

Training Held to Strengthen Capacity for Responding to Sexual Violence at Universities in Serbia



The Victimology Society of Serbia (VDS) organized an online training named "Training to Strengthen Capacity for Responding to Sexual Violence at Universities in Serbia." Over 30 participants took part in the training, including representatives of teaching and non-teaching staff, as well as students from the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Novi Sad.

The training was organized as part of the international project UNIGEM (Universities and Gender Mainstreaming¹) in cooperation with the Support Team for Victims of Sexual Harassment and Blackmail at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad. The four-day online training was conducted the 13th, 14th, 17th. and May 21, 2024 through the zoom platform. The goal of the training was to strengthen the capacity of faculty staff and students to adequately respond to sexual violence at universities.

Participants mentioned that the most significant aspects were the workshops where they learned about the types and consequences of sexual violence, support and protection mechanisms, as well as communication skills related to the first response to experienced sexual violence were the most important for them. They particularly emphasized that the training was extremely dynamic and well-designed, and it encouraged them to think about prevention and taking further steps to protect against sexual violence at universities.

¹ The project is funded by the Government of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, and its implementation is carried out by the TPO Foundation in collaboration with 18 universities from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, and Montenegro. The aim is to prevent and combat gender-based violence, discrimination, and sexual harassment, as well as to ensure integrity and quality in higher education.

