

Thematic issue:
"The Gender Perspective of Security in the Contemporary World"

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

The second issue of the scientific journal *Facta Universitatis: Law and Politics* for the year 2019 is titled **"The Gender Perspective of Security in the Contemporary World"**. Given that the selected scientific articles cover an array of topics pertaining to gender aspects of security, this thematic issue is co-edited by Zorica Mršević, PhD, Institute of Social Sciences, and Svetlana Janković, MA, Advisor for gender and security at the Coordination Body for Gender Equality, acting in the capacity of guests editors.

A special contribution to this thematic issue of *Facta Universitatis: Law and Politics Series (No. 2/2019)* is the *Introductory Note* kindly provided by **Prof. Dr. Zorana Mihajlović**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, and President of the Coordination Body for Gender Equality of the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

Colonel Katarina Štrbac, PhD, Advisor for Gender Equality, Ministry of Defence, Republic of Serbia, and **Brankica Janković**, Commissioner for Protection of Equality, Republic of Serbia, submitted the paper titled *"Gender Equality in the Institutional Framework of the EU and the Republic of Serbia"*. Promoting and achieving full gender equality and incorporating gender perspective in all EU activities are perceived as strategic commitments and ultimate goals in the European Union. As a candidate for full EU membership, the Republic of Serbia has fully accepted all goals envisaged in the European strategic documents, developed the legal and institutional framework for the implementation of directives and strategic documents, incorporated almost all EC directives concerning the equality of men and women into the Serbian legislation, developed functional control mechanisms for observing the gender equality principle and prohibition of discrimination, and is continuously working on further improvement of this system. The first part of the paper provides an overview of Strategic priorities of the European Union related to gender equality in five key action areas and discusses their significance for the social development of EU member states. The central part of the paper presents the institutional framework for the implementation and control of observance of the gender equality principle in the Republic of Serbia, including a summary outline on the implementation of gender equality.

Danijela Spasić, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Criminal Investigation and Police Studies, Belgrade, submitted the paper titled *"UN Security Council Resolution 1325 "Women, Peace and Security" in the local context of refugee crisis: old experience or new challenges?"* Since 2000, the UN Security Council has adopted four resolutions on women, peace and security: UNSC Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889. UN SC Resolution 1325 "Women, peace and security" was adopted in October 2000 but the refugee crisis has been a particular challenge for its implementation, considering that more than half a million asylum seekers have arrived in Europe since 2015. Women and children accommodated in refugee camps and asylum centers are particularly vulnerable groups. The article identifies the key

determinants of the UNSC Resolution 1325 in the local context and analyses the response of local communities to the refugee crisis, particularly in terms of ensuring refugees' safety and psycho-social well-being of women and children as especially vulnerable groups.

Ana Batrićević, PhD, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research, and **Nikola Paunović, MA**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, submitted the paper titled "*Ecofeminism and Environmental Security*". In the context of climate change and rising risk of environmental crisis caused by pollution and unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, the concept of environmental security, primarily defined as the resilience of countries and individuals to the challenges of environmental degradation, is rapidly obtaining the interest of general public and experts from various scientific disciplines. The aim of this paper is to analyse the modern concept of environmental security as well as the evolution and contemporary discourses within ecofeminist movements and to explain the link between them, i.e., the contribution of ecofeminism to the shift in the approach to environmental security in the sense of taking into consideration the rights and interests of women as more common victims of negative environmental impacts as well as their potentials as relevant stakeholders in this field.

Filip Mirić, LL.D., Research Fellow, Senior Associate for Postgraduate Study Services, University of Niš, Faculty of Law, submitted the paper titled "*The Position of Women in the Serbian Army: current state of affairs and perspectives*". The military profession has always been regarded as a typical male profession, which is the result of numerous prejudices about the ability of women to adequately respond to all the challenges in this service. The paper deals with the position of women in the Serbian Army today, the problems they encounter and the prospects for resolving them. The Serbian Armed Forces have made an important step towards a greater involvement of women in their ranks by enabling women participation in the army as officers, non-commissioned officers and professional soldiers, in the same way as men. The paper points to the directions of development of women's position in the Serbian Army, especially considering the process of its professionalization.

Safet Mušić, PhD, Ministry of Defence, Bosnia and Herzegovina, submitted the paper titled "*Women, Peace and Security: the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina*". Women have had a subordinate position throughout history. Evidence shows that all relations were based on male domination. Women did not have significant positions in society, nor did they participate to a significant extent in the decision-making processes. In the 20th century, women started raising issues related to gender roles, woman's role and position in society, and gender equality. In recent years, one of the prominent issues is woman's role in warfares and peace-keeping activities, and in the national and international security and defense sectors. The paper provides an overview of different international and national documents that promote active and equal participation of women in peace and security activities, both worldwide and in transition countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Lieutenant Colonel Goran Topalović, MA, PhD Candidate, Head of Training in Peacekeeping Operations Center of Serbian Armed Forces, and Co-founder and Director of Operations at Conflux Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Mediation, Serbia, submitted the paper titled "*An Overview of Gender Mainstreaming in UN Peace Operations*". This article provides an overview of gender mainstreaming in the UN Peace Operations (POs) and examines whether gender perspective and gender mainstreaming in POs have been given relevant attention, particularly considering that they could vastly contribute to operational efficiency in the field, better protection of human (women's) rights, the higher level safety of the local population and troops in the field, and most importantly, to building peace and

avoiding victimization. The main identified gap is a lack of appropriate training and education. The author analyzes the historical aspects of gender roles in Western society, the importance of UN SC Resolution 1325, the recent developments in UN POs and gender policy in military components. The paper provides practical examples and recommendations for future integration of gender sensitive approach in all aspects of POs as well as recommendations for future work on gender mainstreaming in the military components of international and regional organizations.

Vesna Poposka, LL.M., PhD Candidate at the Macedonian Military Academy, submitted the paper titled "*Grassroots and Inhibitors on Radicalisation in North Macedonia: Towards a systematic approach*". The escalation of the conflict in Syria and the resulting migrant crisis brought the foreign fighters phenomena to the fore. Global trends and developments did not bypass North Macedonia. While media reported on the radicalization of Macedonian citizens (including a number of women and girls), in 2017, the Republic of Macedonia adopted the National Strategy for Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) and the National Counterterrorism Strategy (CT), but there is an apparent lack of gender perspective on these issues in either of these strategies. The main hypothesis of this research is that radicalization of women in North Macedonia is a result of complex political, economic and social factors. Additionally, the lack of gender mainstreaming in the NS CVE/CT policy may lead to an increased rate of radicalization among women and girls. The paper examines the latest developments, analyzes how the CVE/CT policy is applied, and provides recommendations for improving the current situation.

Jana Kujundžić, MA, PhD Candidate in Criminology, Department of Sociology, University of Essex, UK, submitted the paper titled "*Sexual Violence and new forms of Religious Traditionalism in the Croatian post-conflict context*". The paper examines sexual violence and new forms of religious conservative movement emerging in the Croatian political context and their involvement in the process of retraditionalization. Religious conservative organisations frequently use the term "gender ideology" to create fear, confusion and moral panic in the public discourse. Although Croatia ratified the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) in April 2018, the government has issued an "interpretative statement" further legitimizing the term "gender ideology". The Critical Discourse Analysis methodological framework has been used to investigate the debates surrounding the ratification of the Istanbul Convention in Croatia and to analyze the social problems of retraditionalization and sexual violence.

We hope you will enjoy reading the results of scientific research on the criminal law issues that the contributing authors have chosen to discuss in their theoretical and empirical research. The multidisciplinary nature of the submitted papers and the authors' choice of current legal issues indicate that our scientific journal *Facta Universitatis: Law and Politics* is open to different approaches to the legal matter under observation and committed to publishing scientific articles across a wide range of social sciences and humanities. In that context, we invite you to submit research articles on topics of your professional interest.

This thematic issue of the scientific journal *Facta Universitatis: Law and Politics Series* (No. 2/2019) has been co-edited by renowned scholars and colleagues: **Zorica Mršević PhD** and **Svetlana Janković MA**. We highly appreciate and commend their commitment to the co-editing process and selection of articles which have contributed to expanding the thematic scope of the journal and making it more appealing to a broader circle of readers in the country and abroad.

We also wish to extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude to our distinguished reviewers whose professional attitude to double-blind peer review has significantly contributed to the quality of our scientific journal.

Wishing you a nice summer holiday, we look forward to our prospective cooperation.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Miomira Kostić, LL.D

Niš, 11th July 2019

Guest Editors

Zorica Mršević, PhD
Svetlana Janković, MA