

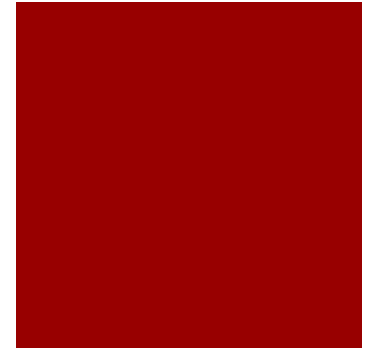


Sexist Hate Speech and Media

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Sexist hate speech

- The sexist hate speech is not a recent phenomenon.
- Developments of technology and social networks helped the sexist hate speech to be distributed easier and faster.
- It exist a fundamental right for freedom of expression and information.
- That doesn't mean that freedom of expression is an absolute right.



Data according to Facebook, Alexa, Social Bakers and International Telecommunication Union



- Around 3 million habitants in Albania
- 1.8 million or 60% of the population are internet users
- Number of Facebook user during 2015 reached 1.3 million
- Out of these users 860 thousands are male and 480 thousands are female
- Around 1 million are from the age group of 18-34 years old.
- After Facebook the most used social media is YouTube
- The next most popular social network is Twitter ranked 34th among the most visited pages in Albania

The context

- Violence is rooted deeply in the patriarchal traditions and customs
- This patriarchal behavior comes 500 years ago from the ancient code of conduct called Kanuni i Leke Dukagjinit
- The Kanun says, "A woman is a sack made to endure."
- "The life of the woman is worth half of the value of a man's life."

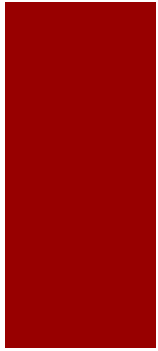


The old tradition

- In patriarchal society roles are already predetermined.
- Sworn virgin - a woman that becomes a man.
- They are not lesbian and they are not transgender
- Sworn virgin were part of the Kanun



Sworn Virgins of Albania

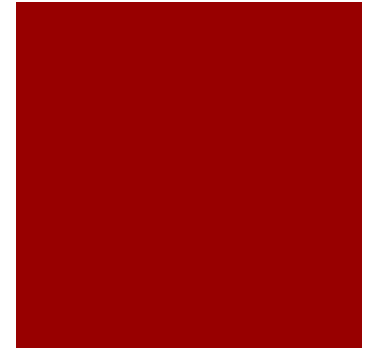


Why sworn virgin

- When there is no male in the family left
- The property could no longer be passed in patrilineal fashion
- As a way to avoid an arranged marriage
- By taking an oath of virginity, women take on the role of men of the family.



Tradition and customs



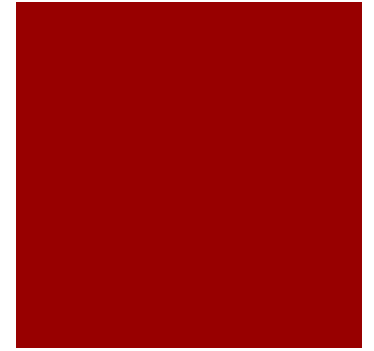
- Girls at the age of 15, 16 or 17 could be promised to be married to a husband 40, 50 or even 60 years old.
- Her father might have putted a bullet on her dowry for her husband's use in case she was not a virgin
- the woman stands during the whole ceremony with eyes downcast and the next day she will be almost the slave of husband family taking all orders from them

The Men is God of the house

- ❑ “Back then, it was better to be a man because before a woman and an animal were considered the same thing,”
- ❑ “Now, Albanian women have equal rights with men, and are even more powerful. I think today it would be fun to be a woman.”

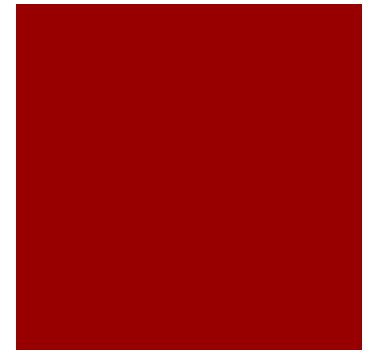


Nowadays

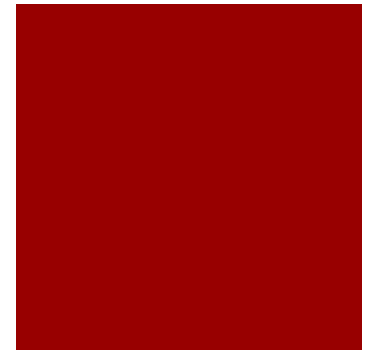


- The Kanun's role on gender roles is diminishing
- You could experience the erosion of the traditional patriarchal family
- In order to regain the power and position men go back to the masculine positions as a way to get back their power.
- One of the spaces where they perform their masculinity is the coffee shop or the bar
- The other space where male in Albania perform their masculinity is the house.

“Buttcks of Grida are becoming a national problem” the title of Tema Newspaper posted on May 29th, 2015.



Justyna Steczowska is the real personage
in the photo, a Polish artist



“Look how the real Grida looks from behind” the title of Lapsi.al posted on May 29th, 2015



- First comment supports Grida and attacks the other political candidate
- Second comment tease the newspaper that published the first photo that is not Grida
- Third comment insult Grida for this performance

Shqiptarja.com “Zjarr TV – the speakers of the newest TV in Albania give the news almost nude”



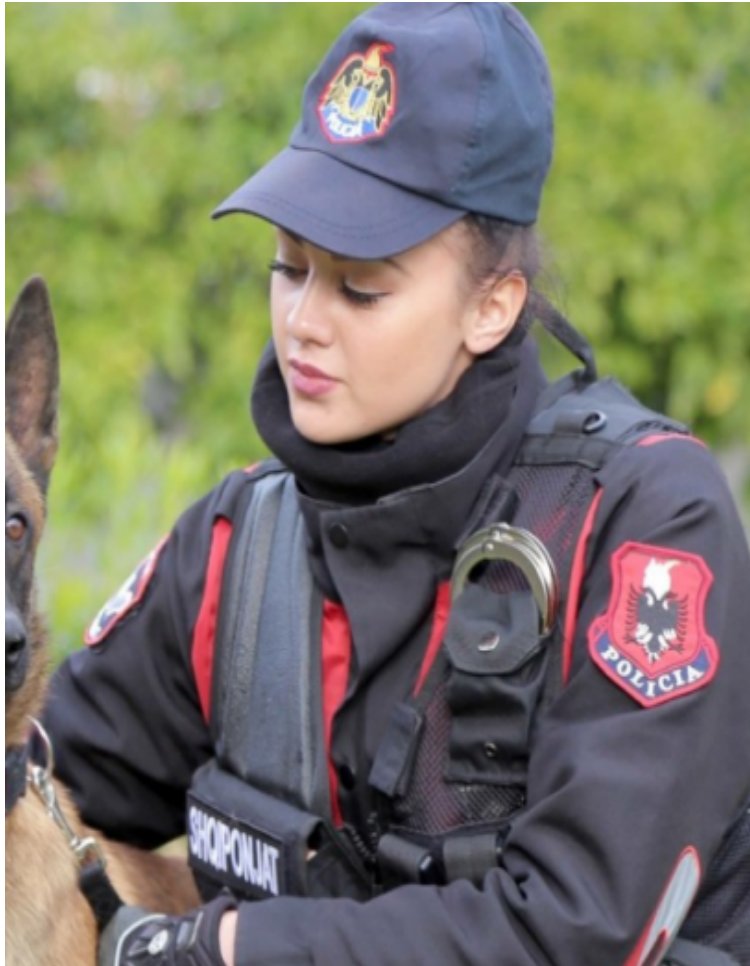
- **Turisti** If the director of this TV says that this will increase the audience by showing naked girls before the public opinion, then the women directors have the right to employ male that will go naked in TV. The girls are innocent. They might be honest. Poverty obliges you to make different thing. The shame remains on institutions that doesn't approve the law fir not allowing the human beings to be used as sexual objects.

“Rilindja Demokratike” Here are the directors of the Prime minister



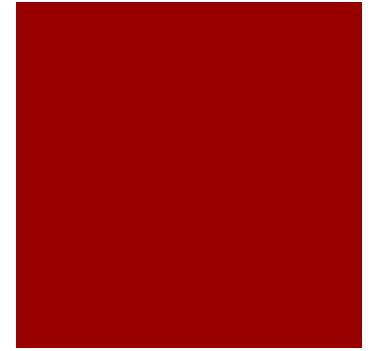
- “What she can do better than the Director of Tax Office, the pictures speak for themselves, and even the people that know her, explain that she never will think about the job, but for smth else.... “

Opozita.com “The bitches (redirected from female dogs) of Saimit Tahiri (the internal minister)



- “Dea Ricku brings in your mind, when you meet her that she should become a fashion walkway girl and not a policewoman.”
- Dea’s profile comes in a positive and human writing and the author condemn the title of opozita.com, but again the article suggests that is a waste that such a beauty is perceived as a police .

Opozita.com "The Sluts are governing Albania"



- Everyone could register in a social network with another fake name
- This feeling of anonymity could give to everyone the possibility to harass and use the sexist hate speech
- Women's Parliamentary Coalition which tries to protect female politicians when they are a target.
- The project law, which would force the administrators of online media, websites and social networks to censor the comments of visitors on the ground of being offensive to "the dignity, personality and image of a woman."
- Istanbul Convention.



What are the main challenges to tackle the problem:

- To develop a common interpretation and unified terminology
- Criminalizing the act is not always the solution
- Engage media to promote the gender equality and fight sexism stereotypes
- Addressing social inequalities
- Violence against Women

