

## **HOW KOSOVO'S GOVERNMENT RESPONDED TO THE EFFECT OF COVID-19 IN WOMEN'S LIFE?**

### **COVID-19 REINFORCED THE IDEA OF WOMEN AT HOME; THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PACKAGE OFFERED NO SOLUTION**

By Riola Morina (Faculty of Political Sciences, University for Business and Technology - UBT)

The COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath has erased the progress women made over the years. Over two years after the pandemic, gender equality in the workplace has only deteriorated, causing women to suffer disproportionate damage. Such damages come as a result of the structures and social norms present even before the pandemic in question. The return of women to the private sphere in Kosovo happened mainly due to 2 reasons: the blockades imposed on the production and service sectors where women are over-represented and where they often work under informal employment agreements and due to the closure of daycare centers that forced women, in most cases, leave work and take care of their children. Despite all this, the economic recovery package did not provide assistance based on genuine and legitimate gender policies.



Riola Morina

Globally, between 2019 and 2020, women's employment fell by 4.2%, causing a loss of 54 million jobs. On the other hand, men's employment fell by 3%.<sup>1</sup> The same phenomenon happened in Kosovo, it happened in a way larger scale. Jobs with a high concentration of women workers in Kosovo are characterized by factors such as low wages, long working hours, limited career opportunities, violence and harassment. According to the Kosovo

## How Kosovo's Government responded to the effect of COVID-19 in women's life? | 2

posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Foototes

1. International Labor Organization, Policy Summary: *Building Forward Fairer: Women's rights to Work and at work at the core of the COVID-19 recovery*, July 2021
2. Kosovo Agency of Statistics, Labor Force Survey, 2020
3. UNDP, *Rapid Assessment of the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 in Kosovo*, June 2020.