



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo
Qeveria - Vlada - Government

REGULATION (GRK) – NO. 01/2025
FOR THE LOCAL COORDINATING MECHANISM FOR
PROTECTION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN, AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE¹

¹ Regulation (GRK) – No.01/2025 for the Local Coordinating Mechanism for Protection Against Domestic Violence, Violence Against Women, and Gender-based Violence, has been approved in the 249-th Meeting of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, with the Decision No.01/249, dated 26.02.2025.

Government of the Republic of Kosovo

Pursuant to Article 93 (4) of the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, in accordance with Article 25 (paragraph 5) of Law No. 08/L-185 on the Prevention and Protection from Domestic Violence, Violence Against Women, and Gender-Based Violence (Official Gazette, No. 22/12.10.2023), in accordance with Article 8 (paragraph 4, sub-paragraph 4.5) of Law No. 08/117 on the Government of the Republic of Kosovo,

Approves:

REGULATION (GRK) – No. 01/2025 FOR THE LOCAL COORDINATING MECHANISM FOR PROTECTION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Article 1

Purpose

1. This Regulation aims to define the duties and responsibilities of the Local Coordinating Mechanism for the protection and provision of support to victims of domestic violence, violence against women, and gender-based violence in accordance with the applicable legislation.

2. This Regulation is in compliance with:

2.1. The Directive of the European Parliament and Council on combating violence against women and domestic violence (No. 2024/1385);

2.2. Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime;

2.3. Convention of Council of Europe on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

Article 2

Scope

The provisions of this Regulation are mandatory for all the Local Coordinating Mechanisms in accordance with the applicable legislation.

Article 3

Basic Principles

1. The Local Coordinating Mechanism coordinates activities for the prevention, protection, and support of victims of all forms of violence without discrimination based on nationality, community affiliation, social or national origin, race, ethnicity, color, birth, origin, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, language, nationality, religious belief and faith, political affiliation, political opinion or other beliefs, social or personal status, age, marital or family status, pregnancy, maternity, property status, health status, disability, genetic inheritance, or any other basis with the aim of implementing the principle of equal treatment.
2. The Local Coordinating Mechanism ensures the confidentiality of victims and the protection of personal data in accordance with the applicable legislation.
3. The Local Coordinating Mechanism applies a victim-centered approach in providing support to victims of all forms of violence, taking into account the rights and needs of the victims.

Article 4

Local Coordinating Mechanism

1. The Local Coordinating Mechanism consists of:
 - 1.1. The Mayor - Chairperson;
 - 1.2. The Director of Health and Social Welfare or the relevant department covering health or social welfare;
 - 1.3. The Director of the Center for Social Work;
 - 1.4. The Head of Social Services, Center for Social Work;
 - 1.5. The Municipal Director of Education;
 - 1.6. The Gender Equality Officer;
 - 1.7. The Director of the Main Family Health Center;
 - 1.8. A representative from the Office for Communities and Returns;
 - 1.9. A representative from a shelter;
 - 1.10. A representative from local NGOs active in human/women's rights.
2. Based on Article 9 of the Law on the Prevention and Protection from Domestic Violence, Violence Against Women, and Gender-Based Violence, the following are invited to be part of the Local Coordinating Mechanism:
 - 2.1. The Victim Advocate from the Office for Protection and Assistance of Victims;
 - 2.2. A representative from the Court;

- 2.3. A representative from the Prosecution;
- 2.4. A representative from the Police;
- 2.5. A representative from the Free Legal Aid Agency;
- 2.6. A representative from the Employment Offices;
- 2.7. A representative from the Mental Health Center.

3. In the absence of the Chairperson, the role of Deputy Chairperson of the local coordinating mechanism is carried out by the First Deputy Mayor of the Municipality.

4. The Local Coordinating Mechanism may, if needed, invite representatives of relevant institutions to meetings.

5. The Mayor designates the secretariat of the Local Coordinating Mechanism for administrative and technical support.

Article 5

Duties and Responsibilities of the Local Coordinating Mechanism

1. The duties and responsibilities of the Local Coordinating Mechanism include:

1.1. identifying the needs for providing support to victims of domestic violence, violence against women, and gender-based violence in accordance with the definitions provided in the Istanbul Convention and the applicable law;

1.2. coordinating policies for the provision of specific services necessary for supporting victims of violence;

1.3. coordinating the work of relevant institutions at the local level for the prevention, protection, and support of victims, and to contribute to the elimination of all forms of domestic violence, violence against women, and gender-based violence;

1.4. drafting action plans at the municipal level for the implementation of the National Strategy against Domestic Violence and Violence against Women;

1.5. collecting, analyzing, and recommending action policies for the prevention of domestic violence, violence against women, and gender-based violence;

1.6. proposing the budget for the provision of social services for victims of domestic violence, violence against women, and gender-based violence, which is approved by the municipal assembly;

1.7. raising awareness and build capacities to foster zero tolerance for domestic violence, violence against women, and gender-based violence;

1.8. coordinating efforts with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) focused on women's rights;

1.9. The Local Coordinating Mechanism handles with priority all measures and activities aimed at preventing domestic violence, violence against women, and gender-based violence;

1.10. The local coordinating mechanism determines and implements policies for the reintegration, rehabilitation, economic, and financial independence of victims;

1.11. The Local Coordinating Mechanism adopts an integrated approach in all phases of situation assessment, implementation, and policy evaluation.

Article 6

Duties and Responsibilities of the Local Coordinating Mechanism Chairperson

1. The Chairperson of the Local Coordinating Mechanism has the following responsibilities:

1.1. calls meetings and sets the agenda;

1.2. in specific cases, invites a professional core group to handle cases, depending on the level of risk and upon request from the Center for Social Work and other members;

1.3. ensures a regular process of internal communication during meetings of the Local Coordinating Mechanism;

1.4. coordinates the work of the Local Coordinating Mechanism in drafting The Action Plan for the Implementation of The National Strategy against Domestic Violence, Violence against Women, and Gender-Based Violence, which is approved by the Municipal Assembly;

1.5. reports on the progress of action plan implementation and policies approved for the prevention and protection from domestic violence, violence against women, and gender-based violence.

Article 7

Duties and Responsibilities of the Members of the Local Coordinating Mechanism

1. The duties and responsibilities of the members of the Local Coordinating Mechanism are:

1.1. members of the Local Coordinating Mechanism must regularly attend meetings, contribute to the work of the mechanism, and participate in extraordinary meetings;

1.2. to provide statistical data to the Local Coordinating Mechanism, highlighting specific challenges faced by victims in their respective sectors, as well as recent developments and trends;

1.3. to coordinate actions to ensure adequate services for victims and survivors of domestic violence, violence against women, and gender-based violence;

1.4. to coordinate policies for the reintegration and repatriation of survivors of domestic violence, and to provide sustainable and comprehensive services;

1.5. to report on actions, developments, and specific challenges relevant to their respective institution/employer;

1.6. in specific emergency cases, to ensure direct coordination and communication with other members of the Local Coordinating Mechanism to support victims of domestic violence, violence against women, and gender-based violence;

1.7. members of the Local Coordinating Mechanism are required to respect privacy and confidentiality standards and must not disclose the personal data of victims/survivors. They must also classify as confidential any information they learn in the course of their duties that is considered an official information secret, in accordance with applicable laws.

Article 8

Meetings of the Local Coordinating Mechanism

1. Regular meetings of the Local Coordinating Mechanism are held every three (3) months.

2. Depending on the case, meetings may also be called on an *ad hoc* basis, upon the proposal of at least three (3) members of the Local Coordinating Mechanism.

3. Meetings are held at the Municipality's premises or, exceptionally, in another space suitable for the members of the Local Coordinating Mechanism.

4. The Secretariat assists in:

4.1. setting the date, time, and location of the next meeting;

4.2. preparing the agenda and emailing it to other members of the local Coordinating Mechanism for their inputs, completing the agenda, and sending the final version to all members of the Local Coordinating Mechanism at least one (1) week before the next meeting, inviting members to add possible agenda items;

4.3. preparing and distributing relevant documents, contributions and results at least one (1) week before the meeting;

4.4. assigning a person to record the minutes of the meeting;

4.5. providing translation/interpretation services as needed;

4.6. if a regular member of the Local Coordinating Mechanism is absent from three (3) consecutive meetings without reason, the Chairperson may request such member be replaced.

Article 9
Training of members of the Local Coordinating Mechanism

1. All members of the Local Coordinating Mechanism are obligated to attend initial and advanced training sessions for the development of essential professional skills and knowledge.
2. In order to advance the professional skills, the members of the Local Coordinating Mechanisms participate in ongoing trainings, in accordance with the applicable legislation.
3. The training provided should be basic training, thematic training on forms of violence, and initial and ongoing cross-sectoral training, in accordance with the requirements of international standards and international best practices, according to convention of the Council of Europe on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and the relevant law.

Article 10
Reporting

1. The Chairperson of the relevant mechanism submits a work report at least once (1) a year to the Municipal Assembly of the relevant Municipality.
2. The Chairperson of the relevant mechanism submits a work report every six (6) months to the National Coordinator for protection from domestic violence for the implementation of municipal action plans, in accordance with the National Strategy for protection from domestic violence and violence against women and the convention of the Council of Europe for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

Article 11
Entry into force

The Regulation enters into force seven (7) days after its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Kosovo.

Albin KURTI

Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo

28 February 2025