



Albania – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 18 January 2019

Is there any recent evidence that the Albanian authorities (police, judicial system) fail to respond appropriately to the problem of domestic violence, in particular violence towards the adult offspring of a perpetrator, in Albania and fail to provide adequate state support in prosecuting domestic violence crimes?

Recent information regarding the adequacy of the Albanian authorities response to incidents of domestic violence was scarce among sources available to the Refugee Documentation Centre.

A report published by UN Women states:

“Starting from September this year, women and girls who experience violence in Albania will be granted immediate protection by the police as soon as they report violence cases. With the recent amendments to the Law ‘On Measures Against Violence in Family Relations’, women will no longer have to wait for two days to receive a protection order, usually without a place to go, after reporting their perpetrator. They will now be placed in a safe shelter immediately, along with their children, including in cases where the children experience violence indirectly.

On 23 July, the Albanian Parliament approved the amendments to the domestic violence law, which entered into force on 1 September. The amendments strengthen protective and procedural measures for a more effective response to domestic violence and protection of survivors.” (UN Women (17 September 2018) *Amendments to domestic violence law in Albania strengthens protection of women survivors of violence*)

A report from United Nations Albania states:

“Police now take action when they are called to a domestic violence case,’ says Evis Garunja, a lawyer from the Center for Legal Civic Initiatives. ‘It used to be a hidden, family issue, but now it’s more out in the open,’ she says.

Over 120 police officers and 300 magistrates and legal professional received training on procedures and protocols for domestic violence cases in 2016.

While the National Shelter is hidden in plain sight, gender-based violence in Albania is now out in the open, and the political will exists to prevent it, and one day, perhaps even eradicate it.” (United Nations Albania (22 November 2018) *Domestic violence in Albania: Once a whispered topic, now a national priority*)

A report from the Women’s Media Center states:

“On June 16, female students at a local school organized a protest in front of the Police Directorate in Tirana, the capital of Albania. The high rate of violence against women in Albania, and the perception that neither the police nor the Albanian government are doing enough to guarantee a minimum level of security for women and girls, inspired dozens of people to gather to ask a seemingly simple question: What role do our government and police force serve, if not to protect us from, and ideally prevent, violence and crime?”

Eight women and girls were killed in Albania last year, a rate that only seems to be rising, as six women were killed in the first six months of this year alone. Most recently, a woman in Durrës, Albania, who was around the age of 30, was killed by her husband after a banal dispute: She hadn’t prepared the dinner on time.

In June, a 19-year-old student was shot dead the day of a final exam. The police said the victim had refused to date the perpetrator of the crime, who ended his own life after killing his target. Albanian media romanticized the crime by presenting it as a crime of ‘passion.’” (Women’s Media Center (17 December 2018) *The reality of violence against women in Albania*)

An article by an anonymous freelance writer published on The Balkanista blog site states:

“16 women and girls did not survive domestic violence during 2018. More than 100 women and girls have been killed and massacred during the last 18 years of transition in Albania. This year alone over 4000 court protection orders were given to women and girls across the country. Since 2010, some 106 women and girls have been killed in Albania because of domestic violence, 73 killed by their husbands. In 90 per cent of the cases, the perpetrators are males.” (The Balkanista (28 November 2018) *Albania: Over 100 women and girls killed by domestic violence during the last 18 years*)

This article also states:

“Reports show that victims of domestic violence face a lack of social services or indifference of public institutions. Domestic or community services on preventing domestic violence are almost non-existent, despite the fact that municipalities have a duty to offer them to everyone. While violence prevention, conflict resolution and learning new attitudes of communication since early childhood have not yet given their expected impact, the culture of violence still prevails largely in schools, society and in the family relationships.” (ibid)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

References:

The Balkanista (28 November 2018) *Albania: Over 100 women and girls killed by domestic violence during the last 18 years*

<http://thebalkanista.com/2018/11/28/press-release-albania-over-100-women-and-girls-killed-by-domestic-violence-during-the-last-18-years/>

(Accessed 18 January 2018)

United Nations Albania (22 November 2018) *Domestic violence in Albania: Once a whispered topic, now a national priority*

<https://un.org.al/stories/domestic-violence-albania-once-whispered-topic-now-national-priority>

(Accessed 18 January 2018)

UN Women (17 September 2018) *Amendments to domestic violence law in Albania strengthens protection of women survivors of violence*

<http://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/09/amendments-to-domestic-violence-law-in-albania-strengthens-protection-of-women-survivors-of-violence>

(Accessed 18 January 2018)

Women's Media Center (17 December 2018) *The reality of violence against women in Albania*

<http://www.womensmediacenter.com/fbomb/the-reality-of-violence-against-women-in-albania>

(Accessed 18 January 2018)

Sources Consulted:

Electronic Immigration Network

European Country of Origin Information Network

Google

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

Lexis Nexis

Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database

UK Home Office

UNHCR Refworld