



For citation:

Planinic, M., Ljubicic, R. (2023), „Reporting on Gender-Based Violence on Bosnia and Herzegovina Portals – Sensationalism or Sensibilism?“, *Media Dialogues / Medijski dijalozi*, Vol. 16, No. 1, pp. 67-93.

Reporting on Gender-Based Violence on Bosnia and Herzegovina Portals – Sensationalism or Sensibilism?

Assistant Professor **MARTINA PLANINIC**

Faculty of Philosophy, University of Mostar,
Bosnia and Herzegovina
e-mail: martina.planinic@ff.sum.ba

RUZICA LJUBICIC, doctoral student

Postgraduate doctoral study Languages and Cultures in Contact, Information and Communication Sciences, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Mostar,
Bosnia and Herzegovina
e-mail: ruza.ljub@gmail.com

ARTICLE INFO	<i>Received: March 23, 2022 / Revised from: April 23, 2022 Accepted: May 23, 2022 / Available online: January 15, 2023</i>
DOI	10.14254/1800-7074/2022.16-1.5

ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to point out the often present shortcomings and ethical errors that oppose proper objective and professional media coverage of violence against women. The dynamics of reporting on online portals is very fast, therefore journalists often create sensational headlines, usually with quality content of scarce texts. Tabloid phrases are often additionally dramatized with exclamatory sentences. All this leads to the suppression of the primary idea of the text, even to the indirect justification of the issue. The news is focused on the details of the crime and the description of the circumstances instead of questioning the causes and consequences of gender-based violence in society. On the other hand, investigative journalism implies a deeper analysis of these issues and a way of reporting them that relies on facts, analysis of omissions in laws and responsible institutions. Research portals analyze the causes of violence. It is precisely the topic of gender-based violence that is extremely important due to worrying data on the prevalence of the problem in Bosnian and Herzegovian society. The role of the media in reporting on gender-based violence can be determined in relation to the way they treat the victim and through an assessment of the spread of influence on raising public awareness of this social issue. Given that the media play a major role in shaping social awareness and reactions to violence, in the paper analyzed the media content on which the media report and present physical violence against women and girls based on the materials made up of the Bosnian and Herzegovian portals Bljesak.info, Klix.ba, Srpskainfo and two research portal Detektor.ba, which is in the system of the Balkan Research Network (BIRN) and Radio Free Europe.

KEY WORDS: Violence against women, media, sensationalism, tabloid journalism, investigative journalism, victimization, stigmatization,

INTRODUCTION

Gender-based violence is one of the biggest social problems, and it includes physical, family violence, intimate partner violence, psychological, economic. It is logical that such topics occupy a large media space. News about murders of women, domestic violence, rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and Internet violence dominate the black chronicle. Journalists usually take a sensationalist approach. On the one hand, they do not take into account the fact that victims of violence are in an extremely difficult situation and are particularly sensitive to the reactions of the environment, and on the other hand, they do not take into account that the way of reporting affects the shaping of social awareness of violence. Such reports are not in accordance with the rules of journalistic ethics, considering that the media, with its sensationalist approach, neglects its educational function, does not contribute to the suppression of violence and the achievement of women's equality in society.

The hypotheses are:

- The aforementioned mainstream portals in Bosnia and Herzegovina report on violence against women in a sensationalist manner, while research media try to show the background and make gender-based violence concrete as a problem with causes and consequences.
- The aforementioned mainstream media do not respect the ethical codes of their profession.
- The aforementioned mainstream media reflect the patriarchal matrix of gender relations, and often justify violence against women.

1. THE PROBLEM OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

One of the main causes of the spread of violence directed against women is the patriarchal social system that foresees the dominance of men in all spheres of life from corporations, economy, economy, finance, then politics, all the way to ideology and religion, each system supports a hierarchy according to which men have the highest degree of power. and making a decision. Unlike them, according to the patriarchal belief, a woman should be inferior, subordinate and obedient to a man,

Simone de Beauvoir believes that patriarchy is an imposed system of values in which women and men (gender) become men and women (gender), it is called. The author states that it is a system in which men have the power to deny women's sexuality or to designate its desired frames to manage the work and product of women's work; to control female offspring; that they physically restrict them and prevent the movement of women; to use them as objects in men's transactions; that they prevent their creativity and deny them access to society (De Beauvoir, 1962) K. Miller (1979) defines patriarchy as a process of hierarchical dominance of the male gender over the female in the context of a political act. The author believes that patriarchy is a political institution that represents a social form of enslavement.

This social condition was supported by tolerance and omissions in legislative systems. Many women are not informed and educated about their rights and self-respect, and men take advantage of this because they are aware that society is used to an increase in domestic and other violence. Violence is treated as a private matter in which others must not interfere, as it violates the right to privacy of the married couple. The lack of empathy in society allows numerous rapes and sexual harassment to remain unsanctioned and unpunished,

It is estimated that every third woman in the world suffers some form of violence, most often from a person from her immediate environment, usually a partner. According to data from the World Health Organization, 38% of murders of women are committed by their partners. Violence against women is recognized as a global public health problem, and numerous studies have been conducted on it in recent years, and significant efforts are being made in prevention. Celebrating November 25 as the International Day against Violence against Women aims to raise awareness

and sensitize the public to this problem as a form of unacceptable social behavior. The problem of violence against women should be talked about publicly, and society and institutions that deal with this problem should be encouraged to better cooperate and work together to ensure a life free of violence and discrimination for everyone.

According to the *Report of the Council of Europe on the prevention and fight against violence against women and domestic violence*, the so-called Istanbul Convention, 2013). the devastating power of gender-based violence has the most common consequence of completely preventing women from actively participating in social and political life, disrupting family and community relationships and negatively affecting society as a whole. Most often women and children, especially girls, although it is present on men and old people. All these forms of violence have not been sufficiently clarified, but its scale warns that this phenomenon cannot and must not be ignored (Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, the so-called Istanbul Convention, 2013)

Physical violence against women and girls is a pronounced social problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to the data of the 2019 OSCE study on the safety and well-being of women in BiH, 48% of women in BiH have experienced some form of violence since the age of 15. The United Nations Declaration defines gender-based violence as "any act of gender-based violence that results or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, regardless of whether it occurs whether in public or private life" (UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women - CEDAW). Z. Spahic Siljak (2019, p. 117) states that violence against women is considered gender-based violence because it is committed against a woman based on her gender. The author highlights the fact that there is also violence against men, however, violence against women is an indicator of the uneven distribution of power between women and men. According to Cohen, women who are exposed to gender-based violence belong to one of the following categories, namely: younger women, economically dependent women, women with a lower level of education, women whose partners have problems with alcohol or drug addiction, women who leave partners and return to them (Cohen, 2015).

The most prevalent form of violence is physical violence against women, followed closely by other forms such as sexual harassment of a partner or another person. Such violence includes hitting, pushing, inflicting injuries with heavy or sharp objects, rape, sexual abuse. The worst forms of violence are femicide and murders of women and girls. The political use of femicide dates back to 1976, in the speech of the feminist Diana E. H. Russell, who made the greatest contribution to defining of the term itself and the meaning attached to it today, at the first International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women, "International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women", in Brussels (Radford and Russell, 1992; Russell and Van De Ven, 1976) This is how a short and clear definition of Femicida was created : "*The killing of*

females by males because they are female." Diana deliberately uses the term "feminine" instead of "woman" to emphasize that her definition includes girls and women. Her intention was to reveal the "sexual politics of killing" women in particular. In other words, femicide is defined as the killing of women simply because they are women.

So, the root of femicide is found above all in a culture dominated by gender discrimination, the inferior position of women in a patriarchal society and unequal power relations. That is why it is very important to separate femicide from other forms of murder and to prevent it based on special measures and strategies. Femicide often comes as a terminal phase of long-term domestic violence or as revenge by a former partner for abandonment.

A woman's position in relation to violence is often complicated by her economic dependence and inability to meet her needs financially. Every form of violence is accompanied by psychological violence that leaves huge traumas. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, four out of ten women have experienced one form of violence, and statistics show that the highest percentage of violence was committed by their partners (Babovic, 2013). According to research from 2019, 44% of respondents believe that domestic violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina is a private matter and they are not sufficiently aware and educated about protective mechanisms and legal procedures in the fight against gender-based violence (OESC, 2019). Boric emphasizes that the most common consequence of the devastating power of gender-based violence is the complete prevention of women from actively participating in social and political life, disrupting relationships in the family and community, and negatively affecting society as a whole. Domestic violence affects mothers and children the most. The forms of violence have not been sufficiently clarified, but its scale warns that this phenomenon cannot and must not be ignored (Boric, 2016).

The cultural concept of violence and sexist attitudes are still deeply rooted in Bosnian society. So, it is easy to see that the causes of femicide should be sought in the position of women and gender roles, where two thirds of people believe that violence against women by partners, acquaintances or strangers is common and where the general opinion is that women should be subordinate to men. In addition to the large presence of stereotypes and prejudices, attitudes about violence against women and the causes of femicide are often riddled with misconceptions. The most common misconception is that the murder of a woman happens suddenly, suddenly, in an extreme situation (Zablock, 2020).

In her work *Economic violence against women in intimate relationships in Croatian society*, conceptual assumptions, K. Klasnic (2011) addressed the issue of economic violence, which is a consequence of why women remain in a vicious circle of manipulation and violence, namely financial dependence on a spouse, father or guardian prevents them from leaving violently environment to which they are ex-

posed. In contrast to physical, sexual and emotional violence, which can be characterized as interpersonal violence, structural violence against women is expressed in the ideology of the lesser value of women, their disrespect and treatment as objects. Klasnić states that structural violence in the context of violence against women refers to various obstacles that women encounter in realizing basic human and women's rights. These obstacles have their roots in the unequal distribution of social power between sexes (and genders), which legitimizes gender inequality as opposed to physical, sexual and emotional violence.

The Law on Gender Equality of BiH is the most important instrument for developing awareness of gender equality issues and introducing the principle of gender equality into public policies and regulations. The Law on Gender Equality in BiH (ZRS) was adopted in 2003, amended and supplemented in 2009, and a revised text of the Law was published in 2010. The basic goal of the Equality Act is to establish a general framework that promotes and protects gender equality in all areas of life and regulates protection against discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation.

Since Bosnia and Herzegovina officially signed the ratification of the Istanbul Convention in 2013, its membership committed itself to implementing mechanisms in the context of sanctioning abusers and prevention in the fight against all forms of violence directed against women. What is positive as an example of practice is that the current legislation in BiH goes ahead of the standards from the Convention, when it comes to the obligation to report acts of domestic violence. According to the Laws on Protection from Domestic Violence in FBiH and RS, reporting acts of domestic violence is mandatory for all citizens who have knowledge about it. The European standard talks exclusively about taking measures by the state to encourage people who have knowledge of violence to report violence, which foresees a lower standard of this obligation. (<https://bhnovinari.ba/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Nasiljenad-%C5%BEenama-2017.pdf>)

2.THE REIGN OF SENSATIONALISM AND TABLOIDS

In the media, exaggeration, emphasizing unnecessary details, failure to verify information, conjecture and speculation prevail. Tabloid journalism is becoming an increasingly preferred form of reporting. If these trends continue, we are at risk of losing professional and objective reporting.

The term media sensationalism means the trends of increased editorial and journalistic treatment of social events in the form of reporting and stories which, according to the assessment of media workers, but above all media owners, will cause increased interest of the public, i.e. media audiences, and thus will be interesting for the main business associates of most of today's mainstream media advertisers, i.e. corporate entities (Kordic et al., 2017, p. 26).

Zorica Mršević in her monograph *Violence and We* analyzes in detail the issue of tabloidization and sensationalist journalism. The author claims that tabloid-type media contribute to the creation of a new dimension of reality by distorting facts. As a specific "pollution" of the media space, tabloidization represents a trend of falling professional standards in journalism with increased interest in private lives and gradual destruction of the seriousness of reporting on events. Mrsevic (2019, p. 15) warns that tabloidization means bad, cheap, aggressive and sensationalist journalism that is not in the service of informing readers but spreading misinformation and mockery. Tabloidization is a process that tends to degrade the news and give importance to information about sex, scandals, vulgar content, popular culture and entertainment. (Vilovic, 2003, pp. 958-960). In his article *Today's Media: Problems and Manipulations*, K. Pavelic (2021, p. 2959) criticizes the mainstream media for abusing their role as creators of public opinion and forgetting about the credibility of information, looking at the context and critically questioning the facts.

In the other hand, investigative journalism is fundamentally different from mainstream journalism, which is a slave to trends and blindly follows the principle of speed without verifying data. Investigative journalism is extremely demanding and specific, and is characterized by a serious approach, work methodology and duration. Investigative journalists are those who use investigative methods to gather facts and establish the truth. The general name for such activity is investigative journalism, and it differs from seemingly similar activities carried out by the police, lawyers, auditors and supervisory bodies in that it is not limited by the subject of research, is not based on law and is closely related to publicity (De Berg, 2007). The goal of investigative journalism is to expose social anomalies such as corruption, illegality and other activities that are in conflict with public interests (Miroslavljevic, 2009, p. 8).

3. MEDIA APPROACH TO WOMEN

Many international and Bosnian ethical codes mandate that women should be reported without inciting stereotypes and prejudices and respecting women's human rights. The code of honor of BH journalists¹⁴ states that a journalist should protect a person's private life from unjustified or sensationalistic disclosure in public. A journalist is obliged to respect everyone's right to private and family life, home, health and correspondence" (Code of Honor of BH Journalists, 2012) *The BiH Press and Online Media Code*, derived from European standards of journalistic practice, represents the basics of the self-editing system in the press and online media. Regarding discrimination, he says that journalists "*must avoid prejudiced and offensive allusions to someone's ethnic group, nationality, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, physical disability or mental state*" and that such allusions "*will only be made when they are in direct connection with case reported*". Regarding gender equality, the Code states that journalists "*will avoid direct or indirect comments that place*

individuals in an unequal position or discriminate against them on the basis of their sex, gender, sexual identity, gender identity, gender expression and/or sexual orientation" (Press and Online Codex) media in BiH, 1999)

T. Lubina (2014, pp. 216-217) cites the problem of mass objectification and idealization of the female body in the media and advertising industry. The author believes that treating the female body as an object destroys its own identity and reinforces sexism and patriarchal power in the media and advertising industry. The influence of patriarchal society is undeniable, and as such it has been implemented in culture and media. Patriarchal forms are different, they can be manifested in the complete exclusion of women in the media space, reduced visibility to excessive reduction of content about women that is written in a sexist context. S. Milojevic (2016, p. 14) believes that patriarchal exclusivity is the basis for all other exclusivities because at the beginning of gender inequality it is transmitted in family relations, through socialization, and then to culture and the media.

Secondary media victimization, stigmatization of victims of violence and their stereotypical portrayal in the media, where they are often blamed for the violence, are additional consequences of media reporting on violence against women. Due to the dominance of patriarchal social values that are also reflected in the media, victims and perpetrators share responsibility for the violence committed. Victims of violence are guilty because they influenced the bullies with their behavior, provocation, conflicts or fraud and thus incited them to violence. Such attitudes are very dangerous and promote distorted values in society.

Milutinovic and Pavlovic (2019, p. 9) state that a major problem with incorrect reporting on violence against women is that the media is looking for immediate reasons and not investigating the causes. Namely, journalistic sources testify about the bully as a calm, decent or kind person, and the motivation for violence is connected, or justified, to excessive alcohol use or, on the other hand, to some psychological deviation. In the media portrayal of the victimization of women who have experienced gender-based violence, the forms of visible criminal victimization that take place in public places dominate, while the problems of domestic violence remain invisible and hidden, as part of the personal and private sphere of life. Investigations of criminality and victimization from a feminist theoretical perspective led to the disclosure of serious forms of victimization of women behind closed doors, in the space where they spend most of their daily lives. However, in media reports, there is no tendency to talk about the family home as a "*dangerous place for life*" as an area of danger for women (Konstantinović-Vilic and Zunic, 2012)

Sanja Sarnavka states that media representations of gender and sex are very important because they can strengthen or shake our beliefs. She emphasizes the need for media analysis, the image of a woman served by the media (Sarnavka, 2010, p. 43). The media has great power and influence on the creation of certain attitudes in

society and the formation of value judgments, stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination. The ways in which women are presented in the media send a strong message about their role in society (Jurcic, 2020, p. 112). In the context of gender, the media do this in three ways:

- reflect cultural values about gender so that any media coverage of men and women reflects on the creation of public opinion about their gender roles
- suggest cultural viewpoints, ie define normal women and men
- they reproduce the power model of one gender in relation to the other

According to a 2016 study on media reporting on gender-based violence against women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, only a fifth of the covered content dealt with violence against women as a social problem, not an isolated incident in one "unfortunate" family. The problem became bigger because media attention was focused only on cases of physical and sexual violence, although psychological violence is also present in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Jukic, 2016). Responsible media coverage cannot stop or solve the problem of violence against women, but it can contribute to making the public aware of and reacting to cases of violence and getting involved in the prevention of violence (Dekic, 2017, p. 5). The role of the media is not only to report on something that has happened. Their questions can encourage bystanders not to turn their heads and not to turn up the TV when they hear screams and banging from the apartment next door, to understand that gender-based violence is not a show that takes place far away from them, but that they can get involved and prevent someone else's death (Dekic, 2017, p. 7). Unprofessional approach and negative practices in reporting on gender-based violence against women are still present. o girls in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to research on media coverage of this topic for the year 2020, published by UN Women. The lack of thematic and in-depth media reporting on violence against women through analyses, comments and research results in the fact that there is not enough problematization of violence against women as a social problem in the media. (https://www2.unwomen.org/media/field%20office%20eca/attachments/publications/2021/9/unwomen_istrazivanje%20o%20medijskom%20izvjestavanju.pdf?la=en&vs=421)

In the media portrayal of the victimization of women who have experienced gender-based violence, the forms of visible criminal victimization that take place in public places dominate, while the problems of domestic violence remain invisible and hidden, as part of the personal and private sphere of life. Investigations of criminality and victimization from a feminist theoretical perspective led to the disclosure of serious forms of victimization of women behind closed doors, in the space where they spend most of their daily lives. However, in media reports there is no tendency to talk about the family home as a dangerous place to live (Konstantinovic-Vilic and Zunjic, 2012, p. 224)

Victimization represents additional trauma and pressure for victims of violence. Unfortunately, every time victims of violence decide to report violence, they face condemnation and resentment from the police, the prosecutor's office and the court, and numerous women have testified about horrible experiences in which the police judged them because of the clothes they wore and how they said they were should have beaten harder. Thus, entrenched patriarchal and chauvinistic attitudes that celebrate violence against women are mixed with the victim's sense of fear, shame, and guilt. Adding salt to the wound are sensationalist media reports that portray violence against women as a play with a tragic ending.

4. ANALYSIS OF MEDIA CONTENT

The texts were analyzed on the basis of ethical guidelines on reporting on violence against women, which state that it is not ethical and professional to present information. The document, which was created within the framework of the project called Challenging gender stereotypes and promoting gender equality in the media, supported by WACC - *World Association of Christian Communications*, contains detailed recommendations on correct, accurate and professional reporting on women. According to this document, information on violence against women must not contain:

- information that in any way reveals the identity of the victim, abuser and children
- information in which the entire media content is solely based on police reports, statements of neighbors, friends, without a wider context of the problem
- information by which the act of violence can be justified by the circumstances or characteristics of the victim or the perpetrator
- it is not professional to state the characteristics of the bully that could justify the violence in the context of alcoholism, aggressive behavior or mental illness.

According to the mentioned document (<https://newroadbih.org/index.php/gender-media/gmmp/item/546-preporuke-za-medijsko-izvjestavanje-o-zenama.html>) journalists are recommended to avoid sensationalist and stereotypical dramatic headlines and subtitles, terms for violence, survivor/victim and bully. In the texts, it is not appropriate to state any insinuations about the reason that would justify the violence, as well as expressions that diminish or ridicule the violence and express direct distrust of the survivor/victim. Journalists should not present bullies as good people and justify their reasons. The problem is that they are often good in the eyes of society, that is, ordinary people in the context that they are not socially visible blood-thirsty people. The essence of the problem of tolerance of gender-based violence is

that patriarchy and its constructions give men the right to be violent, and this is generally not a psychological deviation, no psychological problem, at least not visible, but visibly, they are mostly citizens who function normally in society, integrated into the context of their male privileges and a society that approves of "a little" male violence, when a woman "deserves it." It is unethical to publish photos showing blood, bruises, brutality, photos of victims in any context with or without the abuser

4.1 Analysis of Bosnian mainstream portals Bljesak.info, Klix.ba and Srpskainfo

The analysis was made in the period from June 25 to July 10, 2021.

"A murdered woman in Sarajevo" (published on July 4, 2021)

In the text, the victim's initials and age are listed, followed by the perpetrator's initials, which is correct because it protects the identity of the victim and the perpetrator and prevents additional stigmatization and victimization of the public. A statement from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Sarajevo County was cited, which states that the perpetrator fled the scene of the crime before his arrest. The text does not describe dramatic details because it was written based on the facts known so far about this case (<https://www.bljesak.info/vijesti/crna-kronika/ubijena-zena-u-sarajevo/352855>).

"Landlord from a nightmare: He set up cameras and filmed female students" (published on 7/6/2021)

The text was written in an objective and professional manner without retelling the details and revealing the identity of the female students who reported the case (www.bljesak.info/vijesti/crna-kronika/stanodavac-iz-nocne-more-postavio-kamere-pa-snimao-studentice/353202).

"Indictment against a driving instructor from Visoko: Touched the candidate's breasts, wanted to kiss" (published on 6/25/2021)

The headline is written in a tabloid style as it details sexual harassment. The text mentions the details of the indictment, which state that Mustafa Karavdić "in order to satisfy his sexual urge (...) said: 'The drive was good, everything is fine, are you in a hurry?'" The perpetrator of violence is the subject because it is stated that the accused would have committed the crime of rape if the injured party had not escaped and if he had been fully aware of his intentions to rape the girl. There is a lack of questioning of the causes and consequences of violence because the text relies exclusively on shocking details in which the emphasis is placed on the details of violence (<https://www.klix.ba/vijesti/crna-hronika/optuznica-protiv-instruktora-voznje-iz-visokog-dirao-kandidatkinju-za-grudi-htio-je-ljubiti/2106250>).

The promise of minors: Nevesinjec (80) was ordered into custody on suspicion of touching girls in the park"

The terms "lure" and "promise" are not appropriate for a serious journalistic informative discourse because the use of such terms instead of the terms "rape" and "pedophilia" diminishes the heinousness of the crime committed and the guilt of the perpetrator. It is correct that the crime is clearly defined and that the identity of the perpetrator has not been revealed, as this is a sensitive case of violence against minors (<https://www.klix.ba/vijesti/crna-hronika/nevesinjcu-80-odredjen-jednomje-secni-pritvor-zbog-sumnje-da-je-dirao-djevojcice-u-parku/210630047>).

"Details of the liquidation in Sarajevo: Eldin Hodzic killed a 34-year-old woman with a pistol and fled to Ilidža" (published on July 4, 2021)

In this text, the journalist focused more on the details of the crime: photos of the crime scene, the crime scene and the weapon used to commit the crime, instead of on the causes and consequences of the violence committed. The media should have warned the public that this is a brutal murder that is the result of years of family violence, persecution and abuse. It was not stated that the victim of violence called the police countless times for help and pointed out to them the serious threats she received from her ex-spouse (<https://www.klix.ba/vijesti/crna-hronika/detalji-likvidacije-u-sarajevu-eldin-hodzic-iz-pistolja-ubio-34-godisnjakinju-pa-pobjegao-na-ilidžu/210704087>).

(Maniac arrested in Banja Luka: secretly filmed female students for months" (published on July 8, 2021

The perpetrator is addressed as a maniac, which may mean a warning about the seriousness of the case of filming young girls and violating their privacy for possible sexual harassment. The name of the settlement where the female students lived is given, while their identity is protected, which is correct because it protects the victims from stigmatization and association with this event. (<https://www.klix.ba/vijesti/crna-hronika/uhapsen-manijak-u-banjoj-luci-mjesecima-u-stanu-tajno-snimao-dvije-studentice/210708025>).

"Young Violeta (19) was stabbed 39 times: 40 years of imprisonment for Dusan, who brutally killed the girl, was confirmed" (published on June 26, 2021)

The title contains a large amount of sensationalism as the details of the murder are described in a shocking and brutal manner. It was described that the defense of the condemned stated that the pain and suffering that Violeta suffered did not exceed the usual pains when taking life. From the beginning of the process, she requested that he be tried under article 113 for murder, which carries a maximum penalty of 15 years (and in the legal and media context, it is discussed how much pain the victim suffered, which is another warning sign of how much society at every level is trying to justify femicide and other forms of gender-based violence). The details of the murder are described in a dramatic way, such as "he massacred the unfortunate girl with 39 stab wounds, 29 of which were in the neck, head and left side of the back", "the killer went with them and sat in the back seat with his stepmother, while father

Dragiša was holding the steering wheel with one hand and holding his half-dead daughter on the front seat with the other." This shows that the journalist who wrote the article is more focused on the terrifying details of the description of the crime than on the consequences of violence against women. (<https://srpskainfo.com/mladu-violetu-19-izbo-39-puta-potvrjeno-40-godina-robije-dusanu-koji-je-brutalno-ubio-djevojku>).

"She was drunk, she attacked me first! Scandalous defense of the thug who kicked the girl in the parking lot" (published on June 29, 2021)

It is not professional and ethical to justify violence. The title of the text was written in a tabloid style due to the use of the phrase "She was drunk, she attacked me first!" (justification of violence), then "scandalous defense" and "kicked the girl" (an inappropriate expression indicating disrespect for the victim of violence). The text is written in a sensati tone that seems to mock the act of violence. In addition, the interlocutor's testimony was given, which justifies the abuser, that is, that he regrets the videos that show the violence. Not On June 27, a text was published about revealing the identity of the perpetrator after the video spread on social networks with the sensational title "Known identity of the abuser: He kicked the girl in the head and left her lying on the asphalt" which describes the details of the beating of the girl and reminds the public about the tolerance of society towards violence. The report was written in a tabloid narrative as if it were a spectacle and not a serious violation of human rights.

(<https://srpskainfo.com/bila-je-pijana-prva-me-je-napala-scandalozna-odbrana-nasilnika-sa-vozovca-koji-je-sutnuo-devojku-na-parkingu>).

"The girl, the victim of 'Cool chick', told about the horrors she went through in 2013" (published on 7/1/2021)

The text states that all the victims have been summoned to the court to testify, because without their testimony it is not possible to file a report and start an investigation. The important legal fact was emphasized that since the adoption of the "Mary's Law" in 2013, it has been prescribed that criminal offenses against sexual freedom committed to the detriment of minors and children do not become statute-barred (<https://srpskainfo.com/afera-petnica-fotografije-nagih-djevojaka-found-in-the-apartment-of-the-suspect-for-molesting-students/>).

"I poured gasoline on myself to prove that I love her" - Lovro denied that he tried to set fire to his common-law wife (published on 7/2/2021)

Portal Srpskainfo published an article about domestic violence and attempted murder with a sensational headline that contains a dramatic justification of the accused "Prove That I Love Her!". Placing a cover like this promotes a dangerous context and links violence with love. Violence should not be romanticized. The main subject of the content of the text is the perpetrator, because the entire text is devoted to the testimony of the accused, who made several statements that try to justify the

violence committed, such as "he slapped him to calm down" (which is included in the subtitle), "he happened to have a gun", "this is how they would burn and you and me if I had set us on fire." Such presentation of details and writing of the text can be interpreted wrongly, because bullies are given media space to justify their actions and to motivate others to violent behavior. (<https://srpskainfo.com/polio-sam-sebe-benzinom-kako-bih-dokazao-da-je-volim-lovro-negirao-da-je-pokusao-zapaliti-vanbracnu-suprugu/>).

"Drama At the Pool: The police detained a teenager (17) who secretly photographed his peers while they were changing" (published on 7/2/2021)

The text states that the young man was not detained by the police because the police transferred the report to the Higher Public Prosecutor's Office in Nis, which makes the final decision on the testimony of the interlocutors who said that the young man justified himself by saying that this was a joke. It is not professional that the texts on gender-based violence state any justification for the committed violence or sexual harassment. (<https://srpskainfo.com/drama-na-bazenu-policija-privelatinejdzera-17-koji-je-krisom-fotografisao-vrsnjakinje-dok-su-se-presvlacile/>).

"Arrested Maniac filmed a girl under her skirt in a shopping center, the police found hundreds of videos in his phone" (published on 7/4/2021)

The title has elements of sensationalism due to the mentioned detail "filmed a girl under her skirt." It is stated that the suspect has many photos and videos of naked girls and women. In this context, it would be correct for the media to warn the public about the increase in online violence as well as the spread of revenge pornography, which is becoming an increasing social problem (<https://srpskainfo.com/uhapsenmanijak-u-trznom-centru-snimao-djevojku-ispod-skirts-the-police-found-hundreds-of-records-in-his-phone>).

"He hit her head with his fists: He beat his unmarried wife, then threatened to kill her brother and rape her sister" (published on 7/5/2021)

The center of the title is focused on presenting the brutal details of violence and threats. It is not specified that it is also about physical and psychological violence that leaves much more severe consequences for the victim and numerous traumas. The text contains the initials of the accused and the victim. It was written that the victim reported the violence and told the police officers all the details of the violence, and that A. S. threatened additional violence if she reported it. The media should certainly warn of the danger of increasing violence in underage relationships and marriages, as well as the problem of the increase of underage extramarital unions and raise the question of the legitimacy of extramarital unions with underage girls and the abuse of their position. The educational function of reporting helps to alleviate the stubborn patriarchal social stereotypes. (<https://srpskainfo.com/udarao-je-pusnicama-po-glavi-pretukao-nevjencanu-prugu-pa-pretio-da-ce-joj-ubiti-brata-i-rapovati-estru>).

Violent behavior at work: A drunk insulted and then attacked the owner of the bar" (published on July 6, 2021)

The title has elements of trivial reporting due to the use of the phrase "drunk insulted and attacked" instead of the term verbal insult and violence against the bar owner. Stereotyped reporting is observed in the text, which is becoming more and more frequent, and this type of writing results in placing the blame on the victims of violence for provocations and behavior, which is not correct. (<https://srpskainfo.com/nasilnicko-ponasanje-na-djelu-pijan-vrijedjao-pa-nasnuo-na-vlasnicu-lokala>).

"He told his ex-partner that he would Certificate Her In The Forehead: An indictment was filed against a man from Prijedor" (published on July 6, 2021)

The title is written in a sensationalist style, with a literal threat written in capital letters ("to stamp in the forehead"). The initials of the suspect and the victim, details from the indictment that the suspect threatened with murder and suicide and how he insulted her were listed. The threat of suicide is often misused by the media for the purpose of manipulating readers, so that the audience would side with the bully in the context that it is much more difficult for him than for the victim. This way of reporting encourages stereotypes about the shared responsibility of the victim and her abuser (<https://srpskainfo.com/bivsoj-partnerki-rekao-da-ce-je-ovjeriti-u-celo-podignuta-optuznica-protiv-prijedorcanina>).

"The Horror In Elijas A man (50) raped his mother (83), entered the room and said that they should live as husband and wife" (published on 7/7/2021)

The title contains elements of sensationalism and stigmatization of the victim due to the disputed sentence that the son said that they should live as husband and wife. The origin and place of residence of the accused and the victim are stated, which may cause additional traumatization of the victim. The details of the rape are described in a sensationalist style, such as "whereupon her lustful son approached her and carried him to the double bed in her room". "Come on, take off your clothes," was her son's order, which she refused to do. In the report, the victim's dignity and her right to privacy were violated. With this kind of media approach, victims of violence are exposed to vulnerability and to negative comments of mockery and ridicule due to the committed violence for which they are not guilty. It is disputed that the text describes details that come from an unofficial source of information. They should not be presented because s a case that is under investigation (<https://srpskainfo.com/uzas-u-ilijasu-muskarac-50-silovao-svoju-majku-83-usao-u-sobu-i-rekao-da-trebaju-zivjeti-as-husband-and-wife>).

In this way, the media encourages the cultivation of rape culture, which describes in detail those cultures in which rape and other sexual violence against women and children is pervasive and normal behavior (Field, 2004, p. 174). Rape

culture is strengthened by promoting myths about rape, that is, false or distorted information about the act itself, victims and perpetrators of rape (Field, 2004, p. 175). Elements of rape culture are characteristic of patriarchal social structures with emphasized sexist beliefs. Sexism is "a social and cultural phenomenon of discrimination or segregation of a gender group based on gender and/or gender" (Galic, 2012, p. 156).

"Partial Confession The violent man from Voždovac was offered detention for brutally beating a girl" (published on 7/8/2021)

On the portal Srpska.info, a text was published about the proposal of the basic public prosecutor's office to order custody of a suspect for physical violence against a girl. Along with the text, a video was shown, which should have been removed after the arrest of the perpetrator. The video must not be disseminated due to the privacy of the victim, exposure to potential negative comments, hate speech and additional stigmatization of the victim of violence. (<https://srpskainfo.com/jelimicno-priznanje-nasilniku-sa-vozdovca-predlozen-pritvor-za-brutalno-prebijane-djevojke-video/>).

"The courage of a girl (14) from Banjaluka amazed everyone: Under the cover of night, she escaped from her abusive father" (published on July 9, 2021)

The title is written in a sensationalist style. On the one hand, the girl's bravery is amazing, while on the other hand, the situation is worrying if it challenges escape and survival inspires admiration. The wrong context is being shown that violence should be kept silent and tolerated. It is also worrisome due to the fact that institutions do not provide sufficient quality care for victims of domestic violence. It was stated that the girl grew up without a mother and that the suspicions about sexual abuse that the girl suffered from her father, who was detained by the police, culminated. Dramatic parts are described that the little girl ran away despite the danger from her armed father. At the end of the text, it was stated that many abusers and domestic abusers were detained and arrested, while numerous victims sought refuge in safe houses. Along with the text, there is a telephone number for help to victims of violence.

"The Darkness Will Eat You Two girls claim that they were beaten in Herceg Novi because they are Serbian, the president of the municipality says that the investigation is ongoing" (published on July 10, 2022)

The title of the text contains the phrase "Darkness will consume you", which is not appropriate for the title of a text that talks about violence. It is unprofessional that the names and surnames of the victims of violence are listed in the text and their photos are published alongside the text (<https://srpskainfo.com/pojesce-vas-mrak-dvije-djevojke-tvrde-da-su-pretucene-u-herceg-novom-because-they-are-Serbian-municipal-president-says-that-the-investigative-procedure-is-in-progress/>).

"He brutally attacked a gym worker, then justified himself 'She cursed my mother and didn't apologize, that's why I beat her up'" (published on 7/9/2021)

Since the title attracts a large number of readers, it should not have included the reason and justification of violence due to the fact that there is no justification for violence against women. Along with the text, a video of the case is shown, which is unethical for several reasons. The victim is shown and her privacy is not protected, the video has the possibility of sharing and commenting, so it can have a wrong influence and incite violence, the statements of the accused who described the violence against the girl, trying to justify himself, are listed. (<https://srpskainfo.com/brutalno-napao-radnicu-teretane-pa-se-pravdao-opsovala-mi-je-majku-i-nije-mi-se-izvinila-zbog-toga-sam-je-pretukao-video>).

4.2 Analysis of the Bosnian research portals Radio Free Europe and BIRN

"UN Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Adopt the Law on the Protection of Domestic Violence in FBiH" (published on July 2, 2021)

On the website of Radio Free Europe, the UN Woman report was published, appealing for the adoption of the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence. According to data from UN Woman in Bosnia and Herzegovina, half of women over the age of 15 have experienced some form of violence (<https://www.slobodnaevropa.org/a/bih-zakon-nasilje-porodica/31337381.html>). Statistics show that the perpetrators of this violence are mostly men.

Radio Free Europe Kosovo: "The first verdict for rape during the war" (published on July 4, 2021)

An analytical text was published on the portal about the historic verdict in Kosovo during the war. The basic court in Pristina sentenced the former member of the Serbian police, Zoran Vukotić, to ten years in prison for the crime of "sexual violence during the war in Kosovo". This is good news for all victims who suffered the agony of rape during the war, considering the credibility of the text, which is supported by the statement of the Minister of Justice in the Government of Kosovo, Albulena Haxhiu. The texts "Kosovo recognizes the status of war rape victims" were written about this poignant topic (<https://www.slobodnaevropa.org/a/kosovo-prva-presuda-za-silovanje-tokom-rata/31341985.html>).

"Victims of war rape in Kosovo are still waiting for justice due to non-recognition"

In such texts, an exhaustive methodology of investigative journalism was used, which includes the collection of data, documentation and witness statements over several months and even annually. The article mentions the issue of lack of support for women and the fact that most acts of violence against women are not punishable

(<https://www.slobodnaevropa.org/a/ratno-silovanje-seksualno-nasilje-rat-kosovo-zrtve/30484019.html>).

"Parliament of the FBiH on the draft Law on protection against domestic violence on July 27" (published on 05.07.2021)

The text describes a woman's testimony about her stay in a safe house and the emotional and psychological consequences of domestic violence. From such authentic testimonies, readers can feel the suffering of the victims, sympathize with them and help them. The text states the actual implementation of the Istanbul Convention according to the Agency for Gender Equality, which shows that a total of eight safe houses operate in BiH within the framework of non-governmental organizations, and their accommodation capacity is 181 beds. "Although Bosnia and Herzegovina has ratified all international standards and the Istanbul Convention, with which the state has assumed the obligation to harmonize the national legislation with international standards, regardless of the level, we are still in the process of harmonizing the legislation", explains BiH human rights ombudsman J. Dzumahur for RSE (<https://www.slobodnaevropa.org/a/fbih-zakon-nasilje-porodica/31342156.html>).

"Museum of Wartime Childhood: Exhibition against the stigmatization of women and children victims of wartime sexual violence" (published on June 25, 2021)

The report was made at the opening of the exhibition, and it talks about the poignant testimonies of victims of sexual violence through photographs and their memories. It shows how art reflects all lived pain and speaks loudly when institutions are silent. The text includes documentation of wartime rape and sexual abuse, as well as the consequences of stigmatization and the burden of shame and guilt in a patriarchal society. The poignant testimony of Jusic, who grew up in a safe house and learned that her mother survived wartime rape, was cited. In 2018, she spoke publicly about her painful experience with a strong admission that she is a child of war rape. In addition to hers, Lejla Damon's testimonies are also described. Reports like these can be socially useful in providing help to all victims of war rape, and to ensure that women who have lived through these horrific experiences are not treated as second-class citizens. M. Kaloper Oruli stressed that society must show understanding for the tragedies experienced. Women have experienced shame and carry other people's guilt on their backs all their lives. This high-quality and professional text expresses empathy and respect for victims of war rape (<https://detektor.ba/2021/06/25/muzej-ratnog-djetinjstva-izlozba-prot-stigmatizacije-zena-i-djece-zrtava-ratnog-seksualnog-violence>).

"Public reaction: About the murder of A. Kadic" (published on 7/9/2021)

BIRN BiH research portal published a press release from five non-governmental organizations: NGO "Atlantic Initiative", civil initiative "I did not seek", CURE Foundation, NGO "Forgotten Children of War", NGO Network of Activist Changes

and Competent Services on media reports and the work of competent authorities in cases of family violence. Non-governmental organizations have warned that this way of reporting is not appropriate. Numerous media have omitted the fact that the victim of the murder repeatedly reported the mistreatment and abuse of Eldin Hodžić. The public and institutions react late, and the worst consequence of repeating domestic violence is femicide. The press release emphasized that numerous portals indirectly expressed sympathy for the murderer (<https://detektor.ba/2021/07/09/javno-reagovanje-o-ubistvu-alme-kadic/>).

4.3 Analysis and comparison of titles

Selected titles:

- "Young Violeta (19) was stabbed 39 times: Dušan, who brutally killed the girl, has been sentenced to 40 years in prison"
- "He told his ex-partner that he would Certificate Her In The Forehead: Charges filed against a man from Prijedor"
- "She was drunk, she attacked me first! Scandalous defense of the thug who kicked the girl in the parking lot"
- "I poured gasoline on myself to Prove I Love Her - Lovro denied that he tried to set fire to his illegitimate wife"

All the headlines were published on the Srpskainfo portal and are an example of sensationalist reporting in which the emphasis is on dramatic and explicit details instead of concretizing the problem of violence against women. In the first headline, the emphasis is on the number of stab wounds and the name of the victim. The first part of the title is inappropriate because it emphasizes the brutality of the crime rather than its consequences. In the second title, emphasis is placed on the justification of the bully and sends the message that violence is justified. It is not ethical and professional to put the motives and justification of the abuser in the title of the text. In the fourth title, a declaration of love is written in capital letters, which indicates the context of the romanticization of violence and the indirect justification of the committed violence.

In the aforementioned headlines there is a large dose of sensationalism, which is based on the choice of terms that try to attract the attention of the public, where descriptions of the abuser's rudeness and the circumstances of the committed violence are used, speculation, and distorted facts in which the subject is the abuser and his cruelty. These headlines show that regardless of the fact that they report on a subject that is extremely sensitive, they allude solely to attracting the attention of readers with provocative headlines that can initiate further violence, prejudice and discrimination against victims of violence, and not to objective reporting that will

raise public awareness that domestic violence is and intimate partner violence is socially negative appearance.

- Parliament of the FBiH on the Draft Law on Protection from Domestic Violence on July 27"
- "The prosecutor's office in Valjevo invited the victims of the Petnica case to contact them"
- "Museum of Wartime Childhood: With an exhibition against the stigmatization of women and children victims of wartime sexual violence"
- "Victims of war rape in Kosovo are still waiting for justice due to non-recognition"

These headlines are an example of objective, fair and professional reporting. Emphasis is placed on the facts, correct terms are used, there are no trivialities and shocking details. The headlines clearly and concisely say that gender-based violence is a serious problem that requires a serious approach with correct reporting on the causes, consequences and prevention of violence against women.

5. DISCUSSION

The problem of abuse has been noticed and the main focus of these texts is the abuser's rudeness, the brutality of the violence, the trauma of the victim and the violated dignity. Namely, the description of the details and circumstances of the violence affects the stigmatization of the victim in the eyes of the readership or the condemnation of her appropriate behavior that can be expressed in user posts.

From the above examples, an unprofessional approach and negative practices in reporting on gender-based violence against women and girls in Bosnia and Herzegovina were observed. Content analysis shows that media reporting on the topic of violence against women is still sensational. The negative consequence of such a way of reporting, which is that the victim is continuously placed in the position of an unfortunate victim of brutal violence, with reasons such as the perpetrator's jealousy or lust being placed in the context, and almost exclusively outside the context of the existence and recognition of gender-based violence against women and girls as a social problem that concerns the entire community, not just those to whom it happens. Texts about domestic violence and physical violence are exclusively placed in the black chronicle section, and the main sources of information are police and judicial information, i.e. indictments and verdicts that focus on the brutality, harshness and horror of the physical violence committed. At the same time, in some cases, more space is given to the perpetrator of violence. and by using a non-adjusted vocabulary that emphasizes describing details in a sensationalistic way, blows, injuries, threats, attempted murders, then the weapons that were used, attempts to set fire to houses. The descriptions go so far as to emphasize the attempt to help other family

members towards whom the abusers were merciless. In some texts, it was observed that the committed violence is indirectly apologised, in a certain part also through the stereotypical representation of the relationship between men and women (it is described how violent people call their partners whores).

Following such reports, we do not receive a warning from journalists that violence is life-threatening, but quite the opposite, that it is a part of married or partner's everyday life, or even worse, the sensationalist portrayal of domestic violence and attempted murder affects the perception of the readership that violence is part of love and family life. relationship, a kind of easy partner game and mutual fun. It is important to warn that every new description of the crime and emphasis on horror contributes to the traumatization of the family, therefore it is the journalist's duty to mention that an indictment has been filed, that domestic violence involving physical, psychological, economic or sexual violence has been committed. According to the rules of the journalistic profession and ethical codes, it is not necessary to describe the details, circumstances, place and time of violence. In this way, the rules were violated that the details of the violence may not be stated and that the identity of the victim and information about her and the violence committed may not be disclosed. For a more detailed analysis of the issue of domestic violence and its consequences, statements from social workers and families and information about the current state of the family are missing. that is, a potential solution for victims of domestic violence. In the analyzed texts about physical and domestic violence very often, the identity of the suspects was revealed, the right to privacy of the victims of domestic and intimate partner violence was violated by the publication of disturbing content and the publication of information that refers to information that is not of public interest, Violence against women is treated as a sensationalist spectacle , and not as preventive news or educational information. One of the observed mistakes is the description of domestic violence as an event in the headlines, and not as a criminal act. Instead of a shocking allegation, it would have been preferable if it had been investigated whether the perpetrators had previously been accused of continuous years of domestic violence. In the analyzed texts, the details and circumstances of the committed violence are listed, which violated the guidelines on proper reporting on domestic violence.

Although there are far fewer analytical texts than daily news and reports in the columns of the Black Chronicle, they are still some journalists and editors of the analyzed newspapers to investigate the issue of domestic violence more deeply. Consulting experts as interlocutors of various profiles, who speak from the point of view of their profession about violence, victims, perpetrators, causes, as well as the measures that should be taken in the direction of an adequate social reaction, shows that the media understand their role in the formation of public opinion. The above should be especially praised. analytical texts that were exclusively dedicated to violence, that is, to the discovery of the causes, forms, types of violence, as well as

adequate models for the prevention of violent behavior, and that conveyed the testimonies of people who survived gender-based violence

CONCLUSION

Taking into account the obligations and responsibilities of media professionals with regard to reporting on violence against women, which are precisely defined by international documents and the national legal and strategic framework, the conclusion is that the analyzed mainstream portals still do not respect all the obligations and responsibilities defined by the international, national legal and strategic framework and journalistic codes. Due to frequent violations of ethical codes in examples of victim identification, listing details that identify the victim, the names of her family members and details of her private life, then explicitly describing the details and circumstances of the committed violence with an emphasis on brutality and horror, lack of empathy and respect for the victim, listing stereotypical portrayal of the victim, and indirect justifications for omitted violence, lack of effort in finding sources of information, reliance on indictments, verdicts and statements from the police and accountability, their approach to reporting on violence against women was neither informative nor analytical, but primarily sensationalistic. Some of the details are examples of stigmatization of victims by putting a negative connotation on their lives, which means that victims of violence are indirectly or directly blamed for the violence committed. All the details of violence, rape or femicide are presented in the analyzed texts. It is important to emphasize that the media texts contain sufficient information that femicide, rape or physical violence took place. It is not at all necessary to describe the circumstances as well as the pain the victim endured. The very information about gender-based violence should raise awareness of the danger, caution and prevention against gender-based violence.

In the analyzed texts, very often an attempt is made to find justification for bullies. One of the guidelines warns journalists that they should not contact the neighbors of the abusers. Journalists often do this and abuse the statements of neighbors who often say that the abuser was a calm and withdrawn man, which is very dangerous because it brings the context of justifying violence. There are very few analytical texts that explore the depth, background, causes and consequences of gender-based violence. Only investigative journalism and a research methodological approach can contribute to raising awareness of the issue of gender-based violence. In the texts, it is necessary to take statements from competent legal persons, social workers, psychologists, people who work in safe houses and provide information on whom victims of gender-based violence can turn to for help.

From the media aspect, it is necessary to encourage victims to report violence and talk about it, instead of hiding because of public condemnation. Journalists should take care of objective, professional and ethical journalism. All journalists who want to report on the issue of gender discrimination and gender-based violence

should be educated and have a high level of empathy and understanding towards victims of gender-based violence. Journalists who report on violence against women should be made aware that the terms they use and their meanings have an impact on attitudes about violence against women, about perpetrators and about victims. Therefore, it is necessary to warn that every act of violence is an attack on the physical integrity and dignity of another person, which leaves serious and long-lasting physical and psychological consequences. The consequences of domestic violence are felt by children and all family members who are connected to the abuser and his victim, and violent behavior and subordinate p the victim also has an impact on friends, neighbors and the environment that witnesses the violence. This is the reason why reporting on violence requires a special sensibility. education, responsibility and the use of expressions do not have ambiguous meanings of violence.

REFERENCES

- Beauvoir de Simone (1982), *The Second Sex*, Naklada Ljevak, Zagreb (in Croatian)
- Boric, B. (2016), *Social democratic response to the issue of gender-based violence*, Olof Palme International Center, Sarajevo (in Bosnian).
- Cohen, P. (2015), *The Family Diversity, Inequality and Social Change*, Norton & Company Inc., London, New York.
- De Berg, H. (2007), *Investigative journalism*, Clio, Belgrade (in Serbian).
- Dekic, S. (2017), *Handbook for reporting on gender-based violence*. UN Woman, BiH (in Bosnian).
- Field, R.E. (2004), „Rape culture“ in M. D. Smith (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of rape*, pp. 174–175, Greenwood Press, Westport, CT and London.
- Galic, B. (2012), "Changing sexist discourse in Croatia? Comparison of research results in 2004 and 2010". *Social Ecology*, Vol. 2, No. 2, pp.155–178.
- OSCE Research on Violence against Women - Report for Bosnia and Herzegovina, (2019), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.
- Jukic, E. (2016). *Research on media coverage of gender-based violence against women in Bosnia and Herzegovina*. UN Women, BiH.
- Jukic Mujkic, E., Sokol, A. (2021), *Research on media coverage of gender-based violence against women in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, UN Women, Sarajevo, [https://www2.unwomen.org//media/field %20office%20eca/attachments/publications/2021/9/unwomen_istrazivanje%20o%20mediajskom%20izvestavanju.pdf?la=en&vs=421](https://www2.unwomen.org//media/field_%20office%20eca/attachments/publications/2021/9/unwomen_istrazivanje%20o%20mediajskom%20izvestavanju.pdf?la=en&vs=421)
- Jurcic, D. (2020), *The position and role of women in Bosnia and Herzegovina - the rise of emancipation or discrimination*. University of Mostar, Mostar (in Bosnian).
- Klasnic, K. (2011), "Economic violence against women in intimate relationships in Croatian society, conceptual assumptions" in *Social ecology*, Vol 20 No. 3, pp. 335-356 (in Croatian).

- Codex for press and online media in BiH* (1999), Press Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina (in Bosnian)
- Code of honor of BH journalists*, (2011), BH journalists (in Bosnian).
- Convention of the Council of Europe on the prevention and fight against violence against women and violence in the family* (2013), *Istanbul Convention* <https://ravnopravnost.gov.hr/UserDocsImages/arhiva/images/pdf/Publikacija%20Konvencija%20Vije%C4%87a%20Europe%20o%20spre%C4%8Davanju%20i%20borbi%20against%20violence%20over%20%C5%BEenama%20and%20violence%20in%20families.pdf>>)
- Konstantinovic-Vilic, S., Zunic, N. (2012), Victimization of women - media portrayal, *Proceedings of the Faculty of Law in Nis*, No. 61, pp. 223–246 (in Serbian).
- Kordic, Lj., Hromadzic, H., Karlic, J. (2017), „Media representations of addicts and addiction to psychoactive materials in the daily press in Croatia“, *Media Studies*, Vol. 8, No. 1, pp 23–40.
- Kukic, D., Jurcic, D. (2013), „Women in the media, distribution of social (dis)power“, *Culture of Communication*, pp. 60–69.
- Lubina, T. (2014), „Gender stereotypes of the objectification of the female character in the media“, *Magazine for legal and social sciences*, Vol. 30, No. 2, pp. 213–229.
- Mejer, A.K., Van Zonen, L. (2005), „From Britney Spears to Erasmus: women, men and their portrayal“ in Brigs, A., Kobli, P., *Introduction to media studies*, Clio, Belgrade (in Serbian).
- Miller, K. (1970), *Sexual Politics*, University of Illinois Press, Chicago.
- Milojevic, S. (2016), *Women and media, exclusion strategies* <https://www.fli.ba/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Zene-i-mediji-strategija-iskljuivanja-Milivojevic-Snjezana.pdf>>
- Milutinovic, I., Pavlovic, J. (2019), „Discourse on violence against women in Serbian online media: dominant communication strategies“, *Communication and Media*, Vol. 14, No. 45, pp. 5–36.
- Mirosavljevic, M. (2009). *Investigative Journalism in BiH, Investigative Journalism*, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Sarajevo (in Bosnian).
- Mrsevic, Z. (2019). *Violence and We*, Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade.
- Pavelić, Krešimir (2021), „Today's media: problem and manipulation“ in *Medias res, Journal of media philosophy*, Vol. 10, No. 19., pp. 2959–2968.
- Radford, J., Russell, D.E.H. (1992), *Femicide. The politics of woman-killing*. Twayne Publishers, New York
- Sarnavka, S. (2010), *The way to your own view. How to read, listen, understand media texts and media culture*, B.a.B.e., Zagreb (in Croatian).
- Spahic Siljag, Z., (2019), *Sociology of Gender*, TPO Foundation, Sarajevo (in Bosnian).

Guidelines for reporting on women <https://newroadbih.org/index.php/gender-media/gmmp/item/546preporuke-za-medijsko-izvjestavanje-o-zenama.html>, accessed 10/06/2022)

UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women (CEDAW)

Vilovic, G. (2003), „Investigative journalism, tabloidization and ethics“, *Social research, magazine for the general and social community*, Vol. 12, No. 6, pp. 957–974.

Zablocki, T. (2020), "Femicide is a social problem, not a sporadic incident from the private sphere", <http://www.prometej.ba/clanak/drustvo-i-znanost/femicid-jedrustveni-problem-a-ne-sporadicni-incident-iz-privatne-sfere-4239Prometej.ba>

Web site

Law on Gender Equality of BiH, https://advokat-prnjavorac.com/zakoni/zakon_o_ravnopravnosti_spolova_BiH.pdf (accessed on 20.9.2021); <https://bhnovinari.ba/wpcontent/uploads/2020/09/Nasiljenad%C5%BEenama-2017.pdf> (accessed on 20.9.2021)

A murdered woman in Sarajevo, <https://www.bljesak.info/vijesti/crna-kronika/ubijena-zena-u-sarajevo/352855> (accessed 7/5/2021)

Landlord from a nightmare: He set up cameras and filmed female students, <https://www.bljesak.info/vijesti/crna-kronika/stanodavac-iz-nocne-more-postavio-kamere-pa-snimao-studentice/353202> (accessed 7/6/2021)

Indictment against the driving instructor from Visoko: He touched the candidate's breasts, he wanted to kiss, <https://www.klix.ba/vijesti/crna-hronika/optuznica-protiv-instruktora-voznje-iz-visokog-touched-the-candidate-by-the-breasts-he-wanted-to-kiss/210625019> (accessed on 6/25/2021)

Pledge of minors: Nevesinju (80) ordered to detention on suspicion of touching girls in the park, <https://www.klix.ba/vijesti/crna-hronika/nevesinju-80-odredjen-jednomjesecni-pritvor-due-to-suspicion-that-he-touched-the-girls-in-the-park/210630047>>(accessed 6/30/2021)

Details of the liquidation in Sarajevo: Eldin Hodzic killed a 34-year-old woman with a pistol and fled to Ilidza, <https://www.klix.ba/vijesti/crna-hronika/detalji-likvidacije-u-sarajevo-eldin-hodzic-killed-a-34-year-old-woman-with-a-pistol-and-escaped-to-ilidza/210704087>> (accessed on 07/05/2021)

Arrested maniac in Banja Luka: secretly filmed female students for months, <https://www.klix.ba/vijesti/crna-hronika/uhapsen-manijak-u-banjoj-lucimjesecima-u-stanu-secretly-filmed-two-students/210708025> (accessed 7/8/2021)

Drama at the swimming pool, the police detained a teenager (17) who secretly took photos of his peers while they were changing, <https://srpskainfo.com/drama-nabazenu-policija-privela-tinejdzera-17-koji-krisom-took-photographs-of-her-age-girls-while-they-were-changing/> (accessed on 7/2/2021)

- Arrested Maniak filmed a girl under her skirt in a shopping center, the police found hundreds of videos in his phone*, <https://srpskainfo.com/uhapsen-manijak-utrznom-centru-snimaodjevojkuispod-suknje-police-found-hundreds-of-recordings-in-his-phone/> (accessed 4/7/2021)
- He hit his head with his fists: He beat his unmarried wife, then threatened to kill her brother and rape her sister*, <https://srpskainfo.com/udaraoje-pesnicamapoglavipretukao-nevjencanusuprugu-pa-threatened-to-kill-her-brother-and-rape-her-sister> (accessed 7/5/2021)
- Violent behavior at work: Drunk man insulted, then attacked the owner of the bar*, <https://srpskainfo.com/nasilnickoponasanjena-djelu-pijan-vrijedjao-pa-nasnua-na-vlasniculokala/> (accessed 7/6/2021)
- He told his ex-partner that he would notarize her in the forehead: Indictment filed against the citizens of Prijedor*, <https://srpskainfo.com/bivsoj-partnerki-rekoadacejeovjerituu-celopodignuta-indictment-against-prijedorcanina/> (accessed 7/6/2021)
- The Horror in Ilijasu A man (50) raped his mother (83), entered the room and said that they should live as husband and wife*, <https://srpskainfo.com/uzasu-ilijasumuskarac-50-raped-his-mother-83-entered-the-room-and-said-that-they-should-live-as-husband-and-wife/> (accessed 7/7/2021)
- Partial confession to a bully from Voždovac proposed detention for brutally beating a girl*, <https://srpskainfo.com/djelimicno-priznanjenasilniku-sa-vozdovcapredlozenprivotvorzabrutalno-prebijane-djevojke-video> (accessed 6/28/2021)
- The Dark Will Eat You Two girls claim that they were beaten in Herceg Novi because they are Serbian, the president of the municipality says that the investigation is ongoing*, <https://srpskainfo.com/pojesce-vas-mrak-dvije-girls-claim-that-they-were-beaten-in-Herceg-Novi-because-they-are-Serbian-municipal-president-says-that-an-investigative-procedure-is-in-progress/> (accessed on 9. 7. 2021)
- He brutally attacked a gym worker, then made excuses. She cursed my mother and didn't apologize, that's why I beat her*, <https://srpskainfo.com/brutalno-napao-radnicu-teretane-pa-se-pravdao-opsovalami-je-majku-i-nije-mi-se-izvinilazbog-toga-sam-je-pretukao-video/> (accessed on 7/9/2021)
- Radio Free Europe Kosovo: The first verdict for rape during the war*, <https://www.slobodnaevropa.org/a/kosovo-prva-presuda-za-silovanje-tokom-rata/31341985.html> (accessed 7/5/2021)
- Victims of wartime rape in Kosovo still await justice due to non-recognition*, <https://www.slobodnaevropa.org/a/ratno-silovanje-seksualno-nasilje-rat-kosovo-zrtve/30484019.html> (accessed on 5 7. 2021.)
- Djugum and Vejsilovic, Parliament of the FBiH on the Draft Law on Protection from Domestic Violence on July 27*, <https://www.slobodnaevropa.org/a/fbih-zakon-nasilje-porodica/31342156.html> (accessed 7/5/2021)
- Grebo, L., Museum of wartime childhood: Exhibition against the stigmatization of women and children victims of wartime sexual violence*, <https://detektor.>

ba/2021/06/25/muzej-ratnog-djetinjstva-izlozboj-protiv-of-stigmatization-of-women-and-children-victims-of-war-sexual-violence/ (accessed on 6/25/2021)
Public reaction: On the murder of Alma Kadic, <https://detektor.ba/2021/07/09/javno-reagovanje-o-ubistvu-alme-kadic/> (accessed on 07/09/2021)