



Foundation Open Society Institute
Representative Office Montenegro

**Office for Gender Equality of the Government of Montenegro
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
Foundation Open Society Institute, Representative Office Montenegro (FOSI ROM)
United Nations Country Team in Montenegro (UNCT)**

Joint Media Advisory

“16 days campaign against violence” Urge Men as Role Models To Fight Violence Against Women

What: Men teach boys how to hit the ball, hit the net, and much more. But are men taking the time to teach boys that violence against women and girls is wrong? With help from Mr. Petar Porobić, Head Coach of the Montenegro Waterpolo Team, and Mr. Igor Kolaković, Head Coach of Montenegrin “Budućnost” Volleyball Team and Head Coach of Serbian National Volleyball Team, this year’s campaign “16 days campaign against violence”* invites men to do so.

The Office for Gender Equality of the Government of Montenegro, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Foundation Open Society Institute, Representative Office Montenegro (FOSI ROM) and the United Nations Country Team in Montenegro (UNCT) will organize a media conference to announce the beginning of the campaign in Montenegro. The campaign is supported by the Montenegro Waterpolo and Swimming Federation and the Montenegro Basketball Federation.

Speakers at the media conference will be:

**Ms. Nada Drobnjak, Head of Office for Gender Equality of the Government of Montenegro
H.E. Ambassador Paraschiva Badescu, Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro
Mr. Serge Ducasse, UNHCR Representative in Montenegro, on behalf of the UNCT Montenegro
Ms. Sanja Elezović, Director of the Foundation Open Society Institute, Representative Office Montenegro
Mr. Igor Kolaković, Head Coach of Montenegrin “Budućnost” Volleyball Team and Head Coach of Serbian National Volleyball Team**

When: November 24th 2008 (Monday), at 12 pm

Where: Government Press Bureau, Jovana Tomaševića bb, Podgorica

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This campaign invites men to be part of the solution by teaching the next generation that violence is always wrong. The campaign targets men – whether fathers, coaches, teachers, uncles, brothers or mentors – who spend time with pre-teen and teenage boys.

The aim of the “16 days campaign against violence” campaign is to mobilize the support of wider public in Montenegro and to raise awareness towards long-term problem solutions for domestic violence. We are confident that this campaign will motivate men to set the right examples for young boys and speak with them about the important issue of domestic violence prevention.



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The global international campaign “16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence” has been carried out by over 1,700 organizations in more than 100 countries since 1991. Every year the campaign officially starts on November 25th, the International Day Against Violence Against Women as proclaimed by the United Nations, and it lasts until December 10th, the International Human Rights Day.

Domestic violence is a global problem which exceeds the limits of different cultures, economic groups, religions, gender. It takes various shapes and it does not bypass any society. Statistical data in the UN Secretary General’s Report for 2006 show that between 40% and 70% of murders of women were committed by their (ex) partners, while every third woman face domestic violence.

That domestic violence represents a violation of human rights is even confirmed by the International Law, as well as by numerous measures for prevention and sanctioning of this problem defined in international treaties and conventions, such as Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, Convention on the Rights of the Child, etc.. The states signatories to these international treaties are obliged to responsibly conduct politics and to introduce measures for significant reduction of domestic violence.

According to the researches of NGOs every fourth woman is exposed by their partner to the most radical form of violence – physical violence, whilst every second woman in Montenegro experiences verbal abuse.

* This campaign is based on the American NGO Family Violence Prevention Fund campaign against violence.

For additional information, please contact:

Ms. Irena Bošković, Advisor, Office for Gender Equality; Tel. +382 20 244 145; Mob. +382 67 847 000; E-mail: gender@mn.yu; Web: www.gender.vlada.cg.yu

Ms. Kaća Đuričković, UNDP Montenegro Gender Programme Associate; Phone: ++382 20 231 251; Fax: ++382 20 231 644; Cell: ++382 69 071 045; E-mail: kaca.djurickovic@undp.org; Web: <http://www.undp.org.yu/montenegro>

Ms. Maja Kovačević, Education and Women’s Programs Coordinator, Foundation Open Society Institute, Representative Office Montenegro; Njegoševa 26, Podgorica; Tel/fax: +20 665 101 / 665 099, loc.106; E-mail: mkovacevic@osim.org.me; Web: www.osim.org.me

Ms. Tatjana Miranović, Democratisation Program Assistant, OSCE Mission to Montenegro; Tel. +382 20 406 410; Mob. +382 67 626 030; E-mail: tatjana.miranovic@osce.org; Web: <http://www.osce.org/montenegro/>

Ms. Gordana Popović, Assistant Program Officer, UNHCR Montenegro, Nikca od Rovina 51; Phone +382 20 238 066; Fax +382 20 238 068; Mob. +382 69 060 118; E-mail: popovic@unhcr.org, mnepo@unhcr.org; Web: www.unhcr.org

Ms. Jadranka Vučinić, Programme Assistant, UNICEF Montenegro, Vladike Danila 28, Podgorica, Tel.: +382 20 224 277 ext.4; Fax: +382 20 224 278; Mob.: +382 69 319 722; E-mail: jvucinic@unicef.org; Web: www.unicef.org/montenegro