

## **Gender equality and the fight against gender-based violence and femicide in the West Balkans**

The Victimology Society of Serbia-VDS, in cooperation with the organization FemPlatz, followed the court cases proceedings in cases concerning femicide, attempted femicide and other forms of gender-based violence against women.

The monitoring of the trial was carried out within the project of the AIRE Center Gender Equality and Fight against gender-based violence and femicide in the Western Balkans supported by the Government of the United Kingdom. The aim of the project is to improve the understanding of gender-related issues within the judiciary in the countries of the Western Balkans and thereby increase access to justice for victims and those who survived gender-based violence.

Monitoring of court proceedings was carried out according to the methodology developed within the project in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of North Macedonia and Montenegro.

The Victimology Society of Serbia monitored a total of eight court proceedings, two of which were followed during 2023 but concluded with verdicts in 2024. The court proceedings were conducted before the First Basic Court in Belgrade (3), the Basic Court in Lazarevac (1), the Basic Court in Leskovac (2), the Higher Court in Vranje (1), and the Higher Court in Pirot (1).

In the final report, the VDS analyzed the monitored cases and made recommendations related to court cases.