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# INFO SHEET

## PERCEPTIONS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS?

A comparative overview  
(Baseline and Mid-Term Review)

### Disclaimer

This document refers to data collected from Observatory for Children and Youth Rights (Observatory), based on regional methodology and instruments provided by regional program of UN Women.

The data collection and the publication of this document takes place in the framework of the programme “Implementing Norms Changing Minds”, realized in partnership with UN Women in Albania during the period 2018-2019.

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## ALBANIA INFO SHEET 2019

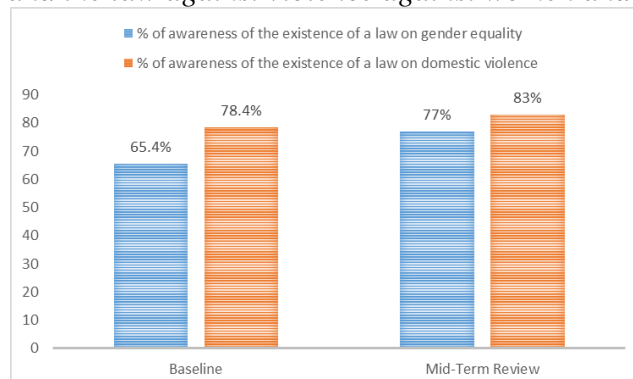
The data in this info sheet were collected in 2019 as part of a Mid-Term Review survey exercise conducted by the Observatory for Children and Youths Rights in Albania (Observatory) under the EU-UN Women regional programme “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds”. Data include responses from 1260 women, girls, men, boys and others of ages 15 - 64, in the region of Elbasan and municipalities of Durrës, Korçë, Shkodër, Kamëz, Tiranë and Vlorë, in both urban and rural areas, including members of disadvantaged communities (Roma, Egyptian, persons with disabilities, and LGBTI). The selection of target areas was based on the location of projects and interventions conducted by CSOs part of the EU-UN Women regional programme on EVAW. *Marginalized and vulnerable groups represent 7% of the sample*, including: people with disability, Member of Roma/ Egyptian communities, LGBTI.

The quantitative data collected, through unified and standard formats approved by UN Women in all the countries that are implementing the program (6 Western Balkans and Turkey), are entered in the Database format for Albania. The quantitative data are analyzed and compared with a similar exercise (the baseline phase) that was conducted in 2018, using the same tools and methodology. This Info Sheet represents findings and analysis of these findings as a comparative overview that contains data from the Baseline (2018) and Mid-Term Review (2019).

### Knowledge of the Law/ Information about the Law/ Familiarity with the Law

- **77% of respondents were aware of the existence of a law on gender equality, and 83% were aware of the existence of a law on violence against women and domestic violence.** Compared with the findings from the survey conducted during *Baseline (2018)*, it was evidenced that:
  - The level of awareness for the existence of the law on gender equality **increased by 17.7%** (*during baseline it was 65.4%*);
  - The level of awareness for the existence of the law on violence against women and domestic violence **increased by 5.8%** (*during baseline it was 78.4%*).

Graph 1- “Comparative results for the level of awareness for the existence of the law on gender equality and the law against violence against women and domestic violence”

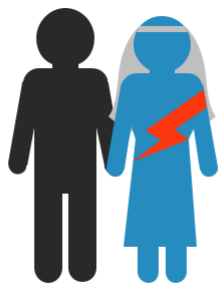


- **More than 35% of respondents were not aware that non-physical and other forms of violence are punishable by law.** The majority of respondents knew that certain forms of violence were punishable by law (ranking from the highest to the lowest percentage):
  - Trafficking and sexual exploitation (89.9%)
  - Rape/ sexual assault (88.9%)
  - Childhood sexual abuse (87.8%)
  - Domestic violence (86.2%)
  - Crime in the name of honor (81.9%)
  - Sexual harassment (78.1%)
  - Female Genital Mutilation (70%)
  - Psychological violence (65%)
  - Stalking (64.7%)
  - Forced marriage (61%)
  - Forced abortion (60.4%)
  - Economic violence (58.7%)

Compared with the findings from the survey conducted during **Baseline (2018)**, it was evidenced that:

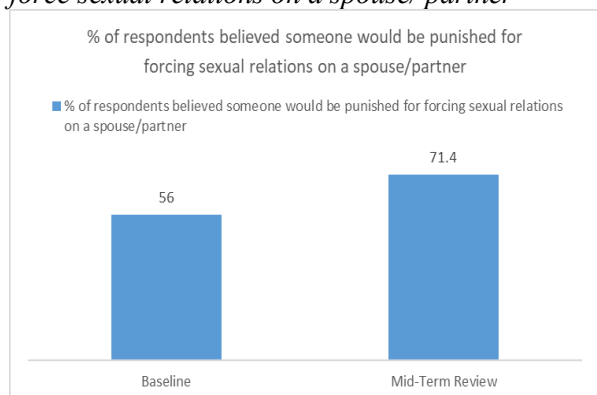
- Forced marriage, forced abortion and economic violence still have a low level of consideration that they are a form of violence punishable by law (the level of people’s awareness that they are punishable by law is 58-61%). For the other forms of violence, the level of awareness that they are punishable by law is more evident during Mid-Term phase (the level is 65-89%).

- **Marital rape is perceived differently than other crimes.** While the majority of respondents knew trafficking and sexual exploitation to be a crime and believed a person would be punished for committing it (89.9%), a lower proportion of respondents believed someone would be punished for forcing sexual relations on a spouse/partner (71.4%). Compared with the findings from the survey conducted during **Baseline (2018)**, it was evidenced that the percentage of respondents who believe that a person should be punished for forcing sexual relations on a spouse/partner **increased by 27.5%** (it was 56%).



**71.4% of respondents believed someone would be punished for forcing sexual relations on a spouse/partner**

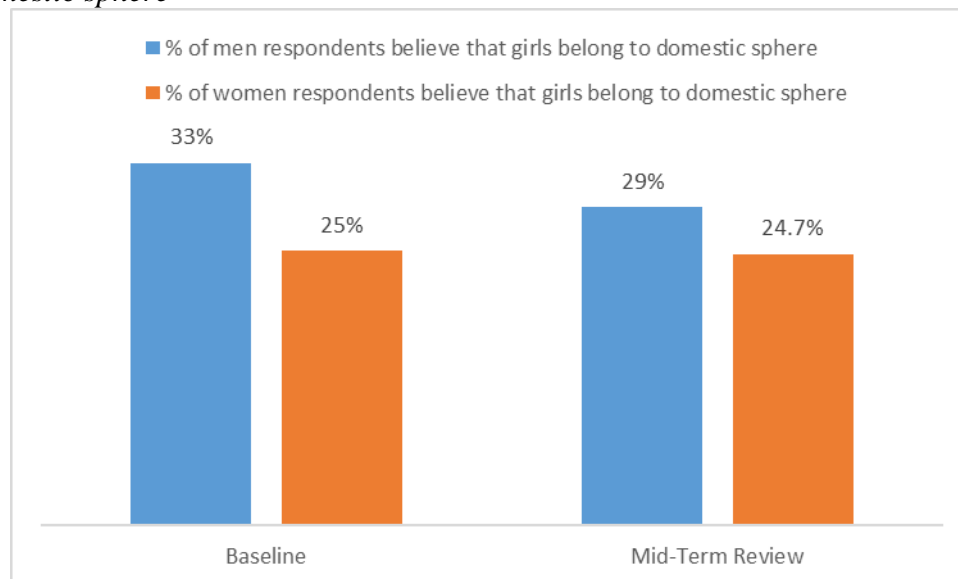
*Graph 2- “Comparative results for the level of respondents believes for punishing people that force sexual relations on a spouse/ partner”*



## Perceptions of gender roles

- **A considerable number of respondents believe that women are expected to behave within traditional gender roles and be subservient to men.**  
**34.7%** of the respondents believe that girls belong in the domestic sphere, while boys should pursue career and leadership opportunities. Thus, the data shows that:
  - **60% of Roma/ Egyptians** community respondents believe that girls belong in the domestic sphere;
  - **38% of people with disabilities** believe that girls belong in the domestic sphere;
  - **The same proportion of men during baseline and mid-term** (*Approx. one in three respondents*) believe that girls belong in the domestic sphere, while boys should pursue career and leadership opportunities. A high proportion also believe that women should behave subserviently to their male partners. Compared with the findings from the survey conducted during **Baseline (2018)**, it was evidenced that:
    - The percentage of men respondents that believe that girls mostly have to be engaged with house responsibilities, while boys should pursue career and leadership opportunities has decreased by 12% (Now 29% of men believe so compared with 33% of men during Baseline).
    - The report of women respondents that believe that girls mostly have to be engaged with house responsibilities, while boys should pursue career and leadership opportunities is the same for both phases (1 in 4 women respondents).

Graph 3- “Comparative results for the level of respondents believes that girls belong in the domestic sphere”



- **Men are perceived to hold ‘rightful’ positions of dominance and power over women.**
  - *Control over women’s bodies:* More than 1 in 4 respondents agree that women should have sex with their husbands regardless of their own desire. *In the Roma/ Egyptian respondents this belief is more evident*, as nearly 1 in 2 Roma/ Egyptian

respondents agree that women should have sex with their husbands regardless of their own desire.

Approx. 1 in 5 men respondents believe women should only visit the doctor with permission from their men partners.

Compared with the findings from the survey conducted during *Baseline (2018)*, it was evidenced that:

- The report of men respondents that believe that women should only visit the doctor with permission from their men partners continues to be the same in both years.
- *Control over women's finances:* Notably, 1 in 3 men respondents; and more than 1 in 4 women respondents believe that a woman's income is the property of her husband. More than 1 in 4 men respondents believe that women 'belong' to their husband and his family, and thus should not inherit wealth from her family. Compared with the findings from the survey conducted during *Baseline (2018)*, it was evidenced that:
  - The ratio of men and women respondents that believe that a woman's income is the property of her husband continues to be the same in both years of the study;
  - Perceptions of women belonging to their husband and his family has seen some improvement as the Mid-Term Review survey shows that:
    - 1 in 4 men respondents in year 2019 compared with 1 in 5 men respondents in year 2018.
- *Control over basic decision-making and autonomy:* Nearly 1 in 5 men respondents agree that a couple's children belong to the male partner and his family. More than 1 in 4 women respondents and 1 in 3 men respondents believe women must obey their husbands. Compared with the findings from the survey conducted during *Baseline (2018)*, it was evidenced that:
  - The report of men respondents that believe that a couple's children belong to the man partner and his family is the same in both baseline and mid-term review;
  - Currently, a low percentage of men and women believe that women must obey their husbands. Compared with the findings from the survey conducted during *Baseline (2018)*, it was evidenced that:
    - In 2019 1 in 4 women respondents believe that women must obey their husbands compared with 1 in 3 women respondents during Baseline;
    - In 2019 1 in 3 men respondents believe that women must obey their husbands compared with 1 in 2 men respondents during Baseline.

### Attitudes toward violence against women

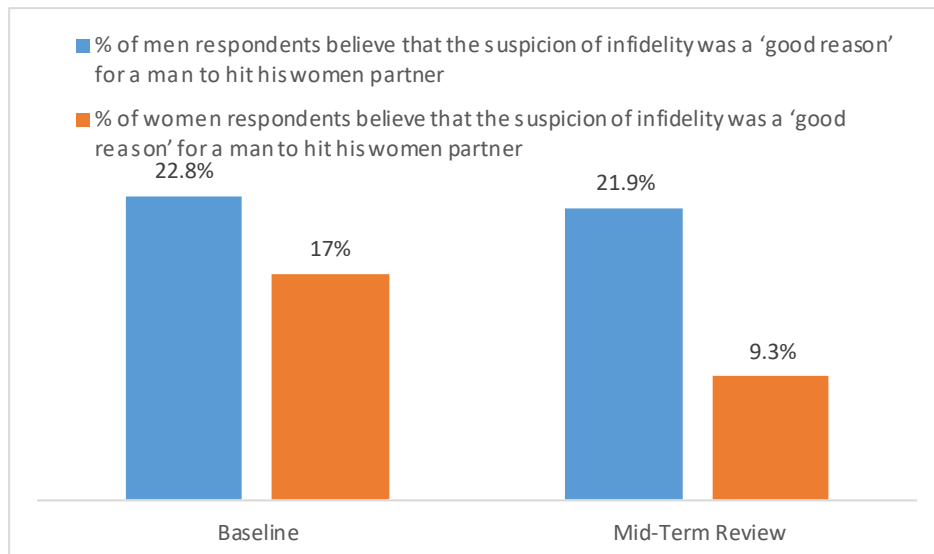
- **A significant percentage of respondents hold beliefs that justify and minimize the impact of violence against women.** These beliefs and myths reduce the accountability of perpetrators and place responsibility and blame on victims of violence. As a notable

example, 1 in 3 men respondents and 1 in 6 women respondents agreed that infidelity was a ‘good reason’ for a men partner to hit his women partner. In addition, 21.9% of men respondents and 9.3% of women respondents also believed that even the suspicion of infidelity was a ‘good reason’ for a man to hit his woman partner.

Compared with the findings from the survey conducted during *Baseline (2018)*, it was evidenced that:

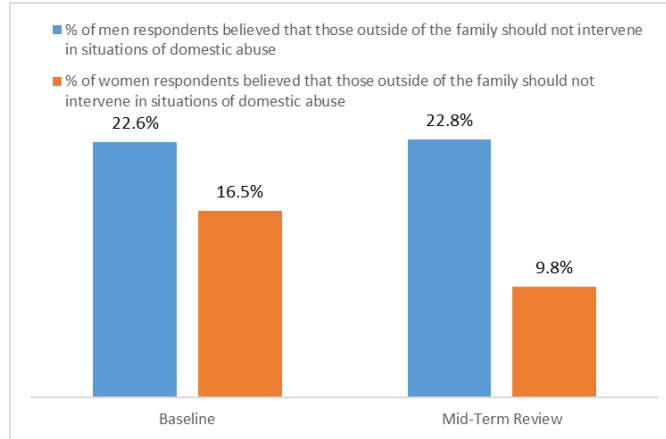
- The percentage of men respondents who believe that the suspicion of infidelity was a ‘good reason’ for a man to hit his women partner **decreased by 3.9%** (*it was 22.8% in Baseline*);
- The percentage of women respondents who believe that the suspicion of infidelity was a ‘good reason’ for a man to hit his women partner **decreased by 45.3%** (*it was 17% in Baseline*).

**Graph 4-** “Comparative results for the level of respondents believes the suspicion of infidelity was a ‘good reason’ for a man to hit his women partner”



- **Domestic violence is perceived as a private issue that should be addressed within the family.** More than quarter of respondents agreed that abused women should not seek help from the police, while 22.8% of men respondents and 9.8% of women respondents believed that those outside of the family should not intervene in situations of domestic abuse. Compared with the findings from the survey conducted during *Baseline (2018)*, it was evidenced that:
  - The percentage of men respondents who believe that those outside of the family should not intervene in situations of domestic abuse remained in the same level as the Baseline.
  - The percentage of women respondents who believe that those outside of the family should not intervene in situations of domestic abuse **decreased by 40%** (*it was 16.5% in Baseline*).

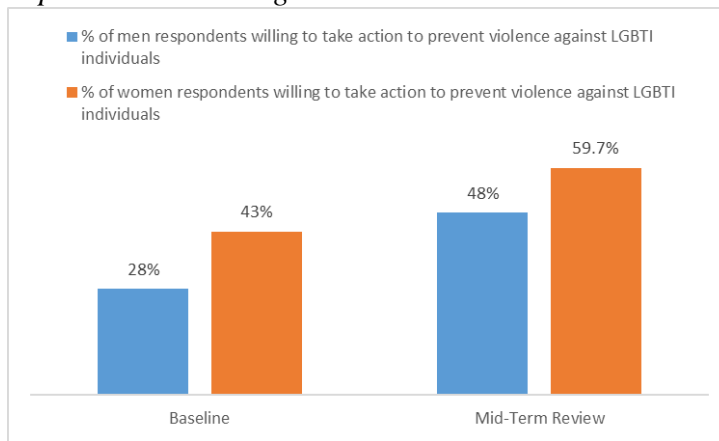
**Graph 5-** “Comparative results for the level of respondents believes that those outside of the family should not intervene in situations of domestic abuse”



### Willingness to prevent or report violence

- **Many respondents were hesitant to provide assistance in situations of domestic violence.**
- **Respondents were significantly less willing to help prevent violence against members of marginalized communities,** highlighting how other forms of discrimination on the basis of ethnicity or sexual orientation often enable and promote violence against women. 48% of men respondents and 59.7% of women respondents showed willingness to take action to prevent violence against LGBTI individuals. Compared with the findings from the survey conducted during *Baseline (2018)*, it was evidenced that:
  - The percentage of men respondents willing to take action to prevent violence against LGBTI individuals **increased by 71.4%** (*it was 28% in Baseline*).
  - The percentage of women respondents willing to take action to prevent violence against LGBTI individuals **increased by 38.8%** (*it was 43% in Baseline*).

**Graph 6-** “Comparative results for the willing level of respondents believes to take action to prevent violence against LGBTI individuals”

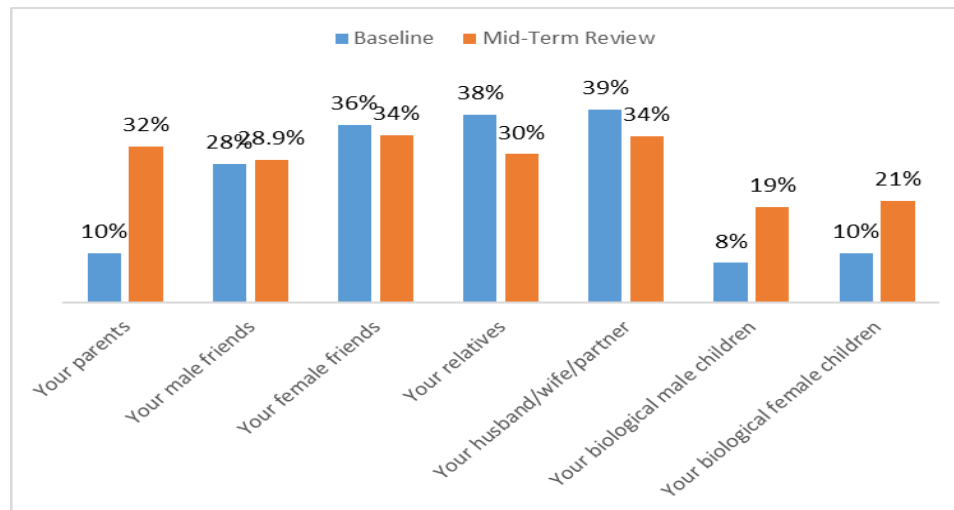


- **Women showed to be more willing than men to intervene in violent situations and take action to prevent violence.** In addition to increased willingness to help strangers experiencing violence, women were also notably more willing to assist individuals from marginalized communities, such as LGBTI individuals, ethnic minorities, and refugees and migrant women.
- **Attitudes that minimize or justify violence against marginalized women are not limited to marginalized groups, but are directed toward all women.**

### Commonality of discussions on VAW/G and gender equality

- **Issues related to violence against women and girls are rarely discussed outside of family and close friends.** Violence against women and girls remains a private issue in Albania. Respondents were most likely to discuss these issues with women and girl's friends and their partner/ wife/ husband.
  - The percentage of respondents willing to discuss issues related to violence against women and girls with their parents is **32%** (*it was 10% in Baseline*).
  - The percentage of respondents willing to discuss issues related to violence against women and girls with their biological male children is **19%** (*it was 8% in Baseline*). One of the ways to reduce VAWG is by involvement of boys in awareness raising and education activities at an early age. But if parents are not willing to discuss with their boys at early stages any intervention is difficult. Therefore, work with parents should be carried out in parallel with interventions in schools or in the education system in general.
  - The percentage of respondents willing to discuss issues related to violence against women and girls with their biological girl children is **21%** (*it was 10% in Baseline*).

**Graph 7:** “In the past 12 months, have you discussed issues related to the prevention of VAWG with...”





## Common channels for messaging on VAW/G and gender equality

- **Commonly used methods of communication are most likely to reach target audiences.** TV spots/ emissions/ debates (41%), PR materials such as leaflets, posters, billboards (32%), social media (25%) and radio (24%) are the most effective channels of information related to the prevention of violence against women.
  
- **Alternative methods of communications, such as sports games or religious rituals/ meetings, may be less effective** in reaching a large audience, although they may be useful as part of a broader campaign that also utilizes common methods of communications. In addition, marches showed low impact on the public.

Graph 8: “In the past 12 months, have you heard about issues related to gender equality or the prevention of VAW/G through...”

