



AWEN

ALBANIAN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT NETWORK

Annual Report 2025

Key Achievements of the 9 AWEN-Funded Projects (2025)

- **Support services for GBV survivors**, including psychosocial counseling, legal assistance, emergency shelter, and referral services, ensuring survivor-centered and trauma-informed responses.
- **Strengthened the capacities of local duty bearers and service providers**, including municipal authorities, social workers, police officers, health professionals, educators, and community actors, to identify, prevent, and respond effectively to cases of gender-based violence and human trafficking.
- **Increased awareness and knowledge on GBV, women's rights**, and available protection mechanisms through community outreach campaigns, informational sessions, public discussions, and awareness-raising activities reaching diverse groups, including women, youth, men, and vulnerable communities.
- **Promoted positive changes in social norms and attitudes toward gender equality**, challenging harmful stereotypes, discriminatory practices, and acceptance of violence against women through educational and social engagement initiatives.
- **Enhanced coordination and referral mechanisms at the local level**, improving collaboration among institutions and service providers involved in the protection and support of GBV survivors.
- **Advocated for policy improvements and stronger implementation of legal frameworks**, contributing to local-level discussions, recommendations, and actions aimed at improving protection systems and accountability mechanisms.
- **Monitored prosecution and justice processes in GBV cases**, promoting greater accountability, survivor access to justice, and institutional responsiveness to violence against women and girls.
- **Supported vulnerable and at-risk groups, including women and girls affected by domestic violence**, trafficking survivors, Roma and marginalized communities, by facilitating access to services, information, and empowerment opportunities.

Key Achievements of the Advocacy Small Grants

- **Strengthened the capacities of emerging women-led organizations and informal women's groups** through mentoring, close monitoring, and financial coaching, enabling effective implementation of advocacy initiatives and organizational development.
- **Successfully reached approximately 1,000 beneficiaries**, including adolescents, women, teachers, parents, and community members, through awareness-raising activities, educational interventions, advocacy campaigns, and community engagement initiatives.
- **Addressed critical gender equality and women's rights issues**, including cyberbullying, sexual harassment, women's participation in sports and decision-making processes, and gender equality in urban and rural areas.
- **Developed innovative educational and advocacy tools**, including educational cards, digital applications, and monitoring reports that enhanced public understanding and promoted sustainable engagement on gender equality issues.
- **Increased knowledge and skills among key stakeholders**, including youth, teachers, and parents, particularly on digital safety, online violence prevention, and gender-sensitive approaches.
- **Strengthened advocacy and policy dialogue** through public events, advocacy meetings, community consultations, and evidence-based recommendations, fostering greater institutional responsiveness to gender equality concerns.
- **Enhanced collaboration between civil society organizations, public institutions, and local communities**, creating stronger partnerships and more coordinated efforts to advance women's rights and gender equality.
- **Contributed to empowering women and girls and promoting more inclusive environments**, helping to challenge discriminatory norms, increase participation, and foster greater awareness of rights and opportunities at both local and national levels.

Reduction of Gender-Based Violence and Human Trafficking

- 6,953 women and girls have benefited from integrated support, including shelter, legal aid, psychosocial counseling, and economic empowerment services
- 1,128 women and girls have received psychological services
- 747 women and girls have benefited from free legal aid
- 68 men exhibiting violent behavior have received psychological counseling
- 166 survivors of trafficking and 54 children have been supported with psychosocial, legal, and reintegration services
- 297 participants from diverse communities have taken part in information sessions aimed at promoting women's participation in decision-making and politics
- 146 women and girls have received legal assistance related to property rights
- 40 women and girls from traditional and artisanal product sectors have benefited from economic empowerment, enhancing their skills in production, marketing, and entrepreneurship

AWEN's National Awareness Campaigns

- Engaged **4,500 young people** in promoting gender equality and preventing Gender Based Violence.
 - Institutional engagement** was also strong, with around 500 representatives of local institutions participating in initiatives related to women's human rights.
 - Organized **community workshops, public discussions, school and university sessions**, fostering dialogue and awareness on women's rights.
 - Increased public awareness** and challenged harmful gender norms through grassroots advocacy, media outreach, and community engagement.
- Strengthened collaboration** between communities, youth, civil society, and local institutions to address violence and discrimination.
- Mobilized communities through **International Women's Day marches** and **16 Days of Activism** campaigns reaching around 6,900 participants.

National Awareness Campaigns



International Women's day in Tirana



16 Days of activism against gender based violence

Supporting Women's participation in decision making positions in central and local levels

- **Increased public awareness of the importance of gender-balanced governance** and women's representation in decision-making processes.
- **Engaged 297 participants (271 women and 26 men)** across seven municipalities through roundtables and community information sessions on women's political participation and leadership. Created inclusive spaces for dialogue, enabling communities to identify key barriers to women's political participation, including online hate speech, unequal campaign financing, and limited institutional support.
- **Promoted stronger community support for women candidates** and elected representatives, particularly young women entering politics.
- **Generated concrete recommendations for strengthening women's political participation**, including enhanced implementation of gender quotas, mentoring programs, financial support for candidates, and measures to combat online violence.
- **Fostered collaboration between civil society, electoral institutions, local authorities**, and community members to advance gender-responsive governance.
- **Shared evidence and recommendations with policymakers** and electoral stakeholders, contributing to ongoing advocacy for more inclusive political processes.



CONTRIBUTION TO CYBER VIOLENCE

Training sessions for capacity building of women and girls, students, and parents on cybersecurity and online violence

- 6 digital safety trainings in Burrel, Kukës, and Tropojë
- 3 trainings for parents on children's online safety
- 3 workshops on digital safety for students
- 1 Workshop – Empowerment of CSOs for a safe digital space for youth
- 3 youth workshops in Fier, Tirana, and Korçë: “Safe Navigation in Digital Spaces”
- Advanced training: “Online Safety” for youth



Main Contributions for Women's Economic Empowerment

- AWEN supported members implementing **6 economic empowerment initiatives and 4 advocacy/monitoring initiatives** across multiple regions in Albania.
- A total of **40 women received direct support** through training, mini-grants, employment facilitation, and provision of equipment and work materials.
- Supported women to improve **product quality, marketing skills, and self-employment** through traditional production.
- Enabled rural women to start **home-based artisanal soap production** through mini-grants and equipment support.
- Provided **training, mentoring, and small grants** for income-generating activities across several municipalities.
- Supported women through **vocational training and employment mediation**, leading to successful job placements.
- Supported women artisans with **production materials**, strengthening their income-generating activities.
- “Supported a **women-led agricultural initiative**, generating seasonal employment for around 20 women.
- Advocacy initiatives by AWEN members promoted **gender-responsive economic policies, budgeting, and improved access to employment services**.
- Overall, AWEN strengthened **women's skills, entrepreneurship, and sustainable economic participation**, while influencing institutional reforms toward more inclusive and gender-responsive economic governance.

ADVOCACY EFFORTS

- Submitted recommendations on the Law “On Prevention and Protection from Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence ”
- Submitted recommendations, and co lead advocacy efforts in parliamentary committee hearings, high level meetings on the new Law “On Gender Equality” with other CSOs, including women’s rights networks, human rights groups, experts, and activists, submitted comments and recommendations and actively participated.
- Submitted recommendations to Ministry of Justice within the consultation process for the new Criminal Code, particularly regarding the protection of women and the inclusion of femicide as a specific criminal offense
- Filed complaints on hate speech in the media to Audiovisual Media Authority and Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination, addressing violations in broadcast content promoting harmful gender stereotypes and disinformation
- Filed complaints to the State Cadaster Agency, highlighting challenges related to women’s property rights and requesting measures to address them during administrative processes
- Actively engaged in advocacy at the European level, including recommendations to the European Union Delegation to Albania for the 2025 country report and participation in Brussels Advocacy Week 2025
- Provided annual inputs for the European Commission’s Progress Report on Albania
- Conducted advocacy and lobbying with Coalition members on UN Security Council Resolution 1325
- Issued public positions, statements, and reactions to cases of violence reported in the media

ADVOCACY

AWEN contribution in parliamentary committee hearings.



Thank you!



AWEN sincerely thanks all partners, member organizations, institutions, and community stakeholders for their continued collaboration and support throughout our work in 2025.

Together, we are building safer, more inclusive, and more empowered communities for women and girls across Albania.