Women Sport Society- Serbia

1. What are the different forms of violence that women and girls in sports can experience (eg physical, psychological, economic, online violence, coercive control, as well as an extreme form of discrimination that represents violence)?

**In Serbia, women and girls experience all kinds of violence in sports, because there is no control and protection system, protocols, ethical codes, regulations, manuals. We have had examples of physical violence against female athletes from parents, coaches, older athletes; we also had examples of sexual violence (rape), mostly by male coaches against girls aged 12 and 17. They received light prison sentences.**

**When it comes to an extreme form of discrimination, we cite the example that from the Sport Strategy of the Republic of Serbia, in 2014, women's sports were deleted from the list of 22 sports priorities, and the following were inserted: military sports, police sports, university sports (which do not exist in Serbia). . . Since then, the Ministry of Sports from the budget of the Republic of Serbia has not financed any special program for the development of women's sports and the promotion of women in sports. Also, no national sports federation mentions gender equality in sports in its Statute, nor is it the goal of the development of women's sports, except for the Football Association of Serbia, which mentions it as one of the goals in its Statute.**

**In Serbia, there are no women in positions that include decision-making power and influence. Women's sports in Serbia have a long tradition and are very successful. At the Olympic Games in London, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo, an average of 37% of female athletes participated in the Olympic team and they won an average of 50% of the Olympic medals for Serbia.**

**Only 15 sportswomen have a professional contract or 0.66%, and 2273 men (99.56%).**

**Since 2015, 59% of national sports federations in Serbia have implemented measures for employment and increasing the number of women in management positions, and implementation in practice – 0%.**

1. What human rights of women and girls in sport have been violated as a result of the exposure of women and girls in sport to violence or the risk of violence?

**The right to life and health are inseparable from a person's personality, the right to dignity and security, the inviolability of physical and psychological integrity, privacy and personal rights, as well as the equality of women and men.**

**Violence, especially the most serious forms of sexual violence in sports, permanently endangers the health of the victim, and in Serbian sports, victims of sexual violence have no protection, and the Prosecutor's Office has proven at least 6 serious cases of sexual violence in Serbian sports, and none of the girls were of legal age (18 years).**

**No sport in Serbia has human resources for education about gender-based and sexual violence;**

**2. No sport had an awareness campaign aimed at women;**

**3. No sports organization has ever organized a mentoring program for future women leaders, nor has it taken measures to facilitate the reconciliation of private life and professional sports obligations;**

**4. football, golf and cycling do not have any registered female coaches;**

**5. 11 national confederations do not have a women's competition, and only 5 confederations have more than 5 levels of competition for women in senior competition;**

**6. 14% of presidents of sports associations are women**

**7. 14% of vice presidents of sports associations are women**

**9. There are 112 (17%) women in the Management Boards (most of them are fictitious)**

**10. There are 52 (20%) women in Supervisory Boards**

**The quota is 40% in relation to the other sex, according to the Law on Gender Equality of the Republic of Serbia, adopted on June 1. in 2021! Also, the quota is 40% in the decision of the IOC and UN WOMEN from September 19, 2023. years;**

**11. The Olympic Committee of Serbia and the Ministry of Sports mention gender equality in their long-term plans, but neither they nor the sports federations have any concrete policy and action plan for progressing towards this goal.**

1. Which actors are responsible for committing violence against women and girls and increasing the risk of violence against women and girls in sport?

**The greatest responsibility lies with those most responsible for the implementation of the sports development strategy in the Republic of Serbia, the top sports managers of the most important sports organizations and institutions (100% men, there are no women), who completely obstruct any activity when it comes to women in sports, gender equality and the fight against violence, especially gender-based violence in sports.**

**The NGO "Zene, sport, drustvo" from Belgrade, which gathers sports journalists, former and active top athletes, university professors, female trainers, doctors, psychologists, has been unsuccessfully warning the top of Serbian sports about current problems for 4 years, but their every activity is obstructed. and the situation is worse in 2024 than it was in 2019.**

**4.**  What are the main causes of violence that women and girls experience in sports, including the structural causes of such violence?

**These are gender inequality, stereotypes, the lack of pdorska and the complete ignoring of institutions and the culture of silence that allows violent women to go unpunished.
In Serbia, we cannot apply any of the recommendations of the IOC, UN WOMEN and the Council of Europe, because there is no such experience:
1. We cannot exchange knowledge, ideas, suggestions in the strategy of the fight for gender equality in sports
2. In Serbia, we do not have any experience of good practice for media visibility
3. We do not have education for improving the presentation of sports and female athletes in posts on social networks;
4. We do not have education for better communication between sportswomen and journalists, as well as for the preparation of content to be shared on social platforms with the public;
5. We have never had activities to equalize the treatment of sportsmen and sportswomen in the media;
6. We have never launched any action plans and programs to reduce gender stereotypes and sexism when following women's sports and athletes in the media, while emphasizing their sports achievements and results!**  5. Which groups of women and girls in sports are more exposed to violence and on what basis? **All 128,000 women and girls who are registered members of sports clubs included in the official protocols of sports competitions are at risk. And the most vulnerable are certainly female athletes with disabilities, where terrible things with violence and sexual violence happen. They, like other athletes, have no one to turn to for protection.
In Serbia, we have had cases of abuse of female athletes of the LGBT population, but also examples of girls belonging to the LGBT population, abusing so-called "straight" girls. We also have examples of abuse of girls who are engaged in traditionally male sports, especially football, boxing, karate, where there are many examples of sexual violence and abusers abuse several generations of female athletes without ever being punished.** 6. What are the responsibilities of state and non-state actors in preventing acts of violence against women and girls in sports, including the adoption of measures for its investigation, calling those responsible for it to account, and providing assistance and protection to victims of violence?
  **The responsibility of the state actors is great, because, despite warnings for the last four years about all the negative phenomena in Serbian sports, not a single sports institution and organization has announced itself, nor taken a single measure to prevent and punish every type of negative phenomena of violence against female athletes and to women in sports, especially women who work in sports administration, no sports institutions and organizations have ever protected any women in sports in Serbia. On the contrary. They protected the bullies with silence and inaction.**

 7. What measures do state and non-state actors have in place to ensure that incidents of violence against women and girls in sport can be effectively reported, thoroughly investigated and sanctioned?

Unfortunately, there is no formal legal protection against violence in sports in Serbia. **There is no commission, body, or expert to whom victims of violence can turn for protection. Now we have a current case of sexual abuse of the most talented female karate player (which started when she was a minor) by the selector of the women's karate team of Serbia, we even complained to the Minister of Sports in the Government of the Republic of Serbia, he only said that he could informally warn the Karate Federation of Serbia that dismissal of the bully coach from the position of selector of the women's karate national team. He was formally dismissed, but he still informally remained with his power and influence in the Karate Federation of Serbia. All efforts to change such a situation are unsuccessful, because there are threats, blackmail and women in Serbian sports are very, very scared.**

8. To what extent are women and girls in sports, as well as the associations that represent them, effectively involved and consulted in the design and implementation of policies aimed at ending severe discrimination and violence against women and girls in sports at the national, regional level. , and internationally?

**Women in Serbian sports are not at all involved and consulted in the design of policies that would raise issues of gender equality.
In the management structures: the Ministry of Sports of Serbia, the Olympic Committee of Serbia and the Sports Federation of Serbia, there are no women in management and decision-making positions. Most of the time, top female athletes whose careers are not over are appointed to governing bodies, in order to use their sports authority to deceive the law that requires a certain number of women.
The association that only deals with women in Serbian sports, Žene, sport, drustvo, was declared "the biggest enemy of Serbian sports because it says some ugly things about sports." And the Women and Sport Commissions in the institutions have not been working for 10 years.**

 9. Please provide examples of good practice adopted by state and non-state actors in ending violence against women and girls in sports?

**There is not a single activity, action, program or project adopted by a state actor in Serbia.
The Women's Sports Association is a society. 1. Founded the Network of Women in Sports of Serbia, 2. organized conferences, round tables and panel discussions on the topic of women in sports, 3. launched the BEST WOMAN IN SPORT award and presents certificates of appreciation for work in women's sports 4. launched research projects on Sexual violence in sports, about media visibility of women's sports, etc**

 10. What are the lessons learned from the policies and laws that have been adopted and implemented in relation to women and girls in sport and their implications for the safety, security, dignity, equality and participation of women and girls in sport?

**In Serbia, there are no policies and laws that have been implemented regarding women and girls in sports**
 11. Please provide recommendations on how to prevent violence against women and girls in sports and what needs to be done to better respond to the needs of survivors of such violence?

**1. Financing of projects and special programs of women's sports and activities related to the development of women's sports and the promotion of women in sports
2. professional training and enabling the use of international programs for the development of women's sports
3. adoption of a series of measures and recommendations on gender-based violence, especially sexual violence in sports
4. Funding of professional development programs for women in sports
5. women's sport adequately covered by the media
6. systematically organized support for sportsmen and women who are involved in sports in any way;
7. made available to information and legal assistance in all aspects of sports;
8. Return women's sport to the Strategy of the development of sport in the Republic of Serbia**