

*It's in our hands*  
**Stop violence  
against women**

# **Kosovo**

## **(Serbia and Montenegro): 'Does that mean I have rights?':**

Protecting the human rights of women and girls  
trafficked for forced prostitution in Kosovo

**STOP  
VIOLENCE  
AGAINST  
WOMEN**



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## **Amnesty International's campaign**

This report is published as part of Amnesty International's global Stop Violence against Women campaign. Amnesty International's campaign is designed to mobilize both men and women and to use the power and persuasion of the human rights framework in the efforts to stop violence against women.

In the home and in the community, in times of war and peace, women and girls are beaten, raped, mutilated and killed with impunity. Violence and the threat of violence affect the ability of all women to exercise their rights and diminish all our lives. As long as violence against women continues, the promise to humanity of a life free from fear and free from want cannot be fulfilled.

Countless women face physical, sexual and mental abuse at the hands of close relatives as well as strangers. All too often, communities tolerate violence against women and deny women the freedom to choose how to live their lives. Local, regional and national authorities fail to prevent and punish acts of violence, and do not provide an environment free from violence. In conflict zones,

both government forces and armed groups commit atrocities against women with impunity.

Violence against women is never normal, legal or acceptable and should never be tolerated or justified. Everyone – individuals, communities, governments, and international bodies – has a responsibility to put a stop to it and to redress the suffering it causes.

Change must come at international, national and local levels. International treaties must be respected, laws must be adopted or abolished, support systems must be put in place and above all attitudes, prejudices and social beliefs that foster and reinforce violence against women must change.

Amnesty International is collaborating with women's rights activists and groups who are already working to expose and redress forms of violence. Amnesty International investigates and exposes acts of violence against women and demands that these violations are acknowledged, publicly condemned and redressed.

We can all do something to stop the epidemic of violence against women. Add your voice to ours. Join Amnesty International's campaign, *Stop Violence against Women – It's in our hands*. Visit [www.amnesty.org/actforwomen](http://www.amnesty.org/actforwomen)