







Regional Conference "From Challenge to Strength – Prevent violence in all segment of life", on 28/29 November 2024 in Belgrade, Serbia

The Network of Women in the Police of the Republic of Serbia jointly with the United Nations Development Programme in Serbia works to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the police and improve women's safety in the entire society. As part of this cooperation, the regional conference From Challenge to Strength – Prevent violence in all segment of life, was organized.

Ministers of Internal Affairs from Serbia, Deputy Resident Representative at UNDP Serbia, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, President of Network of women in Police, women leaders from Serbian social and political life, Scotland's retired Police Superintendent, a member of Institute of Mental Health in Belgrade at Clinic for Children and Adolescents spoke about challenges and possible prevention – the response of the community and institutions.

Participants of the conference were representative of the Network of Police Officers in Serbia and representative from Bosnia and Hercegovina, Montenegro, Slovenia, North Macedonia, Austria, Greece, Sweden, Spain, Albania, Romania, Hungary and the president of The European Network of Policewomen.

Minister of the Interior Ivica Dačić spoke about violence as a social phenomenon and emphasized that violence is not just a problem of individuals. The response to unacceptable behaviour must be coordinated and based on prevention, education, awareness raising, strengthening institutional capacities, as well as cooperation with civil protection. He emphasized that victims of violence must be empowered to speak out and report violence, and to understand that there is no shame in asking for help. He also mentioned that the Ministry of the Interior is investing maximum efforts in education and prevention programs that would teach children and young people about non-violent behaviour, respect for the rights of others, values, reciprocity, trust and solidarity.

At the conference, police officers from different countries present violence prevention programs per violence, domestic violence, violence against women.

The president, Montserrat Pina, the secretary, Apolonia Grobin-Vohevec, and the GB members from Montenegro (Biljana Dulovic) and Bosnia & Herzegovina (Kristina Jozic), were there giving support to the event hosted for Katarina Tomasevic and her team and the others institutions.



Photo 1- Participants at the Regional Conference



Photo 2 - From right to left: ENP secretary, Katarina Tomasevic, GB member from Serbia and host of the event; ENP president; representative of the Slovenian Police and representative of the Montenegro Police.



Photo 3 – Apolonia Grobin-Vehovec, ENP Secretary