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GUIDELINES

for officials of the
ministries of interior
and police services
**for communication
with the media in cases
of firearm misuse in
gender-based violence**

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The South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) is a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) aimed at strengthening national and regional capacities for the control and reduction of the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, thereby contributing to the stability, security, and development in Eastern and South Eastern Europe.

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These Guidelines are the result of cooperation between SEESAC and the group Journalists Against Violence Against Women, with the special contribution of their members Jovana Gligorijević and Ana Manojlović. Journalists Against Violence Against Women is a group of more than 80 journalists and editors who fight against violence against women in an organized, public, and vocal manner. They advocate that media reports of violence against women treat this issue as a social problem, point out its causes, clearly condemn any form of violence, and call to account the perpetrators and the institutions responsible for protection against violence.

The editor of the publication is SEESAC Project Analyst Iva Savić. The publication also benefited from the valuable inputs and insights of the following SEESAC team members: Jelena Bujaković - SALW Project Specialist, Dragan Božanić - Gender and Research Project Analyst, Danijela Đurović - Project Analyst, Vesna Cipruš - Senior Gender Adviser and Violeta Gaši - Programme Associate.

ACRONYMS

IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
Mol	Ministry of Interior
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council
GBV	Gender-based violence
SALW	Small arms and light weapons
SEESAC	South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

INTRODUCTION

The *Analysis of media reporting on firearms misuse in male gender-based violence against women in the Western Balkans* (2024), published by SEESAC, showed that institutions are an important source of information for the media on this topic and that their press releases are often cited verbatim. Among these institutions, the ministries of interior and police services are most represented.

That is why, when it comes to this phenomenon, the ministries of interior and police services have a significant impact on shaping public opinion through the information they provide about the issue of gender-based violence (GBV) in the form of press releases, media statements and interviews.

It thus follows that the ministries and police officers are natural allies of the media in reporting on this problem as they can not only significantly contribute to improving the quality of media reporting, which is in the interest of the public, but also directly influence how the public perceives the problem.

In the Western Balkans jurisdictions, the definition of public interest is generally integrated into the media laws. Below, we provide an explanation from the Ethical Journalism Network that summarizes these definitions.¹

“The public interest is what matters to everyone in society. It is about the common good, general welfare and safety of everyone in the community we serve. The public interest is not just what the readers, listeners or viewers want either as consumers or people who want to be entertained. It is about issues that affect everyone, even if many of them are not aware of it or even if they don’t appear to care.”

The development of the Guidelines was preceded by several months of work by SEESAC, members of the Journalists Against Violence Against Women group, and a group of journalists from five Western Balkans jurisdictions analysing media content covering the misuse of firearms in gender-based violence. The aim was to determine how the media report on this phenomenon, and to

1 [The Ethical Journalism Network](#) is a UK-based network of journalists, editors, media owners and media support groups.

identify the main weaknesses and strengths of media reporting. The analysis covered the following topics: media representation of specific cases and perpetrators; media representation of victims/survivors and the phenomenon of violence; photographs and visual elements in the media coverage of the topic of firearms misuse in gender-based violence; the degree to which the media fulfil their educational role in relation to this phenomenon.

The analysis covered 24,949 pieces of media content reporting on fire-arms-related incidents, of which 1,484 mention them in the context of violence against women. These articles were subsequently analysed in detail according to predefined indicators. The analysis used the media content that SEESAC systematically collects for the needs of its [Armed Violence Monitoring Platform \(AVMP\)](#), which serves to identify and assess relevant trends in Southeast Europe. The indicators were developed based on the ethical codes of journalist associations of the jurisdictions covered by the analysis, as well as the [Guidelines for ethical reporting on violence against women](#) developed by Journalists Against Violence Against Women.

The results of the analysis served as the basis for the development of the Guidelines for the officials of the ministries of interior and police services to help them inform both the media and the public in a manner that better aligns with the public interest.

Aiming to assist in the reduction of the threat from the misuse and illegal possession of SALW, [SEESAC established the Regional Awareness-Raising Task Force](#) in June 2022. Within this framework, twice a year, SEESAC brings together representatives of the ministries of interior and the police services from six Western Balkans jurisdictions whose work is directly linked to SALW awareness-raising activities.

[During the meeting held on 3 October 2023](#), the participants of this task force had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the Guidelines and engage in discussion about the topics covered. The Guidelines were later delivered to them electronically and finalized based on the comments received. The final version of the Guidelines was presented to the working group at the [meeting held on 3 April 2024](#).

The development of the Guidelines directly contributes to the implementation of the [*Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition in the Western Balkans*](#), with a focus on Goal 4 of the Roadmap, which states: Significantly reduce the supply, demand and misuse of firearms through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy.

GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE MEDIA

1 PROVIDE THE BIGGER PICTURE



► **PROBLEM:** The regional analysis of media content covering GBV with the misuse of firearms revealed that the vast majority of content, as much as 91 per cent, deals exclusively with individual cases rather than with the phenomenon in general. This is problematic because it creates the impression among the public that each incident is an isolated event/occurrence, a private problem between the perpetrator and the victim, or something that simply happens and cannot be prevented.

► **SOLUTION:** In addition to the basic information about the specific incident or the criminal offence involving a firearm, journalists should also be provided with the broader context of the event, including the following:

- the frequency of such incidents in your jurisdiction over the past 5 years;
- the trends for the current year;
- the micro-location where violence against women most often occurs – most cases of GBV happen within the confines of private spaces: households, apartments, houses, and yards (i.e. micro-location). It is, therefore, important to point out the fact that women are most vulnerable when they are in their private spaces;
- the most frequent relationship between the perpetrator and the victim – the perpetrator of gender-based violence is usually someone the victim knows (husband, common-law partner, former partner), so it is good to underline this aspect of violence;
- focus on cases of non-lethal misuse of firearms as well (threats, injuries);
- when addressing the public, emphasize that any form of violence against women is unacceptable, thus enhancing the citizens' capacity for zero tolerance towards this type of violence;

- prepare key statistics from your jurisdiction and basic information about the GBV phenomenon on an annual basis, and include them in every press release, statement, and interview.

We should also keep in mind that the majority of citizens do not know and/or have misconceptions about the mandates of the police, the prosecutor's office, courts, social welfare centres, as well as about police procedures in cases of domestic violence and misuse of firearms. This provides the ministry of interior and the police with plenty of opportunities to educate the public on these issues. It is essential to provide information on the procedure for issuing a weapons licence and how a weapon can be seized, what steps the police take when a domestic violence report is received, how and who can report domestic violence to the police, what is the procedure if the perpetrator is intoxicated, what is the procedure for determining who fired the weapon when it is suspected that the perpetrator committed suicide after committing femicide, etc. These details are of public interest and should be actively shared with the media when an incident of domestic violence occurs.

By providing educational information in your press releases, statements and/or interviews, you will reduce the media's need to ask you for information that crosses into the realm of sensationalism. Sensationalism is counter-productive because it features speculations from neighbours and acquaintances, crime details that are not within the realm of public interest, etc.

NOTE: If your jurisdiction has the legal institute of prosecutorial investigation, wait for the relevant prosecutor's office to come forth with the information within their mandate.

2 EDUCATIONAL ROLE



► **PROBLEM:** The majority of media content covered by the regional analysis lacks data and facts that serve the public interest. At the same time, the Mols/police services are in a position to provide some of this information. In 2022, less than 10 per cent of media reports in the region fulfilled their educational role by discussing the broader context of the phenomenon of GBV and the misuse of firearms. It is of particular importance to point out that the presence of a firearm in the home increases the risk of a fatal outcome.

► **SOLUTION:** Use your expertise and available statistics to educate journalists and their audiences. Shed light on the phenomena that lead to firearms-related incidents in GBV:

- highlight the [cycle of violence](#) (see guideline XIV);
- highlight that we should keep in mind that violence, including violence committed with firearms, is not only physical but also verbal, psychological and economic. These forms are most often present and precede physical violence, which is an escalation of the long-term abuse;
- do not focus exclusively on fatal outcomes but also on physical violence as such;
- point out that the GBV and misuse of firearms are social, not private problems;
- point out the rate of fatalities in firearm-related incidents in the GBV context and compare it to the death rate in other contexts where firearms are used;
- share with the media the information on how women experiencing violence can get support.

3 PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF THE PERPETRATOR AND THE VICTIM/SURVIVOR AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE



► **PROBLEM:** In the majority of jurisdictions, a frequent problem in media reporting is the disclosure of the identity of victims and survivors, as well as their family members, including children. This is the case in almost two out of three media reports across the region. In the vast majority of cases, the victim knows the perpetrator. By revealing the perpetrator's identity, you allow the media to find out the identity of the victim/survivor as well. This has severe consequences for the survivor and her family, as well as for the victim's family in the case of a fatal outcome. The internet does not forget anything, so in the future, with just a simple internet search, anyone can easily find out everything about the traumatic event through a simple search, which jeopardizes the privacy of survivors and their families, thus hindering their recovery.

► **SOLUTION:** Never underestimate the journalists' curiosity and their ability to discover the perpetrator's identity. Avoid anything that could help identify victims/survivors: the perpetrator's surname, whether they are related to the victim, photos from the crime scene that show the street name, house number, a recognizable building, etc. Also, avoid publishing the age and initials of the survivor or victim and the perpetrator because a slightly more advanced internet search can easily reveal their identities. Instead of stating the initials and the exact age of the victim and the perpetrator, your press release could refer to them as, for example, a middle-aged man, a pensioner, a younger woman, etc. Avoid the possibility of secondary traumatization at all costs. This is particularly important when the survivors are minors or children: the internet remembers everything and can mark them forever and make their lives difficult.

4 TRY TO FORMULATE THE LOCATION WHERE THE VIOLENCE HAPPENED AS BROADLY AS POSSIBLE



► **PROBLEM:** The location of the incident is another detail through which the media can identify the perpetrator and the victim, as well as their families, who may then be harassed.

► **SOLUTION:** When sharing the location information, refer only to the city where the violence took place. If the incident occurred in a rural settlement, provide the name of the nearest larger city and indicate that the violence took place in a village in its vicinity. Exceptions to this rule are public places and institutions. GBV committed in hospitality facilities or public institutions indicates the callousness of the perpetrator and is information of public interest because it has an educational role, as it demonstrates how far violence perpetrators are ready to go.

5 INFORM THE MEDIA ABOUT THE TYPE AND ORIGIN OF THE WEAPON



► **PROBLEM:** Although the type of the weapon is mentioned in the majority of analysed media content, in 71% of them there is no information on whether it was in legal or illegal possession by the perpetrator. Information about any other weapons (type and quantity) found with the perpetrator is also missing.

► **SOLUTION:** This information is of great importance for the media and the public because it raises the question of how firearms are obtained, whether they were brought illegally from a war zone, and allows the media to investigate systemic errors, to exert pressure on the relevant institutions to work better and be more responsible, as well as to possibly contact them for additional information. It is also useful for potential victims of violence because it helps them to become aware of their own circumstances and recognize the danger they are in.

NOTE: In jurisdictions with the institute of prosecutorial investigation in place, disclosing information about the origin, type and quantity of weapons does fall under the prosecutor's office mandate, not the police. Thus, this recommendation does not apply to those jurisdictions.

6 REPORT ON THE PERPETRATOR'S PRIOR HISTORY OF VIOLENT BEHAVIOUR



► **PROBLEM:** More than two-thirds of media reports do not include information on whether the perpetrator has a history of violent behaviour or misuse of firearms

► **SOLUTION:** Make sure to include this information, especially if institutions have previously dealt with the perpetrator, and cite the institutional response, if any. This information is also of public interest, especially for women at risk, because it helps them recognize when they are in danger and seek help in a timely manner. Moreover, if in the past violence (with or without firearm misuse) has been reported, inform the public about the outcome of those reports.

If there are no previous reports of violence, be careful and always emphasize that this does not mean that there was no violence in the past. Remind the public that many women are afraid to report the perpetrator.

In addition, inform the media more frequently about violence with less drastic consequences as a way to educate them that this is a risk indicator of more serious forms of violence.

NOTE: This does not always apply to jurisdictions where the history of violence falls under personal data protection laws. If you have information about a history of violence and have adequately protected the identity of the perpetrator, consider whether this information can be safely provided.

7 KEEP THE MEDIA INFORMED THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE INVESTIGATION



► **PROBLEM:** The regional analysis of media content showed that in 80% of cases, the media published the outcome of the case in terms of arrests or indictments. However, this does not mean that they follow the case from the beginning to the end. As time goes by, the media's interest in the institutional response wanes, and the news about the final verdict rarely reaches the public.

► **SOLUTION:** Reporting on the institutional response to the misuse of firearms in GBV is important as it increases and preserves the trust citizens have in the police and the judiciary. Equally important is that, with this information, women are taught how to defend themselves through legal means. At the same time, a message is sent to perpetrators about the consequences of their actions. Regularly inform the media about each phase: arrest, investigation progress, transfer of the case to the prosecutor's office, etc. Invite the media to continue following the outcome of the case to its conclusion through the work of the judiciary. By doing so, you will also encourage the media to be responsible and report in the public interest. Depending on the severity of the case and the importance of the public interest, assess the best form of communication at each phase. For example, the arrest and indictment are most often the reason for organizing a press conference and/or issuing a statement.

8 PROVIDE THE DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS IN CONCRETE CASES



► **PROBLEM:** Jurisdictions have different categorizations for different criminal offences, and the police is not authorised to qualify the crime on their own. For example, some jurisdictions have the criminal offence of “DOMESTIC VIOLENCE”, but the police must not use that term until the prosecutor’s office decides to charge the perpetrator with that particular offence.

► **SOLUTION:** Although it is clear that the incident is a case of domestic violence, we may not always be in the position to state this explicitly. However, there are no restrictions when describing to the media what happened, i.e. to state the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim (e.g. a middle-aged man fired several shots at his wife).

9 DO NOT SHARE DETAILS FROM THE INVESTIGATION THAT SHIFT THE RESPONSIBILITY FROM THE PERPETRATOR TO THE VICTIM /SURVIVOR AND DO NOT EXPLAIN THE VIOLENCE BY EXTERNAL CIRCUMSTANCES OR PERSONALITY TRAITS OF THE PERPETRATOR



► **PROBLEM:** Shifting the responsibility from the perpetrator to the victim/survivor is present in about a fifth of the media reports in all six jurisdictions. Furthermore, with an even higher percentage (31%), the media try to explain the violence through external circumstances (for example job loss, money problems) or personal characteristics of the perpetrator (alcoholism, gambling, mental illness). This harmful practice diminishes the responsibility of the perpetrator. It sends a message to the public that the act was beyond the perpetrator's control while at the same time discouraging victims from reporting violence.

► **SOLUTION:** Every criminal offence has a motive or a reason. However, it is important to distinguish these from the cause. The cause of violence is always the decision of the perpetrator to commit a violent act. If you provide the media with the reason for this decision (e.g. "He killed his ex-wife because she found a new partner"), you are enabling them to shift part of the responsibility for the violent act onto the victim/survivor.

10 DON'T GIVE THE MEDIA A CAUSE TO MOCK VIOLENCE



► **PROBLEM:** Diminishing or mocking violence, as well as showing distrust towards the victim/survivor is present in one out of five media reports. This affects public opinion by desensitizing it to violence and contributing to its normalization. In criminal offences involving firearms, there are sometimes details (e.g. a ricochet hit the perpetrator, a bullet got stuck in the barrel, the survivor grabbed the gun from him, etc.) that the media may use for mocking.

► **SOLUTION:** Such situations require paying particular attention to the wording used. This is common in firearm misuse cases that did not result in injuries and/or casualties, but you should treat these incidents just as seriously as cases with injuries and victims.

11 BE CAREFUL WHEN CHOOSING THE VISUAL CONTENT YOU SEND TO THE MEDIA



► **PROBLEM:** The media content analysis showed that in a large number of cases, visual content can be retraumatizing for the families of victims/survivors. The most frequently used visual motif in cases of firearm misuse in GBV is a weapon, which is perceived as a source of power in our cultures, sending the opposite message from what is intended. Some media reports contain good solutions, such as photos showing hands of a forensic expert or the sign “NO TO FIREARMS”.

► **SOLUTION:** Although the police rarely share photos and videos, when this is deemed necessary the following approach can be used: it is hard to find a way to visually portray the GBV and the misuse of firearms without upsetting the public. If you need to send pictures and videos from a crime scene or arrest to the media, always blur the face of the perpetrator/suspect. Under no circumstances should you send visuals showing weapons and/or victims, even when covered by sheets or in body bags. The same applies to images depicting blood stains and other details. This approach protects identities and preserves victim’s dignity, prevents traumatizing the victim’s families and avoids disturbing the public. To find positive examples of illustrations portraying the problem of violence in a responsible and ethical manner, please refer the media to the [database of photos and illustrations](#) compiled by the group Journalists Against Violence Against Women.

12 DO NOT JUSTIFY FAILURES OF INSTITUTIONS



► **PROBLEM:** Attempts to justify the failures in the work of institutions lead to an increased distrust in those institutions. If women experiencing violence do not believe they can be protected, they may not report the violence in the first place, which can lead to fatal consequences. Acknowledging the ongoing efforts to identify system failures and weaknesses shows that the institution is committed to doing its work and improving it.

► **SOLUTION:** In cases when the GBV with the misuse of firearms was reported and could have been prevented, do not deny any potential accountability of your institution. Admit the mistake and emphasize that mistakes can happen in any line of work, but in some, they can have fatal consequences. Explain to journalists the procedure for determining accountability in your institution and list the steps you plan to take. Keep the media regularly informed about the progress of this procedure.

13 FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE CODES OF ETHICS OF JOURNALISTS IN YOUR JURISDICTION AND KEEP REMINDING YOUR COLLEAGUES OF THEIR OWN CODES



► **PROBLEM:** The media tend to publish an exclusive and sensational story at the expense of media ethics. Sometimes, they find material for this in press releases or statements given by officials of the ministry of interior and the police, who are common sources for the media. Sometimes the problem lies with investigation-related data that should not be shared with the public, as this would violate the confidentiality of the investigation.

► **SOLUTION:** It is important to act preventively. Thus, by familiarizing yourself with the ethical standards of media reporting, you can avoid becoming the source of retraumatization, stigmatization and secondary victimization of victims/survivors. If you frequently remind your colleagues about the codes of conduct for police officers, you will have an educational effect on them and reduce the number of those who are ready to disclose details of the investigation to journalists.

14 FAMILIARIZE JOURNALISTS WITH THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE



► **PROBLEM:** Try to prevent journalists from describing the circumstances of the murder with terms such as “unexpectedly”, “overnight”, “in the heat of the moment” and depicting the perpetrator as a “calm, quiet and withdrawn neighbour” who suddenly “went mad” and became a murderer. This type of writing misleads people about femicide, the very nature of violence, and the power dynamics that the perpetrator of violence establishes over the victim. It also discourages other women experiencing violence from reporting the perpetrator to institutions.

► **SOLUTION:** Point out the very nature of GBV and the pattern of behaviour that marks intimate partner and domestic violence.

Situations of intimate partner and domestic violence never happen suddenly. They arise after a strong bond has been developed and is hard to break. Violent partners are often perceived as “good” most of the time, which is why some incidents of violence are attributed to the perpetrator having a bad day or loss of control due to stress, rather than being portrayed as inherently violent behaviour. The cycle of violence has three recurring stages:

1. **“grooming” the victim:** establishing control over them through manipulation and isolation from family and friends, which is actually psychological and/or economic violence;
2. **escalation of violence:** most often physical and/or sexual;
3. **“honeymoon” stage:** the perpetrator repents, showers the victim with attention and promises that the violence will never happen again. This is a form of manipulation and psychological violence.

Since this is a cycle, the perpetrator soon returns to the first stage, while the escalation stage, becomes increasingly brutal. The longer the victim stays in this relationship, the faster the cycles repeat, and the intervals between two escalations become shorter.

FORMS OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE MEDIA

PRESS RELEASE



Following an incident of GBV with the misuse of firearms, a press release is the first form of communication with journalists. This way, you inform them that violence happened. Even if some journalists have already reported the news and have been at the crime scene, with a press release you confirm that the police are working on the case, thus reassuring the public and providing basic information about the case while making sure that by doing so you are not endangering the victim and their family.

Sending regular press releases to the media about your daily activities on the reduction of GBV and arms control also plays a preventive role and ensures good communication.

However, it is important not to rely on press releases as the only channel of communication with the media and to remain open to giving statements and interviews.

Unplanned press releases are a part of crisis communication, and you can use them to mitigate the damage when an unexpected event occurs. They are a regular practice in police work because criminal offences usually happen suddenly.

STATEMENT



Journalists from TV, radio, and, increasingly, web portals need statements from officials to complete their reports. In cases of GBV, these statements should be made by persons who are sensitized to the issue and aware of the consequences of making information public. If the police, or any competent authority, avoids providing experts who can give statements on a matter, including this one, that leaves space for the public to question the quality of the work of these institutions while also diminishing their awareness of the seriousness of this social problem.

Measured and clear statements educate, inform, warn, and reassure the public that is often quite alarmed after GBV incidents.

PRESS CONFERENCE



Press conferences for incidents of GBV are generally called for in cases involving multiple casualties, when several individuals and families were endangered, or when the public was deeply alarmed. In such cases, the need for information is great, and organizing a press conference is a way to send a clear message to the public from one place and through all the media. Press conferences require good organization, a clear division of roles, and authoritative and eloquent speakers.

Press conferences are organized when you are certain that you have a story that will capture media attention and when it cannot be clarified/explained through a press release, or when the event is so important that a press release or a statement is insufficient to provide all the details of public importance. In such situations, it is essential to have an expert who can capture media attention and convey a clear message to the public.

SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORKS



Communication through social networks is inevitable in the modern age. What we should always keep in mind is that the information we distribute through social media networks will reach some potential victims faster than that shared through traditional media. That is why it is vital that each post you share, in accordance with your rules for internet presence, contains phone numbers and other contact information that victims can use to report violence. Social networks are also an excellent platform for education. By using them, you can inform citizens on how to report violence, clarify the scope of your mandate, provide current statistics, describe police procedures, and share other relevant information stated in guidelines I and II.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS AND USEFUL LINKS

1. Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and girls (Istanbul Convention) ([Albanian/English/BCMS/Macedonian](#))
2. [SEESAC publications, including:](#)
 - a. Men and Firearms in South East Europe: Fast Facts ([English](#))
 - b. Gender and Small Arms in Albania: Fast Facts ([Albanian/English](#))
 - c. Gender and Small Arms in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Fast Facts ([English/BCMS](#))
 - d. Gender and Small Arms in Montenegro: Fast Facts ([English/BCMS](#))
 - e. Gender and Small Arms in North Macedonia: Fast Facts ([English/Macedonian](#))
 - f. Gender and Small Arms in Serbia: Fast Facts ([English/BCMS](#))
 - g. Gender and Small Arms in Kosovo*: Fast Facts ([Albanian/English/BCMS](#))
 - h. Gender analysis of the legislative and strategic framework of the small arms and light weapons control in Albania ([Albanian/English](#))
 - i. Gender analysis of the legislative and strategic framework of the small arms and light weapons control in Bosnia and Herzegovina: ([English/BCMS](#))
 - j. Gender analysis of the legislative and strategic framework of the small arms and light weapons control in Montenegro ([English/BCMS](#))
 - k. Gender analysis of the legislative and strategic framework of the small arms and light weapons control in North Macedonia ([English/Macedonian](#))
 - l. Gender analysis of the legislative and strategic framework of the small arms and light weapons control in Kosovo ([Albanian/English](#))
 - m. The Misuse of Firearms in Domestic Violence in South East Europe: Fast Facts ([English](#))
 - n. Gender and small arms and light weapons in South East Europe ([Albanian/English/BCMS/Macedonian](#))

* For the United Nations Development Programme, references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). For the European Union, this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

- o. Albania: Small Arms and Light Weapons Survey ([Albanian/English](#))
 - p. Bosnia and Herzegovina: Small Arms and Light Weapons Survey ([English/BCMS](#))
 - q. Montenegro: Small Arms and Light Weapons Survey ([English/BCMS](#))
 - r. North Macedonia: Small Arms and Light Weapons Survey ([English/Macedonian](#))
 - s. Serbia: Small Arms and Light Weapons Survey ([English/BCMS](#))
 - t. Kosovo: Small Arms and Light Weapons Survey ([Albanian/English](#))
3. How Women Read You? ([BCMS](#))
 4. [OSCE-led Survey on Violence Against Women: several publications](#) including:
 - a. OSCE-led Survey on Violence Against Women in Albania: Well-being and Safety of Women ([Albanian/English](#))
 - b. OSCE-led Survey on Violence Against Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Well-being and Safety of Women ([English/BCMS](#))
 - c. OSCE-led Survey on Violence Against Women in Montenegro: Well-being and Safety of Women ([English/BCMS](#))
 - d. OSCE-led Survey on Violence Against Women in North Macedonia: Well-being and Safety of Women ([English/Macedonian/Albanian](#))
 - e. OSCE-led Survey on Violence Against Women in Serbia: Well-being and Safety of Women ([English/BCMS](#))
 - f. OSCE-led Survey on Violence Against Women in Kosovo: Well-being and safety of Women ([Albanian/English/BCMS](#))
 5. Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024 ([Albanian/English/BCMS/Macedonian](#))
 6. Armed Violence Monitoring Platform - [in multiple languages](#)
 7. Regional Arms Law Compendium - [in multiple languages](#)

