had only asked that the police give her husband a warning. She said that she felt that the behaviour of the police officers towards her was discriminatory due to her ethnicity.

“When I reported the violence to the police, they told me they could not look for my husband to arrest him, but rather that I should inform them when he arrived home. Even though I was afraid, I returned home and informed the police when my husband got back. The police came to my house and arrested my husband, but they also requested that I go with them to the police station. At the police station, I experienced discrimination based on my ethnicity. Also, even though I had requested the police to not arrest my husband but only warn him not to repeat this kind of behaviour again, some police officers advised me in an aggressive way to drop the charges.”

Female, survivor of violence, aged 19–40

Very few women who took part in the quantitative research had contacted the police or other relevant services, but, on balance, those who did were more likely to be satisfied than dissatisfied with the help or advice they received.

6. Impact of violence on women's lives and barriers to seeking support



7. Experiences of violence among specific groups of women

The survey collected a range of details from respondents in order to provide a more in-depth analysis on the extent to which violence is experienced by different groups of women. The purpose of this is to identify the prevalence and risk of experiencing violence for specific groups. This chapter focuses on significant differences in the indicated experiences of all forms of violence, including sexual harassment, among different groups of women.

Age

As discussed in Chapter 2, age is a significant discriminator of attitudes towards women and violence. There are also variations in prevalence of violence across different age groups, with higher proportions of younger women saying they have experienced most forms of violence. Women 18 to 29 years old are more likely to state that they have been subjected to any form of intimate partner violence (72% compared to an average of 63%) than those aged 30–39 (68%), while women over 60 are less likely to do so (55%). Younger women are more likely to say they have been subjected to psychological violence by a previous partner (68% of 18–29-year-olds compared to 53% overall).

Women aged 18–29 are also more likely to say that they have experienced physical violence at the hands of a current partner in the 12 months prior to the survey (10%) than women 60 or older (4%). Non-partner physical violence in the 12 months prior to the survey is also more commonly indicated by 18–29-year-olds (5% compared to 2% overall). Women aged 30–39 are more likely to say they have been subjected to physical violence by a non-partner since the age of 15 (15%), while women over 60 are less likely (6%).

In terms of childhood violence, women aged 40–49 are less likely to say that they have experienced physical violence (20% versus 26% overall). Women between 30 and 39 years of age are more likely to state that they experienced psychological violence as a child (7% compared to 4% overall).

The indicated prevalence of sexual harassment splits very clearly across age lines. Fifty-four per cent of 18–29-year-olds state that they have experienced it, compared to 27% among 40–49-year-olds, 25% among 50–59-year-olds and 18% among women 60 or older. The last two groups are also less likely to say they experienced this in the 12 months prior to the survey (9% and 5% respectively), while 18–29-year-olds are again more likely (34%). The same patterns are seen in terms of the most severe forms of sexual harassment.

The picture is similar with stalking, with 22% of 18–29-year-olds saying they have experienced stalking, compared to 8% of 40–49-year-olds and 9% of 50–59-year-olds and women 60 or older. Nine per cent of 18–29-year-olds say that they were stalked in the 12 months prior to the survey, compared to 3% of 40–49-year-olds and 1% of 50–59-year-olds and women 60 or older.

Relationship status

The data was analysed to determine whether each respondent has a current partner (currently married, living together without being married or involved in a relationship without living together), has had a previous partner (previously married, living together without being married or involved in a relationship without living together) or has never had a partner.

Women with a previous partner are consistently more likely to say that they have experienced violence. They are almost twice as likely to say they have ever been subjected to physical violence by a non-partner (17%) than women without a previous partner (9%).⁷¹ They are also more likely to indicate that they have experienced all forms of violence at the hands of a current partner.

Women with a previous partner are more likely to say they have experienced sexual harassment (43% versus 31% of women without a previous partner) and that they experienced sexual harassment in the 12 months prior to the survey (26% versus 15%). They are also more likely to have ever been stalked (20% versus 12%). In addition, 8% of women with a previous partner state that they experienced psychological violence as a child, compared to 3% of women without a previous partner.

Employment status and occupation

There are correlations between experiences of violence and the victim's employment and occupation, which may also be age-related.

For instance, students are more likely than average to disclose that they have experienced sexual harassment both since the age of 15 (62% versus 34%) and in the 12 months prior to the survey (42% versus 17%). This prevalence is also higher than that of 18–29-year-olds, the age group into which nearly all students fall.

Students are also more likely to say they were subjected to childhood violence (36% compared to 27% overall and 31% of 18–29-year-olds) and that they have been stalked since the age of 15 (28% compared to 13% on average and 22% of 18–29-year-olds).

Women in paid employment are also more likely to say that they have experienced sexual harassment either since the age of 15 (40%) or in the 12 months prior to the survey (21%). On the other hand, women who are retired are less likely to say that they have been subjected to sexual harassment either since the age of 15 (17%) or in the 12 months prior to the survey (4%). Similarly, women who are retired are less likely to say they have ever experienced physical violence at the hands of a previous partner (9% compared to 22% overall). Students (17%) are more likely to say they have ever experienced physical violence at the hands of a non-partner than women who are retired (6%).

Women whose main activity is fulfilling domestic duties and care responsibilities are more likely to say that they have experienced some forms of violence than others. The prevalence is higher in terms of being subjected to psychological violence by a current partner (70% compared to 61% overall) and in terms of experiencing childhood physical violence (41% compared to 26% overall). Conversely, these women are less likely to say they have experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15 (24% versus 34%) or in the 12 months prior to the survey (8% versus 17%). They are also less likely to say that they have experienced the most serious forms of sexual harassment.

Women in professional occupations are more than twice as likely as women in elementary occupations to say that they have experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15 (63% versus 31%) or in the 12 months prior to the survey (42% versus 15%). The same pattern exists for the most serious forms of sexual harassment. Women in a professional occupation are also more likely to disclose that they have been stalked (32%) than on average (13%).

⁷¹ For psychological violence, the figure is 73% compared to 60% of women without a previous partner; for physical violence, the reported rates of prevalence are higher both ever (24% versus 16%) and in the 12 months prior to the survey (12% versus 7%). This is also the case for sexual violence both ever (6% versus 2%) and in the 12 months prior to the survey (4% versus 1%).

7. Experiences of violence among specific groups of women

Education

The survey asked women about the highest level of education they have completed: primary, secondary or tertiary. As previously noted, there is some correlation between a woman's level of education and the types of violence experienced.

Women with only primary education are more likely to say that they have experienced physical violence at the hands of a current partner either ever (22% compared to 17% overall) or in the 12 months prior to the survey (11% compared to 7% overall). They are also more likely to say they have ever been subjected to sexual violence by a current partner (5% compared to 3% on average).

However, women with at least some tertiary education are more than three times as likely as women with only primary education to disclose that they have experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15 (60% versus 18%) and almost five times as likely in the 12 months prior to the survey (34% versus 7%). The same patterns are seen in terms of the most severe forms of sexual harassment. The picture is similar when it comes to stalking, which 24% of women with some tertiary education say they have experienced since the age of 15 compared to 6% of women who have only completed primary education. When it comes to the 12 months prior to the survey, women with at least some tertiary education are four times as likely to say they have experienced stalking (8%) compared to women with only primary education (2%).

Income

The women who took part in the survey were divided into four income groups based on their responses: those living comfortably on their present income, those coping, those finding it difficult and those finding it very difficult. There is some evidence that women in the last two categories are more likely to have experienced violence at some point in their lives.

Women finding it difficult to cope on their present income are more likely to say that they have been subjected to psychological violence by their current partner (71% compared to 61% overall). Women finding it very difficult are more likely to say they have ever experienced physical violence at the hands of their current partner (25% compared to 18% overall and 14% of those living comfortably).

Women finding it either difficult or very difficult to cope on their current income are more likely to say that they experienced childhood physical violence (31% and 32% respectively, compared to 17% of women who are living comfortably). Women who find it very difficult to cope are also more likely to say they experienced childhood psychological violence (7% compared to 4% overall)

Minority groups

Within the total sample of 1,858 women, there were 296 who considered themselves to be from one or more of a range of minority groups in their community. These are: an ethnic minority (194), an immigrant minority (nine), a religious minority (nine), a minority in terms of disability (three), a refugee/displaced person (17) and a returnee/former IDP/refugee (seven), as well as 24 women who said they belonged to some other unspecified minority groups. In view of the small bases, only differences between ethnic minorities and the general population are included here.

Women from an ethnic minority are almost twice as likely to disclose that they have experienced physical violence at the hands of either a non-partner since the age of 15 (21% compared to 11% overall) or a previous partner (47% compared to 22% overall). They are more likely to say they have experienced physical violence at the hands of their current partner in the 12 months prior to the survey (13% compared to 7% overall).

They are also more likely to indicate that they were subjected to psychological violence in childhood (9% compared to 4% overall).

Women with or without children

Women without children are more likely to say that they have encountered violence. This may be age-related given the higher prevalence of violence indicated among younger women, who are less likely to have or to have had children.

Women without children are more likely to say they have experienced physical violence at the hands of a non-partner both ever (14% compared to 10% of those who have or have had children) and in the 12 months prior to the survey (5% versus 2%). They are more likely to say that they have been subjected to psychological violence by a previous partner (70% versus 46%).

Sexual harassment is more likely to have been experienced by women without children both since the age of 15 (57% versus 26% of women with children) and in the 12 months prior to the survey (37% versus 11%). The same pattern is seen with more serious forms of sexual harassment. Women without children are more likely to say that they have been subjected to stalking since the age of 15 (26% versus 9%) and in the 12 months prior to the survey (11% versus 2%), and they are also more likely to indicate that they experienced violence in childhood (32% versus 26%).

Location

Women living in the north of Albania are consistently more likely to say they have experienced violence:

- Twenty-three per cent disclose that they have experienced physical violence at the hands of their current partner at some point compared to 17% overall. For the 12 months prior to the survey, the figures are 15% and 7%, respectively.
- Women from the north are more likely than women from the central region to say they have experienced sexual violence at the hands of their current partner at some point (4% versus 3%)
- They are also more likely to say that they experienced childhood psychological violence (6% compared to 3% in the central and southern regions).

Women in the central region are more likely than women from the southern region to report having experienced sexual harassment either since the age of 15 (43% versus 23%) or in the 12 months prior to the survey (26% versus 7%). This pattern also holds true for more serious forms of sexual harassment. The same picture is seen in terms of stalking, which 18% of women from the central region indicate they have experienced since the age of 15, compared to 9% of women from the south. In terms of stalking in the 12 months prior to the survey, the prevalence is 7% among women from the central region compared with 2% among women from the south.

Women living in urban areas are almost twice as likely to say they have experienced sexual harassment in the 12 months prior to the survey than those living in rural areas

7. Experiences of violence among specific groups of women

Table 7.1: Prevalence of violence, by region

	North %	Central %	South %
Sexual harassment- Since the age of 15	31	43	23
Sexual harassment- In the 12 months prior to the survey	15	26	7
Stalking- Since the age of 15	11	18	9
Stalking- In the 12 months prior to the survey	3	7	2
Childhood violence (all forms)	25	30	26
Non-partner physical and/or sexual violence- Since the age of 15	12	12	10
Non-partner physical and/or sexual violence- In the 12 months prior to the survey	4	2	2
Intimate partner physical and/or sexual violence- Since the age of 15	24	18	18
Intimate partner physical and/or sexual violence- In the 12 months prior to the survey	14	4	6
Intimate partner psychological violence- Since the age of 15	64	61	61
Partner or non-partner physical and/or sexual violence- Since the age of 15	22	22	21
Partner or non-partner physical and/or sexual violence- In the 12 months prior to the survey	12	5	7

BASE: Women in Albania aged 18–74 (1,858); all ever-partnered women (1,660)

SOURCE: OSCE-led survey on violence against women (2018)

Women living in urban areas are more likely to say they have experienced sexual harassment both since the age of 15 (40% compared to 25% of women living in rural areas) and in the 12 months prior to the survey (21% versus 12%). This is also true of more serious forms of sexual harassment.

Current partner characteristics

Background information on the age, education, employment and certain experiences and behaviours of respondents' partners were collected.

Although the base sizes are small, the findings suggest that having a partner who drinks to get drunk on at least a weekly basis heightens the risk of violence. Over nine in ten women with such a partner indicate that they have been subjected to psychological violence by them, while over half say they have been subjected to physical violence at some point, and three in ten say that this has happened in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Women whose partners demanded they marry them are more likely to say that they have been subjected to psychological violence by their current partner (82% compared to 61% overall).



8. Key conclusions and recommendations

The findings of the survey and the qualitative research point towards three main conclusions on violence against women in Albania:

1. Cultural norms and attitudes in Albania help uphold a situation whereby women are expected to be obedient to men and where sexual violence in intimate relationships is widely accepted

Forty-seven per cent of women in Albania believe that most of their friends would agree that “a good wife should obey her husband even if she disagrees with him”. Nineteen per cent believe that sexual intercourse without consent is justified in a marriage or between partners who live together. While 4% of women indicate that they have experienced sexual violence at the hands of their current or a previous partner since the age of 15, women in the qualitative research thought that sexual violence within relationships was very common but was not discussed. They expressed the view that it was widely accepted that a woman should submit to her husband and that there was no such thing as marital rape. Women who agree that domestic violence is a private matter are more likely to say they have experienced intimate partner violence than those who disagree (23% vs 16%). Furthermore, women who agree that it is a wife’s obligation to have sex with her husband are also more likely to say that they have experienced intimate partner violence (25% vs 18% of those who disagree). These norms and attitudes are harmful to women and present an obstacle to full achievement of gender equality and freedom from all forms of VAW. The CEDAW Committee recommended that the government of Albania address gender stereotypes that perpetuate discrimination against women by developing a wide-ranging strategy across all sectors to eliminate discriminatory stereotypes. GREVIO also recommended the use of a clear gender approach to addressing VAW.

2. Violence against women is under-reported, and women are not consistently accessing services or receiving protection

The majority of women who took part in the survey say they did not contact the police even following the most serious incidents of physical and/or sexual violence they experienced in relation to both current partners (97%) and previous partners (84%). This may be linked to the belief, held by 48% of women, that domestic violence is “a private matter” that should be kept within the family, and that 41% believe that women who say they were abused often make up or exaggerate claims of abuse or rape.

The court process itself also places the burden of proof on the survivor, as opposed to the perpetrator. This burden of proof could help explain why most women would only discuss incidents of violence with family and friends rather than seeking support from the appropriate authorities. In the qualitative research, women said that, besides shame and fear of what their families and society would think of them, they were also reluctant to report violence because they were afraid that the violence would escalate as a result. They said that they lacked trust in the country’s judicial institutions, fearing they would not take their complaints seriously and would fail to protect them, and they were unaware of services that could help them. This was especially true for women from rural areas and minority groups. The experts who took part in the qualitative research expressed the belief that some of these women were unable to access information about relevant services and that women from these minority groups would likely face discrimination when accessing services. This was demonstrated by the experiences and expectations of Roma women who took part in

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the qualitative research, who thought that services such as the police would think that violence is a part of their community's culture and would not take their claims seriously.

Some experts argued that access to multi-sector services would be one of the best ways to support women. They said that this system could be seen as a success because it resulted in an increased number of women accessing services in the short-term. In addition, according to the experts, the provision of free legal aid has not been properly implemented. They said that support was currently provided only by NGOs and that the courts were not meeting their obligations in this regard. In Albania, a national referral mechanism has been established to enable victims of violence to access the various support services available to them (such as free legal aid, support from a trained psychologist, health services and protection support). The interviewed experts expressed the opinion that this was a step in the right direction but that more needed to be done to ensure that women in all areas are being referred to the relevant services, and that these are available wherever they live.

In the qualitative research, women who had experienced violence said that the lack of access to financial means was one of the key barriers preventing women from leaving abusive partners. Even in one case where the woman had access to legal aid to obtain a divorce from an abusive partner, she still had to remain in the house with her abusive ex-partner since she could not afford to live anywhere else.

GREVIO recommended that Albania ensure stable and sustainable funding for women's NGOs working to support victims and prevent violence, and also uphold the principle of the civil-law responsibility of public officials who fail in their duty to take necessary preventive or protective measures. CEDAW recommended that the state take measures to encourage women to report cases of gender-based violence by providing free legal aid, including in rural and remote areas; increase the number and capacity of state-run shelters; increase the financing of shelters run by non-governmental organizations; and put in place mechanisms for contracting, delegating to, or obtaining the services of, non-governmental organizations in order to respond to the needs of all women who are victims of gender-based violence, including Roma and Egyptian women, women with disabilities and women living in rural and remote areas.

The majority of women who took part in the survey say they did not contact the police even following the most serious incidents of physical and/or sexual violence they experienced in relation to both current partners and previous partners

3. There are gaps in the legislation, the implementation thereof and data collection

As noted in Chapter 2, there have been a number of recent legislative and policy changes in Albania, including changes to the Criminal Code, improvements to the process involved in issuing protection orders and to the provision of free legal aid for those with economic difficulties. The experts interviewed expressed the hope that if these changes were properly implemented, this would make a difference to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). However, there are still gaps, such as the fact that the definition of rape in the Criminal Code, whereby the use of force or a threat of force is required to prove rape, is not aligned with the Istanbul Convention. Both experts and survivors of violence expressed the belief that it was important to improve the rates of prosecution of perpetrators and enforce harsher sentences for violence against women as an effective way to reduce GBV and encourage survivors to report violence. They also expressed the opinion that perpetrators should be required to undergo counselling to reduce the likelihood of recidivism.

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection, in co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme, began collecting data on domestic violence in 2014 through an online system. However, the experts interviewed have called for this system to be improved to ensure consistency across Albania. They also expressed the belief that it would be beneficial if data were entered by all services involved (the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the police and the justice system) so that a full analysis of access to services and outcomes for survivors would be possible.

GREVIO recommended that Albania amend its criminal legislation to base the offence of sexual violence on the absence of freely given consent and conform to the Convention's standards regarding ex parte and ex officio prosecution, while both GREVIO and CEDAW recommended that the state strengthen the enforcement of court decisions, in particular those that concern protection orders or emergency protection orders for women who are survivors of gender-based violence. In addition, the findings of this survey point to more specific recommendations

Women who agree that domestic violence is a private matter are more likely to say they have experienced intimate partner violence than those who disagree (23% vs 16%)

Recommendations

The following recommendations are based on the above findings and conclusions from the survey and the qualitative research and a round-table discussion with the main governmental and CSO actors.

For the government

1. Implement awareness-raising campaigns on sexual violence, especially in intimate partner relationships, in co-operation with women's CSOs.
2. Analyse the causes and consequences of the failure of responsible state institutions to react in accordance with the rules and legislation.⁷² This analysis would serve to prepare specific recommendations to improve the work of the responsible actors and institutions.

For the Ministry of Health and Social Protection

3. Invest in establishing emergency shelters and additional rape crisis centres to destigmatise the reporting of sexual violence and offer proper health and psychological services to survivors of sexual violence.
4. Support NGOs in their efforts to promote intergenerational discussions to enable the sharing of perspectives and challenge the culture of silence that surrounds violence against women. This could include engaging more outspoken women, especially in rural and remote areas to reach out to other women who still consider violence a normal aspect of a marriage/relationship.
5. Conduct information sessions, especially with rural women, about resources, institutions and processes that deal with cases of violence against women.
6. Train healthcare professionals to play a more active role in referral mechanisms, in encouraging women to report cases of violence in general and in supporting survivors.
7. Continue effective management of the REVALB system in co-operation with municipality officials and other relevant actors.

For the Ministry of Justice

8. Ensure proper access to free legal aid for victims of gender-based violence.
9. Train judges and prosecutors on the issues of violence against women and domestic violence and provide them with training on relevant new legislations.
10. Collaborate with all stakeholders to collect all relevant national data on GBV court cases in one central database and carry out systematic studies on the data.

⁷² The validation round-table took place on 8 November 2018 in Tirana where 30 key stakeholders were invited.

8. Key conclusions and recommendations

For the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth

11. Establish a curriculum for both girls and boys in elementary and high schools in co-operation with CSOs in order to prevent gender inequality and violence against women at an early age.

For the Ministry of Internal Affairs

12. Use community policing as a preventive tool to improve communication between police officers and the general public and as an efficient way to increase trust in the police and encourage more victims to report cases of gender-based violence.
13. Ensure data collection on GBV crimes in co-operation with relevant actors and ensure that the data is shared with stakeholders in charge of the database on court cases and the REVALB system.

For local government authorities and local referral mechanisms

13. Strengthen collaboration between central institutions and local mechanisms. Share best practices from municipalities throughout the country to help other communities that are struggling with their referral mechanism.
14. Establish and implement programmes for perpetrators as part of a co-ordinated community response associated with an effective criminal justice system and services for survivors in order to ensure a victim-centred approach that treats the safety of the victim as the first priority.
15. Ensure that the REVALB system is functional in all municipalities.

For the media

16. Support gender-related ethics training for the media to better tackle existing gender biases that reach a wide audience. Also, train young journalists on fair reporting of gender-based violence to avoid blaming the survivor for the violence she experienced.



Annexes

Annex 1: Survey and qualitative fieldwork

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) commissioned Ipsos to undertake a qualitative and quantitative study on violence against women in seven OSCE participating States. The study was also conducted in Kosovo. This is the first comparative study of its kind in this region, and it is intended to be used to improve policy-making in future by both national and international stakeholders working on policy and programme implementation in the region. This report presents the findings for Albania.

The study comprises the following elements:

- A quantitative survey among a representative sample of 1,858 women aged 18 to 74 was conducted between 4 April and 27 August 2018.
- A multistage, stratified, random probability sample was used. The sample frame, a list of the 2017 polling station territories, was obtained from the Electoral Commission. This provided almost 100% coverage.⁷³ The polling station territories were used as primary sampling units (PSUs).
- The sample frame was stratified by region and urbanity. PSUs were then selected within each stratum with probability proportional to size. In Albania, the number of women aged 20–74 was used to approximate the survey population. A total of 175 PSUs were selected, and a set number of addresses was selected within each sampled PSU with the aim of conducting 10 interviews within each PSU. Addresses were selected at the same time as the interviews via a random walk approach. When more than one household was identified at a selected address, one household was randomly selected by the electronic contact sheet. In each sampled household, one woman was selected for the interview. The respondent was selected randomly from the list of all eligible women in a selected household, i.e., all women aged 18–74 within the household were listed by age in descending order on the electronic contact sheet. Then the contact sheet randomly selected one of them using a random-number generator.
- Interviews were conducted face-to-face by specifically trained female field workers (see Annex 2 below for more details on training and protocols).
- The response rate achieved was 61% and the average eligibility was 93%. The weights were calculated in two stages: a) sampling design weights; and b) post-stratification weights. The design weights reflected probabilities of selection of respondents, while post-stratification weights were calculated to compensate for the non-response. Region, urbanity level and age categories were used for post-stratification in Albania.

⁷³ Due to fieldwork practicalities, six PSUs with fewer than 100 voters were excluded from the selection, as they were regarded as remote and secluded. These accounted for less than 0.1% of the population.

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- Seven focus group discussions, including with women from minority ethnic groups and women with experience of conflict, which took place from June to August 2018. The focus group composition was as follows:

Table A1.1: Composition of focus groups

FG	Location	Number of participants	Age group	Ethnicity	Number conflict-affected	Number with children	Number working
1	Rural	8	40–53	Albanian	8	6	3
2	Urban	9	56–69	Albanian	9	9	4
3	Rural	8	56–70	Albanian	8	8	1
4	Urban	7	18–28	Albanian	0	1	3
5	Rural	8	19–32	Albanian	0	2	3
6	Urban	6	19–35	Roma	0	4	2
7	Urban	8	36–52	Albanian	8	6	3

- Four in-depth interviews with survivors of violence, including women with a disability, with a pilot interview taking place in March 2018 and the remaining three interviews in August 2018.

Table A1.2: Profile of in-depth interview participants

IDI	Age group	Work status	Has children	Medical condition/disability
1	35–55	Unemployed	Yes	Yes
2	35–55	Unemployed	Yes	Yes
3	55+	Unemployed	Yes	Yes
4	18–34	Employed	Yes	No

- Five key expert interviews that were designed to provide an overview of issues relating to VAW and of conflict-related acts of violence that took place in June and July 2017 and a further round of nine key expert interviews that took place in June–August 2018 to explore changes since the first round and to gather recommendations for the OSCE.

The survey was designed to be nationally representative of women in Albania aged 18–74. A breakdown by demographics is shown in Table A1.3.

Table A1.3: Weighted and unweighted sample profile

Age	Weighted %	Unweighted %	Unweighted n
18–29	27	20	362
30–39	17	15	282
40–49	17	21	391
50–59	19	19	350
60+	20	25	473
Economic activity			
In paid work	21	21	381
Self-employed	7	7	132
Helping in a family business (unpaid)	2	2	32
Unemployed	26	26	483
A pupil, student, in training	10	6	119
Not working due to illness or disability	1	1	22
Fulfilling domestic duties and care responsibilities	16	16	294
Retired	17	21	394
Compulsory military/community service/other	0.1	0.1	1
Education			
No formal education	2	2	45
Primary education	23	25	462
Secondary education	54	54	1,009
Tertiary education	21	18	342
Location			
Urban	57	54	1,006
Rural	43	46	852
Directly conflict-affected			
Yes	19	21	386
No	80	79	1,472

Sampling tolerances

Due to differences in methodology, sampling and questionnaire design, the results from this survey will not be directly comparable with other national surveys conducted in Albania.

As the data is based on a sample rather than the entire population, and the percentage results (or estimates) are subject to sampling tolerance, not all differences between results are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. When calculating the confidence intervals, the effective sample size must be taken into consideration.

The effective sample size (or the design effect, a related concept) is linked to individual estimates, and so it will vary across estimates. To calculate the design effects for the total sample size a formula based on the following ratio was used:

$$\text{Design effect} = (\text{unweighted sample size}) * (\text{sum of the squared weights}) / (\text{square of the sum of weights}).^{74}$$

This approach to design effect estimation is related to disproportional sampling (in the case of the OSCE survey, the women in the household were selected with unequal probability, depending on the number of eligible women in the household), as well as unequal nonresponse across population segments, which were corrected with post-stratification weights (as described above).

The table below summarizes the design effect for the total sample size and conflict-affected sample size and provide confidence intervals based on the effective sample size for a survey estimate of 50%.

Table A1.4: Effective sample sizes and confidence intervals

	N	Design effect	Effective sample size	95% confidence interval for a survey estimate of 50% based on a weighted sample	
				Lower	Upper
All women aged 18–74	1,858	1.257	1,478	47.5%	52.5%
Directly conflict-affected women	386	1.227	315	44.5%	55.5%

74 Leslie Kish, "Weighting for unequal PI", Journal of Official Statistics, 8 (1992): 183–200.

Annex 2. Ethical and safety considerations

Given the sensitivity of the survey, a number of steps were taken to protect both respondents and interviewers from potential harm and to provide sources of support in the event of distress:

- All interviewers and moderators were women who had experience conducting surveys on sensitive issues and who were native speakers of the language used for the interviews. All interviewers and moderators attended a two-day briefing.
- For the protection of both respondents and interviewers, interviewers were instructed not to disclose in advance that the survey was about violence, and to conduct the survey in private.
- At the end of the survey, focus group discussions and in-depth interviews, all respondents were offered information on support organizations that they could contact should they wish to discuss any issues arising as a result of taking part in the survey.
- The project co-ordinator was available for interviewers and moderators to speak with at any time during fieldwork, and individual meetings with counsellors could be arranged if needed.
- Adherence to ethical principles is a cornerstone of the research methodology used for the OSCE-led survey, and the procedures used by the World Health Organization⁷⁵ and the United Nations Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women⁷⁶ were taken into account.

⁷⁵ Ethical and safety recommendations for intervention research on violence against women. Building on lessons from the WHO publication Putting women first: ethical and safety recommendations for research on domestic violence against women (Geneva: World Health Organization, 2016), accessed 12 February 2019, <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/251759/9789241510189-eng.pdf>;

⁷⁶ Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women: Statistical Surveys (New York: United Nations, 2014), accessed 14 February 2019, https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/docs/guidelines_statistics_vaw.pdf.

Annex 3: SDG indicators

SDG indicator 5.2.2: Proportion of women and girls aged 15 and older subjected to sexual violence by individuals other than an intimate partner in the 12 months prior to the survey, by age, area and education.

All women 18–74 (1,858)	0.2%
18–29 years old (362)	0.3%
30–39 years old (282)	0%
40–49 years old (387)	0.2%
50–59 years old (350)	0.2%
60+ years old (473)	0.2%
Residents of urban areas (1,006)	0.3%
Residents of rural areas (852)	0.1%
No formal education/primary education (502)	0.4%
Secondary education (1,009)	0.2%
Tertiary education (342)	0%

SDG Indicator 5.2.1: Proportion of women and girls aged 18–74 who have ever had a partner and who were subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the 12 months prior to the survey, by age, area and education.

All women aged 18–74 who have ever had a partner (1,618)	31%
18–29 years old (227)	35%
30–39 years old (258)	39%
40–49 years old (369)	29%
50–59 years old (332)	29%
60+ years old (428)	24%
Residents of urban areas (871)	29%
Residents of rural areas (747)	33%
No/primary education (458)	40%
Secondary education (883)	28%
Tertiary education (277)	25%

Women were asked how often they had experienced different forms of psychological violence at the hands of their current partner: never, sometimes, often or all of the time.

For previous partner violence, women were asked if they had ever experienced various forms of psychological violence. Threats of physical or sexual violence, as part of psychological violence, are recorded for the 12 months prior to the survey.

As such, a proxy has to be used to calculate SDG indicator 5.2.1, as follows:

- women who experienced threats of physical or sexual violence at the hands of their current or previous partner in the 12 months prior to the survey
- women who have experienced any of the other forms of psychological violence **often** or **all of the time** at the hands of their current partner
- women who experienced any of the forms of physical or sexual violence at the hands of their current or previous partners in the 12 months prior to the survey

Annex 4. Summary statistics

		Prevalence of violence
Any psychological/physical/sexual violence at the hands of a non-partner or partner	Since the age of 15	56%
Any physical/sexual violence at the hands of a non-partner or partner	Since the age of 15	22%
	In the 12 months prior to the survey	8%
Non-partner violence	Since the age of 15	Physical: 11% Sexual: 1%
	In the 12 months prior to the survey	Physical: 2% Sexual: 0.2%
Intimate partner violence – any partner	Since the age of 15	Physical: 19% Sexual: 4% Psychological: 62%
	In the 12 months prior to the survey	Physical: 7% Sexual: 1% Psychological: 29%
Sexual harassment	Since the age of 15	Any: 34% Most severe forms: 17%
	In the 12 months prior to the survey	Any: 17% Most severe forms: 8%
Stalking	Since the age of 15	13%
	In the 12 months prior to the survey	4%
Violence during childhood (physical, sexual, psychological)	Up to the age of 15	27%

		Consequences of the most serious incident
Non-partner violence		Emotional: 89% Psychological: 62% Physical: 45%
Intimate partner violence		Emotional: 97% Psychological: 67% Physical: 37%
Sexual harassment		Emotional: 89% Psychological: 36%
Stalking		Emotional: 94% Psychological: 46%

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Reporting of the most serious incident)	% of women who reported it themselves to the police	% of women who did not contact police/other organization
Non-partner violence	17%	61%
Current partner violence	3%	87%
Previous partner violence	16%	70%
Sexual harassment	1%	N/A
Stalking	10%	N/A

Attitudes and norms

% who agree that their friends would generally agree that it is a woman's obligation to have sex with her husband even if she does not feel like it	19%
% who think violence against women by partners, acquaintances or strangers is common in Albania	88%
% who think domestic violence is a private matter and should be handled within the family	48%
% who agree women are more likely to be raped by a stranger than someone they know	36%

Conflict-affected women

Proportion of directly conflict-affected women in Albania	19%
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Annex 5. More detailed tables

Respondent characteristics (weighted)

		All women		Women who have ever had a partner	
		%	Number	%	Number
Residential area	Urban	57	1,062	57	892
	Rural	43	796	44	687
Age category	18–19	5	100	2	25
	20–24	13	240	9	138
	25–29	8	157	8	124
	30–34	9	173	10	159
	35–39	7	137	8	130
	40–49	17	318	20	309
	50–59	20	363	22	353
	60–69	14	257	15	238
	70–74	5	96	6	88
	75–79	1	14	1	13
	Refused	0	2	0	2
	Education	None	2	37	2
Primary		23	421	25	387
Secondary		54	1,007	54	853
Tertiary		21	392	19	304
Do you have any children?	Yes, own children	76	1,418	88	1,384
	Yes, took care of step-or foster children	0	4	0	4
	Yes, both	0	2	0	2
	No	23	432	12	190
	Refused to say	0	2	-	-
Employment	In paid work	21	394	23	363
	Self-employed	7	133	8	129
	Helping in a family business (unpaid)	2	39	2	32
	Unemployed	26	491	27	424
	A pupil, student, in training	10	176	4	58
	Not working due to illness or disability	1	23	1	20
	Fulfilling domestic duties and care responsibilities	16	293	17	269
	Retired	17	309	18	283
	Compulsory military service or other community service	0	1	0	1

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	Total		Women who have ever had a partner	
	No		Yes	
	%	Number	%	Number
What is your current job or occupation?				
Elementary occupations	35	199	36	189
Plant and machine operator and assembler	1	4	1	4
Building, crafts or a related tradesperson	4	24	5	23
A skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery worker	3	17	3	15
Sales, customer or personal service worker	26	145	25	130
Clerical support	5	29	5	26
Technician or associate professional	5	26	5	25
Professional	14	76	14	71
Manager	6	32	5	28
Employed in a military capacity by the Armed Forces	0	1	0	1
Refused to say	2	13	2	12
Which of the descriptions on this card comes closest to how you feel about your household's income nowadays?				
Living comfortably on present income	18	328	17	264
Coping on present income	40	745	39	616
Finding it difficult on present income	27	493	28	434
Finding it very difficult on present income	16	289	17	262
Don't know	0	2	0	2
Do you have your own personal bank account, i.e., one that is not shared with anyone else in your family?				
Yes	21	395	21	328
No	77	1,436	78	1,228
Don't know	0	5	0	5
Not applicable	1	10	1	10
Refused to say	1	11	1	8
Conflict-affected				
Yes	20	362	22	340
No	81	1,496	78	1,239

Attitudes

			A good wife obeys her husband even if she disagrees		Women who say they were abused often make up or exaggerate claims of abuse or rape		Violence against women is often provoked by the victim		Domestic violence is a private matter and should be handled within the family		Women are more likely to be raped by a stranger than someone they know	
			Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
Total		%	47	52	41	53	37	57	48	50	36	51
		Number	865	971	753	988	688	1,065	895	929	664	945
Residential area	Urban	%	39	60	40	55	36	59	46	53	38	50
		Number	414	639	428	580	383	629	485	560	405	529
	Rural	%	57	42	41	51	38	55	52	46	33	52
		Number	452	332	325	408	305	436	410	370	259	416
Age	18–29	%	27	72	32	65	29	68	41	57	39	49
		Number	134	357	157	322	143	339	205	285	196	245
	30–39	%	45	54	36	58	35	58	47	52	35	55
		Number	139	167	110	178	109	179	144	161	108	170
	40–49	%	54	45	46	47	38	58	51	47	36	54
		Number	171	144	146	150	122	184	162	148	113	171
	50–59	%	55	44	42	49	39	51	48	49	32	50
		Number	198	160	152	176	143	184	174	176	115	181
60+	%	61	39	51	44	46	48	57	43	36	48	
	Number	223	142	187	160	170	178	209	157	131	178	
Education	None	%	75	23	35	53	41	48	51	45	21	52
		Number	28	9	13	20	15	18	19	17	8	19
	Primary	%	69	30	52	41	54	39	58	41	33	50
		Number	290	128	218	172	229	164	246	171	140	211
	Secondary	%	47	52	38	56	35	60	48	50	36	51
		Number	471	525	382	559	351	605	480	504	364	514
	Tertiary	%	20	79	36	61	24	71	38	60	39	51
		Number	77	309	141	237	93	278	151	237	152	201
Ever had a partner	Yes	%	49	50	42	52	39	56	50	49	36	50
		Number	778	787	663	814	617	876	788	767	569	795
Children	Yes	%	52	47	44	49	41	53	51	47	35	51
		Number	746	663	629	696	584	756	731	667	498	721
	No	%	27	71	29	67	24	72	38	61	38	52
		Number	118	308	124	290	104	309	164	263	165	223

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Employment			A good wife obeys her husband even if she disagrees		Women who say they were abused often make up or exaggerate claims of abuse or rape		Violence against women is often provoked by the victim		Domestic violence is a private matter and should be handled within the family		Women are more likely to be raped by a stranger than someone they know	
			Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
			%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
In paid work	%	31	68	35	61	31	65	43	55	33	57	
	Number	124	267	137	238	122	255	169	218	130	224	
Self-employed	%	54	45	50	49	42	55	54	45	38	53	
	Number	72	60	66	64	56	73	71	59	50	71	
Helping in a family business (unpaid)	%	52	48	33	64	30	70	40	60	35	63	
	Number	20	19	13	25	12	28	16	24	14	25	
Unemployed	%	47	51	41	50	37	55	50	47	39	45	
	Number	232	250	199	243	181	269	245	231	190	221	
A pupil, student, in training	%	18	79	24	73	18	79	35	65	41	50	
	Number	32	139	42	129	32	139	61	115	72	87	
Not working due to illness or disability	%	52	48	58	38	53	39	51	45	21	67	
	Number	12	11	13	9	12	9	12	10	5	15	
Fulfilling domestic duties and care responsibilities	%	63	36	42	52	45	50	51	49	29	56	
	Number	186	105	123	152	132	145	148	143	86	165	
Retired	%	61	39	52	41	46	48	56	42	37	44	
	Number	188	119	159	127	141	148	174	130	115	137	
Compulsory military service or other community service	%	0	100	100	0	100	0	0	100	100	0	
	Number	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	

Occupation			A good wife obeys her husband even if she disagrees		Women who say they were abused often make up or exaggerate claims of abuse or rape		Violence against women is often provoked by the victim		Domestic violence is a private matter and should be handled within the family		Women are more likely to be raped by a stranger than someone they know	
			Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
			%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Elementary occupations	%	46	54	33	63	31	66	46	52	29	60	
	Number	91	107	65	125	62	131	92	103	58	120	
Plant and machine operator and assembler	%	21	79	0	100	21	79	46	37	34	66	
	Number	1	3	0	4	1	3	2	1	1	3	
Building, crafts or a related tradesperson	%	34	66	52	38	50	50	48	52	42	45	
	Number	8	16	13	9	12	12	12	13	10	11	
A skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery worker	%	76	24	56	44	26	74	46	54	31	69	
	Number	13	4	9	7	4	12	8	9	5	11	
Sales, customer or personal service worker	%	39	59	41	56	39	58	46	53	44	54	
	Number	57	86	59	81	57	85	66	77	64	78	
Clerical support	%	30	70	22	70	21	71	40	54	45	50	
	Number	9	20	6	20	6	21	12	16	13	15	
Technician or associate professional	%	32	68	48	49	44	56	59	41	39	46	
	Number	8	18	13	13	11	15	15	11	10	12	
Professional	%	19	81	41	57	25	68	36	63	29	57	
	Number	14	62	31	44	19	52	27	48	22	44	
Manager	%	25	73	53	45	42	52	66	32	21	65	
	Number	8	23	17	14	13	17	21	10	7	21	
Military	%	0	100	0	100	0	100	0	100	100	0	
	Number	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	

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		A good wife obeys her husband even if she disagrees		Women who say they were abused often make up or exaggerate claims of abuse or rape		Violence against women is often provoked by the victim		Domestic violence is a private matter and should be handled within the family		Women are more likely to be raped by a stranger than someone they know		
		Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	
House hold income	Living comfortably on present income	%	38	62	36	58	35	62	41	56	42	50
		Number	124	202	120	191	116	203	135	184	137	164
	Coping on present income	%	39	60	37	57	35	59	46	53	37	49
		Number	290	446	275	427	258	440	340	392	273	366
Finding it difficult on present income	%	55	44	43	50	36	57	54	45	32	51	
	Number	270	216	212	246	178	279	266	220	156	252	
Finding it very difficult on present income	%	63	37	51	42	47	49	53	46	33	56	
	Number	181	106	146	121	135	141	153	133	97	162	
Bank account owner	Yes	%	27	72	32	64	24	71	40	58	39	51
		Number	108	283	127	253	93	282	160	227	154	201
	No	%	52	47	43	50	41	53	50	48	35	51
		Number	746	673	617	723	591	765	720	691	503	733
Conflict-affected	Yes	%	55	45	48	47	49	47	56	41	42	48
		Number	197	162	172	171	176	171	204	148	151	172
	No	%	45	54	39	55	34	60	46	52	34	52
		Number	668	809	581	817	511	894	692	781	512	774

Prevalence of intimate partner violence (from any partner)

		Partner or previous partner psychological violence - Ever		Partner or previous partner physical violence - Ever		Partner or previous partner sexual violence - Ever		Partner or previous partner psychological, physical or sexual violence - Ever		Partner or previous partner physical or sexual violence - Ever		
		No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	
Total	%	38	62	81	19	96	4	37	63	81	19	
	Number	604	975	1,282	298	1,521	58	588	991	1,272	307	
Residential area	Urban	%	38	62	80	20	96	4	37	63	79	21
		Number	336	556	714	178	853	39	328	564	707	185
	Rural	%	39	61	83	17	97	3	38	62	82	18
		Number	268	420	567	120	667	20	260	428	565	122
Age category	18–29	%	29	71	80	20	95	5	28	72	80	20
		Number	83	204	230	57	273	14	81	206	228	58
	30–39	%	32	68	77	23	94	6	32	68	76	24
		Number	92	198	223	66	273	16	92	198	220	70
	40–49	%	40	60	80	20	97	3	38	62	79	21
		Number	124	184	248	61	299	10	118	191	245	64
	50–59	%	42	58	83	17	97	3	41	59	83	17
		Number	147	206	293	59	343	10	145	208	293	59
60+	%	46	54	84	16	98	2	45	55	84	17	
	Number	156	183	285	55	331	8	151	188	283	56	
Education	None	%	37	63	80	20	93	7	37	63	78	22
		Number	13	22	28	7	33	2	13	22	27	8
	Primary	%	36	64	78	22	95	5	35	65	77	23
		Number	139	248	301	86	368	19	135	251	299	88
	Secondary	%	40	60	82	18	97	3	38	62	81	19
		Number	339	514	697	157	827	27	327	526	695	159
	Tertiary	%	37	63	84	16	97	3	37	63	83	17
		Number	114	191	256	48	294	10	113	191	252	53

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			Partner or previous partner psychological violence - Ever		Partner or previous partner physical violence - Ever		Partner or previous partner sexual violence - Ever		Partner or previous partner psychological, physical or sexual violence - Ever		Partner or previous partner physical or sexual violence - Ever	
			No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
			%		%		%		%		%	
Children	Yes	%	40	60	82	18	96	4	39	61	81	19
		Number	555	834	1,136	253	1,340	50	539	850	1,129	260
	No	%	26	74	76	24	95	5	26	74	75	25
		Number	49	141	145	45	181	9	49	141	143	47
Employment	In paid work	%	37	63	82	18	97	4	37	63	82	18
		Number	135	228	299	64	350	13	134	229	297	66
	Self-employed	%	39	61	70	30	92	8	37	63	69	31
		Number	50	78	90	39	119	10	48	81	88	40
	Helping in a family business (unpaid)	%	10	90	84	16	100	0	10	90	84	16
		Number	3	29	27	5	32	0	3	29	27	5
	Unemployed	%	42	59	83	17	97	3	41	60	83	17
		Number	176	248	352	73	411	14	172	253	351	73
	A pupil, student, in training	%	28	72	72	28	93	7	28	72	72	28
		Number	16	42	42	16	54	4	16	42	42	16
	Not working due to illness or disability	%	42	58	79	21	93	7	42	58	76	24
		Number	8	11	16	4	18	1	8	11	15	5
	Fulfilling domestic duties and care responsibilities	%	31	69	81	19	96	4	30	70	79	21
		Number	84	185	217	52	258	11	81	189	212	57
	Retired	%	46	54	85	16	98	2	44	56	84	16
		Number	130	153	239	44	278	5	125	158	239	44
Compulsory military service or other community service	%	100	0	100	0	100	0	100	0	100	0	
	Number	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	

Occupation			Partner or previous partner psychological violence - Ever		Partner or previous partner physical violence - Ever		Partner or previous partner sexual violence - Ever		Partner or previous partner psychological, physical or sexual		Partner or previous partner physical or sexual violence - Ever	
			No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Elementary occupations	%		37	63	84	16	97	3	37	64	84	16
	Number		69	119	159	30	183	5	69	120	159	30
Plant and machine operator and assembler	%		24	76	64	37	100	0	24	76	64	37
	Number		1	3	3	1	4	0	1	3	3	1
Building, crafts or a related Tradesperson	%		35	65	88	12	95	5	35	65	82	18
	Number		8	15	20	3	22	1	8	15	19	4
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery worker	%		17	83	70	30	93	7	17	83	70	30
	Number		3	13	11	5	14	1	3	13	11	5
Sales, customer or personal service worker	%		34	66	71	29	92	9	32	68	71	29
	Number		44	86	93	37	119	11	42	89	93	37
Clerical support	%		28	73	74	26	100	0	28	73	74	26
	Number		7	19	19	7	26	0	7	19	19	7
Technician or associate professional	%		32	68	61	39	92	9	32	68	61	39
	Number		8	17	15	10	23	2	8	17	15	10
Professional	%		35	65	81	19	97	3	35	65	78	22
	Number		25	46	57	14	68	2	25	46	55	15
Manager	%		52	49	95	6	100	0	52	49	95	6
	Number		15	14	27	2	28	0	15	14	27	2
Military	%		0	100	0	100	100	0	0	100	0	100
	Number		0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1

			Partner or previous partner psychological violence - Ever		Partner or previous partner physical violence - Ever		Partner or previous partner sexual violence - Ever		Partner or previous partner psychological, physical or sexual violence - Ever		Partner or previous partner physical or sexual violence - Ever	
			No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Household income	Living comfortably on present income	%	45	55	84	16	97	4	43	57	84	16
		Number	118	147	223	42	255	9	113	151	223	42
	Coping on present income	%	43	57	84	16	98	2	42	58	84	16
		Number	264	352	518	97	603	13	261	355	515	101
	Finding it difficult on present income	%	29	71	81	19	95	5	28	72	80	21
		Number	127	308	350	84	415	20	122	312	345	89
Finding it very difficult on present income	%	36	64	72	28	94	6	35	65	71	29	
	Number	95	167	188	74	246	16	92	171	187	75	
Bank account owner	Yes	%	40	60	78	22	97	3	40	61	78	22
		Number	131	197	257	71	317	10	129	198	255	73
	No	%	38	63	82	18	96	4	36	64	81	19
		Number	461	767	1,003	225	1,180	48	446	782	996	232
Directly conflict-affected	Yes	%	36	65	71	29	92	8	35	65	70	30
		Number	121	220	241	99	312	29	120	221	237	103
	No	%	39	61	84	16	98	2	38	62	84	16
		Number	483	755	1,040	199	1,209	30	469	770	1,035	204

Current partner violence by current partner characteristics

			Partner psychological, physical or sexual violence - Ever	
			No	Yes
Total		%	38	62
		Number	523	862
Current partner's age category	15–29	%	29	71
		Number	41	99
	30–39	%	33	67
		Number	78	162
	40–49	%	40	60
		Number	99	152
	50–59	%	38	62
		Number	134	216
60+	%	41	59	
	Number	161	230	
Current partner's employment	In paid work	%	37	63
		Number	205	356
	Self-employed	%	38	62
		Number	70	116
	Helping in a family business (unpaid)	%	21	80
		Number	3	10
	Unemployed	%	38	62
		Number	111	181
	A pupil, student, in training	%	52	48
		Number	11	11
	Not working due to illness or disability	%	46	55
		Number	11	13
	Fulfilling domestic duties and care responsibilities	%	19	81
		Number	6	25
	Retired	%	39	61
		Number	89	138
	Compulsory military service or other community service	%	48	52
		Number	5	5
Other	%	17	83	
	Number	2	7	

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			Partner psychological, physical or sexual violence - Ever	
			No	Yes
Current partner's occupation	Elementary occupations	%	35	65
		Number	78	147
	Plant and machine operator and assembler	%	41	59
		Number	31	46
	Building, crafts or a related tradesperson	%	29	71
		Number	35	86
	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery worker	%	44	57
		Number	14	19
	Sales, customer or personal service worker	%	34	67
		Number	37	73
	Clerical support	%	31	69
		Number	10	21
	Technician or associate professional	%	28	72
		Number	12	31
	Professional	%	52	48
		Number	33	31
	Manager	%	55	45
		Number	13	11
	Military	Number	12	88
		%	1	10
Other	Number	71	29	
	%	10	4	
Current partner's education	None	%	27	73
		Number	9	24
	Primary	%	34	66
		Number	102	196
	Secondary	%	38	62
		Number	326	527
Tertiary	%	41	59	
	Number	76	109	
Earnings	Partner earns less	%	25	75
		Number	11	33
	Both earn roughly the same amount	%	32	68
		Number	45	96
	Partner earns more	%	40	60
		Number	76	112

			Partner psychological, physical or sexual violence - Ever	
			No	Yes
Current partner's alcohol consumption	Less than once a month	%	39	61
		Number	513	799
	Weekly	%	9	91
		Number	4	38
	Most days/every day	%	4	96
		Number	1	23
Current partner's drug use	Less than once a month	%	38	62
		Number	519	852
	Weekly	%	0	100
		Number	0	4
	Most days/every day	%	0	100
		Number	0	1
Partner ever fought in an armed conflict	Yes	%	19	81
		Number	4	17
	No	%	38	62
		Number	508	833

Non-partner violence since age of 15

			Non-partner physical violence - since age of 15		Non-partner sexual violence - since age of 15		Non-partner physical or sexual violence - since age of 15		
			No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	
Total		%	89	11	99	1	89	11	
		Number	1,659	199	1,839	19	1,646	212	
Residential area	Urban	%	89	11	99	1	88	12	
		Number	945	117	1,048	13	936	126	
	Rural	%	90	10	99	1	89	11	
		Number	714	82	791	6	710	87	
Age category	18–29	%	88	12	99	2	87	13	
		Number	439	58	490	7	434	64	
	30–39	%	85	15	99	1	85	15	
		Number	263	47	308	2	262	48	
	40–49	%	90	11	99	1	89	11	
		Number	285	33	315	3	282	36	
	50–59	%	90	11	99	1	89	12	
		Number	325	38	358	5	321	42	
	60+	%	94	6	100	0	94	6	
		Number	345	22	366	1	344	23	
	Education	None	%	86	14	98	2	84	16
			Number	32	5	36	1	31	6
Primary		%	91	9	99	1	90	10	
		Number	382	40	418	4	380	42	
Secondary		%	89	11	99	1	88	12	
		Number	896	112	998	10	889	118	
Tertiary		%	89	11	99	1	88	12	
		Number	350	43	388	5	346	47	
Ever had a partner	Yes	%	89	11	99	1	88	12	
		Number	1,400	180	1,561	19	1,386	193	
Children	Yes	%	90	10	99	1	90	11	
		Number	1,285	139	1,411	13	1,275	149	
	No	%	86	14	99	1	85	15	
		Number	372	60	427	6	369	63	

			Non-partner physical violence - since age of 15		Non-partner sexual violence - since age of 15		Non-partner physical or sexual violence - since age of 15	
			No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Employment	In paid work	%	88	12	99	1	87	13
		Number	348	46	389	5	344	50
	Self-employed	%	86	14	97	3	84	16
		Number	114	19	129	4	111	22
	Helping in a family business (unpaid)	%	89	11	100	0	89	11
		Number	35	4	39	0	35	4
	Unemployed	%	90	11	99	1	89	11
		Number	439	51	485	6	435	55
	A pupil, student, in training	%	83	17	99	1	83	17
		Number	146	30	174	2	146	30
	Not working due to illness or disability	%	88	12	97	3	85	15
		Number	20	3	22	1	19	3
	Fulfilling domestic duties and care responsibilities	%	91	9	99	1	90	10
		Number	266	27	291	2	264	29
Retired	%	94	6	100	0	94	6	
	Number	290	19	309	0	290	19	
Compulsory military service or other community service	%	100	0	100	0	100	0	
	Number	1	0	1	0	1	0	
Occupation	Elementary occupations	%	86	14	100	0	86	14
		Number	171	28	199	0	171	28
	Plant and machine operator and assembler	%	84	16	100	0	84	16
		Number	3	1	4	0	3	1
	Building, crafts or a related tradesperson	%	79	21	98	2	79	21
		Number	19	5	24	1	19	5
	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery worker	%	85	15	100	0	85	15
		Number	14	2	17	0	14	2
	Sales, customer or personal service worker	%	90	10	98	2	88	12
		Number	130	15	142	3	128	17
	Clerical support	%	92	8	98	2	90	11
		Number	27	2	29	1	26	3
	Technician or associate professional	%	80	20	100	0	80	20
		Number	21	5	26	0	21	5
	Professional	%	90	10	95	5	85	15
		Number	69	7	72	4	65	11
	Manager	%	87	13	100	0	87	13
		Number	28	4	32	0	28	4
	Military	%	100	0	100	0	100	0
Number		1	0	1	0	1	0	

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			Non-partner physical violence - since age of 15	Non-partner sexual violence - since age of 15	Non-partner physical or sexual violence - since age of 15			
Household income	Living comfortably on present income	%	91	9	98	2	88	12
		Number	297	31	321	8	290	38
	Coping on present income	%	90	10	99	1	90	11
		Number	671	75	739	6	667	78
	Finding it difficult on present income	%	89	11	99	1	89	11
		Number	439	54	490	3	437	56
Finding it very difficult on present income	%	86	14	99	1	86	14	
	Number	250	39	287	2	249	40	
Bank account owner	Yes	%	87	13	98	2	85	15
		Number	343	52	388	7	337	58
	No	%	90	10	99	1	89	11
		Number	1,290	146	1,424	11	1,283	152
Conflict- affected	Yes	%	84	16	98	2	82	18
		Number	302	59	354	8	296	66
	No	%	91	9	99	1	90	10
		Number	1,357	140	1,486	11	1,349	147

Sexual harassment and stalking

			Sexual harassment - since age of 15		The most severe forms of sexual harassment - since age of 15		Stalking - since age of 15	
			No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Total		%	67	34	83	17	87	13
		Number	1,236	622	1,541	317	1,612	246
Residential area	Urban	%	60	40	78	22	86	15
		Number	637	424	831	231	907	154
	Rural	%	75	25	89	11	89	12
		Number	599	197	710	86	705	92
Age category	18–29	%	46	54	69	31	78	22
		Number	230	267	342	155	388	109
	30–39	%	64	36	80	20	86	15
		Number	200	110	249	61	265	45
	40–49	%	73	27	91	9	92	8
		Number	232	86	289	29	292	26
	50–59	%	75	25	87	13	91	9
		Number	273	90	317	47	330	33
60+	%	82	18	93	7	91	9	
	Number	300	68	342	25	334	33	
Education	None	%	78	23	89	11	91	9
		Number	29	8	33	4	34	3
	Primary	%	82	18	92	9	94	6
		Number	347	74	385	36	397	24
	Secondary	%	70	30	85	15	88	12
		Number	702	305	860	147	882	125
	Tertiary	%	40	60	67	33	76	24
		Number	159	234	262	130	299	93
Ever had a partner	Yes	%	69	32	84	16	87	13
		Number	1,082	497	1,321	258	1,379	200
Children	Yes	%	74	26	88	12	91	9
		Number	1,049	375	1,251	173	1,292	132
	No	%	43	57	67	33	74	26
		Number	186	246	288	144	319	113

		Sexual harassment - since age of 15		The most severe forms of sexual harassment- since age of 15		Stalking - since age of 15		
		No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	
Employment	In paid work	%	60	40	77	23	84	16
		Number	237	158	303	92	332	62
	Self-employed	%	62	38	86	14	95	5
		Number	83	50	114	19	126	7
	Helping in a family business (unpaid)	%	53	47	85	15	85	15
		Number	21	18	33	6	33	6
	Unemployed	%	69	31	85	16	88	12
		Number	340	151	415	76	433	58
	A pupil, student, in training	%	38	62	61	39	72	28
		Number	68	108	106	69	127	49
	Not working due to illness or disability	%	42	58	93	8	79	21
		Number	10	13	21	2	18	5
	Fulfilling domestic duties and care responsibilities	%	76	24	89	11	91	10
		Number	224	69	261	32	265	28
Retired	%	83	17	93	7	90	11	
	Number	255	54	287	22	276	32	
Compulsory military service or other community service	%	100	0	100	0	100	0	
	Number	1	0	1	0	1	0	
Occupation	Elementary occupations	%	69	31	84	16	91	9
		Number	138	61	167	32	181	17
	Plant and machine operator and assembler	%	100	0	100	0	100	0
		Number	4	0	4	0	4	0
	Building, crafts or a related tradesperson	%	57	43	84	16	100	0
		Number	14	11	21	4	24	0
	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery worker	%	57	43	93	7	100	0
		Number	9	7	15	1	17	0
	Sales, customer or personal service worker	%	56	44	80	21	85	15
		Number	82	64	116	30	124	21
	Clerical support	%	70	30	83	18	88	12
		Number	20	9	24	5	26	4
	Technician or associate professional	%	67	33	67	33	81	19
		Number	17	9	17	9	21	5
	Professional	%	37	63	61	39	68	32
		Number	28	48	47	29	52	24
	Manager	%	53	48	86	15	95	5
		Number	17	15	27	5	31	2
	Military	%	0	100	0	100	0	100
		Number	0	1	0	1	0	1

		Sexual harassment - since age of 15		The most severe forms of sexual harassment- since age of 15		Stalking - since age of 15		
		No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	
Household income	Living comfortably on present income	%	63	37	83	18	89	11
		Number	207	122	271	57	291	37
	Coping on present income	%	66	34	81	19	85	15
		Number	493	253	601	144	636	109
	Finding it difficult on present income	%	67	33	86	14	89	11
		Number	330	163	426	67	437	56
Finding it very difficult on present income	%	71	29	84	17	85	15	
	Number	206	83	242	48	246	43	
Bank account owner	Yes	%	50	50	69	31	78	22
		Number	199	196	271	124	309	86
	No	%	71	29	87	13	89	11
		Number	1,018	418	1,247	188	1,281	155
Directly conflict-affected	Yes	%	62	38	78	22	86	14
		Number	224	137	283	79	312	49
	No	%	68	32	84	16	87	13
		Number	1,012	484	1,258	238	1,300	196

Annex 6: Acknowledgements

This study was commissioned by the OSCE and implemented by Ipsos, a large international survey company. The OSCE would like to thank the central Ipsos team for their commitment and dedication. They managed the fieldwork, analyzed the data and drafted the reports. Ipsos local branch offices and IMAS in the area where the study was conducted have supported this work.

The central Ipsos team includes Ms. Maelys Bablon, Ms. Jelena Krstić, Ms. Sara Grant-Vest, Ms. Katrina Leary, Ms. Tanja Stojadinović, Ms. Hannah Williams and Ms. Slavica Veljković.

The Ipsos team in Albania includes Alban Bilali, Ornela Gjergji, Briken Qinami, Elvisa Sokoli, Klarens Veizi and Florian Zeko.

In Albania a total of 40 professional interviewers conducted the interviews with great care and professionalism and gave visibility to a topic that is often hidden in everyday life. We would like to thank Ejona Aliu, Livia Aliu, Hygerta Alstafa, Sara Alstafa, Borjana Balla, Lediona Braho, Matea Bregasi, Suela Bulku, Xhovana Çani, Destemona Çelo, Izolda Cërriku, Françeska Daka, Pjona Dyrmishi, Klaudja Ejlli, Nerjola Halili, Marije Koliçi, Xhesika Metaj, Esmerelda Rrapçe, Manuela Rrapçe, Kejda Shahu, Enxhi Subashi, Anxhela Tanasica, Fitnete Thartoti, Ilva Zogu and the other interviewers who preferred not to be named for their support and dedication.

The OSCE project management team consisted of Serani Siegel and Dušica Đukić.

We would like to thank Sihana Nebiu, Senior Democratization Officer, and Megi Llubani, National Community Safety Officer, at the OSCE Presence in Albania who supported the survey project by providing valuable advice and guidance. We would also like to thank Romina Kuko former staff member of the OSCE Presence in Albania and current Deputy Minister of Interior of Albania.

We would like to thank Ms. Marija Babović and Ms. Valentina Andrašek for their valuable contribution in writing all reports and Gergely Hideg for his statistical insights and support throughout the project period.

Most importantly, a sincere thank you goes to all the women who participated in the survey, focus group discussions and in-depth interviews and shared their opinions and personal experiences. Without their trust, this study would not have been possible



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