



**Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review**

**Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights,**  
a non-governmental organization in special consultative status  
and  
**Ženski centar Trebinje,**  
a non-governmental organization

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Founded in 1983, **The Advocates for Human Rights** (“The Advocates”) is a volunteer-based non-governmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law. The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publication. The Advocates has previously published multiple reports on violence against women as human rights issue, provides consultation and commentary on draft laws on domestic violence, and trains lawyers, police, prosecutors, and judges to effectively implement new and existing laws on domestic violence.

**Ženski centar Trebinje** was founded in 2002 by a group of 20 men and women to help children and women victims of domestic violence. It was established due to the need to speak out about violence against women and children which, until then, was considered a private problem of individual households, and not as a problem that affects the whole society. Deeply rooted stereotypes and patriarchal attitudes about the position and the role of women in society and family have created a certain "taboo" in terms of specific relationships between men and women. Guided by a desire to contribute to solving this global problem, especially in the context of its region, but also at the state level and beyond, the Ženski centar Trebinje has conducted its activities in various areas of everyday life and work in order to provide the most appropriate response to this challenge. Although its activities are focused on different areas (for example, social life, health services, social security, economy), and apply different methodologies, there is only one overall aim: improvement of status of women in society of the Republic of Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina, primarily through the development of partnerships between men and women in family and in society.

The Ženski centar Trebinje’s vision is to improve the status of women in society and family, and a life free of violence. Its mission is to fight for children's and women's rights in all segments, and the economic empowerment of women. Its work is based on needs assessment so that the results are the product of recognized needs and voluntary contributions to attend to those needs.