



No: 10-37-2-671-1/19  
Sarajevo, 27 February 2019

**UNITED NATION HUMAN RIGHTS SPECIAL PROCEDURES**  
**Ms. Dubravka Šimunović, Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences**

**RE: Questions related to mandate of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences**  
**Ref: Your letter dated 1 February 2019**

Your Excellency Ms. Šimunović,

In reply to your request for our standpoint on the issues listed in the letter, we would like to draw your attention to the following facts.

A lack of understanding of the international law provisions that link gender equality and violence against women, along with the lack of institutional, legal and organizational capacities of the governments/judiciary to provide adequate response, remain the main challenges in addressing violence against women in its various forms.

In the last 24 years, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women has significantly contributed to the empowerment of women to address gender based violence by recommending measures and methods at the national, regional and international levels and efforts aimed at adoption of a comprehensive and universal approach to the elimination of violence against women.

We would like to use this opportunity to inform the Special Rapporteur that the Agency for Gender Equality/Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina has recently initiated the establishment of the State Commission for Monitoring and Reporting on the Istanbul Convention and Femicide Watch. The Decision on Establishment of the State Commission is in the procedure before the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and we are expecting its adoption very soon.

We are pleased to note that one of the reasons for the establishment of this Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina is to support the global initiative of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences to establish similar bodies in all States.

Remaining at your disposal for future cooperation and partnership in the common goal of elimination of the violence against women, please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

  
DIRECTOR  
Samra Filipović Hadžić