

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WOMEN COUNT ALBANIA 2017

This summary provides a brief overview of findings from the Albania 2017 Women Count Report with a few updates. The relevant indicators for the Albanian context have been included: (1) women's participation in governance, (3) women's participation in the security sector, and peacekeeping missions, (4) women participating in constitutional or legislative review, (5) Civil Society Organizations in task forces/committees/working groups on UNSCR 1325 and 1820, (6) SGBV cases reported, investigated, prosecuted and penalized, (7) quality of gender-responsive laws and policies, and (10) pre-deployment training and post-deployment programs for military and police incorporating UNSCR 1325, UNSCR 1820, international human rights instruments and international humanitarian law.

THE DATA AND INDICATORS

Women's participation in governance (Indicator 1) has seen the most improvement, with more development here than in any other sector. In 2008, a new election law passed requiring 30% of political party nominees be from the underrepresented sex; however, no mention was made of where these names must appear on the list. This did lead to a small increase in the number of women in parliament. In 2012, 12% of parliamentarians were women, which increased to 21% in 2015. Also in 2015, the law was amended to 50% from each sex. At the local level, 9 out of 61 mayors were women. In January 2017, women accounted for 23% of members of parliament (MPs), 35% of local counsellors, and 8 in 20 cabinet ministers. After the recent elections, in June 2017, 26% of parliamentarians are women. However, the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission, from September 2017, reports 40% of candidates were women and gender quotas were not respected by the largest political parties. Nevertheless, 7 of the incoming 15 cabinet members were women.

The report focused on the participation of women in the security sector rather than the justice sector (Indicator 3). Between 2008 and 2011, Albania sent 12 women on peacekeeping missions, none of whom participated in combat operations. Since 2011, Albania has contributed eight women to international operations. In 2012, 1.2% of peacekeeping troops were women. The number of women in the AAF has increased over recent years, from 10.90% in 2009 to 13.20% in 2014. In 2014, 7.2 percent of applicants to AAF were women. Compared to other NATO member states the number of women applicants is low (for example, Czech Republic 29% and Croatia 18%). Around 95% of women in the AAF work in support sectors and the remaining 5% work in the operational sector. The AAF includes 13% women. The number of women in higher-ranking positions in the AAF increased between 2008 and 2010. The highest rank held by most women was sub-lieutenant; however, the number of women in this rank decreased over the period. In 2016, Manushaqe Shehu became the first woman general in the AAF.

In 2013, the first female Minister of Defense was appointed. The Ministry of Defense (MoD) has a specialist who works with gender issues, among other duties, at the Directory of Education and Training. The AAF does not have this kind of specialist nor do they have a Gender Adviser. However, from 2011 – 2015, a 15% quota was instituted for recruitment of female personnel in each structure of the AAF.

Regarding participation of women in the Albanian State Police (ASP), the Action Plan on the Development of Diversity in the State Police 2011-2013, was undertaken to support gender equality legislation in the country. In 2016, Anila Popa was the first female Chief Police Commissar in Albania.

Legislative review (Indicator 4), including security sector review, in Albania has developed since the transition to liberal democracy. In Albania 1,487 woman have participated in security sector reviews, equalling 14.1%. In 2016, the 14% total included 8.7% police women. After the success of Albanian State Police recruitment campaign, in 2015, 500 female police officers were appointed to various duties including general patrol and road police services. Also in 2015, the State Police, together with UN Women Albania, undertook an initiative to integrate female police employees in leading operational roles. In 2016, the program was completed by 28 female police employees.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) in Albania have been working towards implementation of UNSCR 1325 (Indicator 5). Coordination meetings for 1325 NAP have been established as a mechanism for cooperation and inclusivity. This is a high-level work group on UNSCR 1325, including civil society and decision makers from several ministries. CSOs in Albania report that the most urgent threats to the security of girls and women are trafficking and domestic violence, therefore this was included under SGBV cases reported, investigated, prosecuted and penalized (Indicator 6). Nearly 3 out of 5 women have suffered domestic violence during family life in marriage or intimate relationships, and 31% of women in Albania are submitted to physical violence in their homes. In 2014, 34% of murders occurred within families. An online system for reporting abuse is currently working in 29 of 61 municipalities. From January to September of 2016, 3,195 reports of domestic violence were reported. According to an opinion poll, 32% of the LGTBI community have been submitted to physical violence and 76% have been submitted to verbal harassment because of their identity.

In 2014, 18 people were prosecuted for human trafficking in Albania, and nine were convicted. This is an increase from 2013 when nine were prosecuted and two convicted. Those convicted received tough sentences of between 10 and 20 years. However, the European Commission reported 11 cases in 2014 and two cases in 2013 were prosecuted.

The country is known for its high-qualitative legislation and legal framework (Indicator 7); all the reports on human rights state that Albania's legal framework is close to that of other European countries. At the nation level, in 2011, the government planned to draft a UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan (NAP). During 2012, the government worked on a draft for a NAP. At the international level, Albania has ratified The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Albania has an adequate legal framework and has ratified the important international instruments.

There is only one UNSCR 1325 and gender-related training program within the AAF (Indicator 10). It is a pre-deployment course for OF 3-5 (Major, Lieutenant-Colonel and Colonel) and OF 1-2 (Second lieutenant and Lieutenant). Around 30 personnel in the AAF participated in a Gender and Building Integrity course in 2014 arranged by the Sarajevo Regional Centre. The Albanian Police Force has one course on gender-based violence in their Police Academy curriculum.