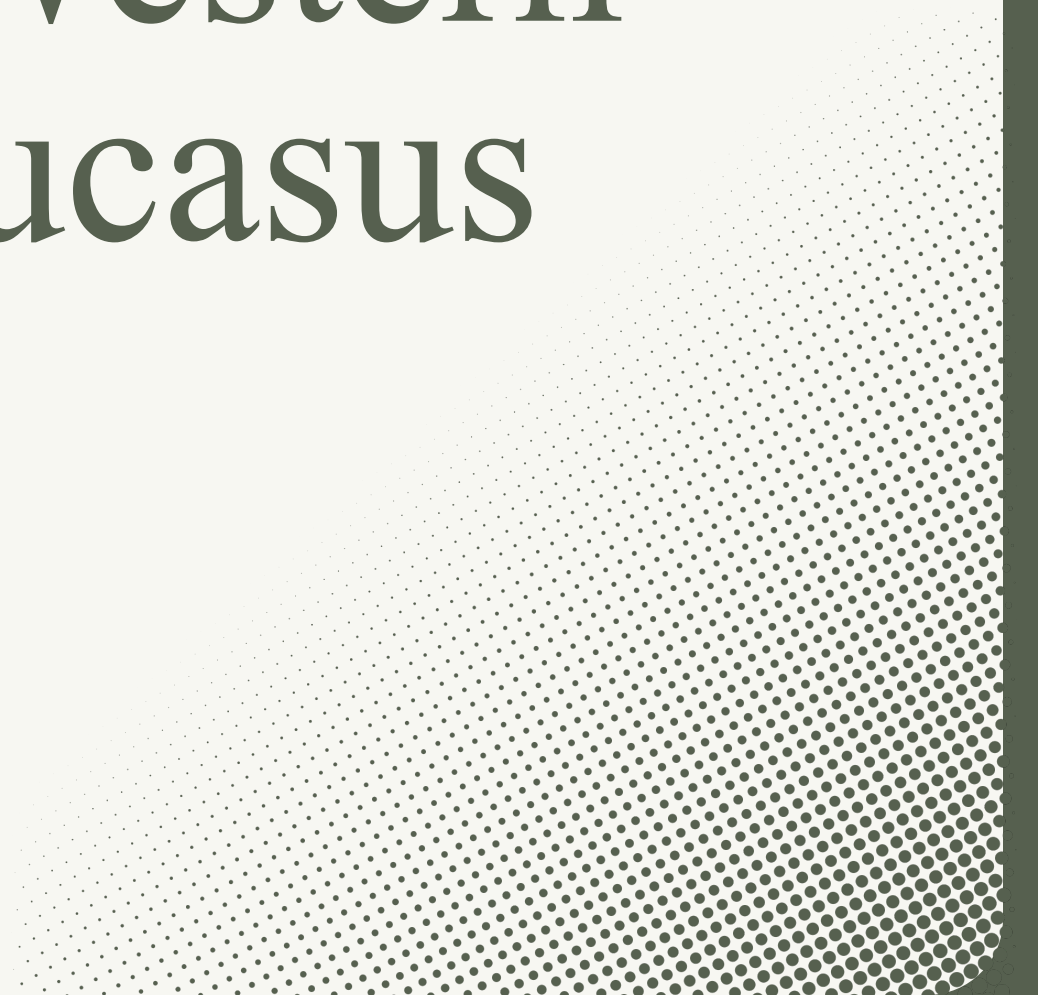


Combating gender violence in public transport in the Western Balkans and South Caucasus



Research on gender related issues in urban mobility sector

- only 36% of women own a driving license, and 44% of women own a car in comparison to 80% of men
- 213 women age of 35-50 answered the questionnaire on issues they face when using public transportation
- 75.6% of women do not feel safe
- 63.4% experienced some sort of sexual violence
- only around one third reported the incident to the police or driver
- 93% stated public transportation vehicles do not contain clear enough information on forbidden behaviour (physical or sexual assault)
- 43.2% gave up job opportunities because potential new workplace was far away
- 23.5% missed medical appointments or regular therapy, 54% skipped social gatherings, 10,8% chose different kindergarten, 13,1% chose different school or college

Good examples

Vienna

- installed additional lights in previously dark spaces,
- made alarm and assistance buttons easily accessible,
- more seats in public areas,
- taking the security of women into consideration when assigning night shifts, increasing security staff, and other measures.

Madrid

- campaign #muévete aimed to stop to men from manspreading on public transport,
- request stops on buses, primarily at night,
- 38 annual passes for unrestricted travel round the Metro Madrid network for people in a situation of social exclusion who are being attended by Spanish Transsexual Association -

London

- Zero-Tolerance campaign
- trained staff with body cameras
- 2500 community support officers who patrol public transport
- informative tools on how to recognise sexual harassment, how to react if you witness it and how to report it

Recommendations:

- Implement dedicated and clearly marked vehicles for students throughout the academic year to alleviate congestion.
- Ensure entry through the front doors for proper monitoring and control.
- Organise campaigns and establish information/communication channels, both physical and digital.
- Consider implementing a dedicated helpline or chat service.
- Educate drivers and ticket inspectors on how to proceed if they witness these forms of harassment or someone reports it to them.
- Increase the availability of public transport during rush hours, providing more vehicles in the mornings and afternoons when people are going to and coming back from work to reduce overcrowding, giving women more space so that they will feel safer.
- Introduce video surveillance, in proper balance with citizens' right to privacy.
- Introduce night services public transport vehicles which would operate during the night.
- Introduce requested stops on buses at night, which would improve the safety of women and minors by reducing their journeys home from public transport.
- Hire one person per vehicle who will be in charge of order in the vehicle and to whom any issues can be reported.
- Introduce a real-time information system for public transport that would help women better plan their trips with regards to time and safety.