

Women's Voice

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announcements

KWN Members Meeting.....
.....**Hani i Dy Roberteve,**
Prishtina, April 2, 11am

**MARCH:
The month to
campaign against
Breast Cancer!!!**



www.womensnetwork.org

START THE FIGHT AGAINST BREAST CANCER

A National Strategy for Combating Breast Cancer: **AN EMERGENCY!**

The Kosova Center for Fighting Breast Cancer JETA / VITA (KCFBC) with support from the Kosova Women's Network (KWN) has organized a campaign during the month of March to raise awareness among women and society regarding a significant health problem, breast cancer.

Unfortunately, Kosova lacks exact data on this disease, but evidence from other countries in the region suggests that one in nine or ten women suffer from breast cancer. It represents the most common random cause of mortality among women.

While the occurrence of breast cancer has increased in Kosova, the conditions for prevention, early detection and treatment are extremely limited. Kosova lacks the elementary conditions for fighting breast cancer: an Oncology Institute with qualified medical

personnel and necessary equipment; the institutional and social organization for offering continuous institutional treatment; and support for these institutions and programs.

KCFBC and KWN have written a letter and requested a meeting with the Prime Minister and Minister of Health to call for the following:

1. Establishing a National Strategy for Combating Breast Cancer.
2. Finalizing the construction of the Oncology Institute and making it operational.
3. Considering the threat breast cancer poses to so many women, more serious engagement of policymakers and the government.

On 8 Mar., a petition calling for the implementation of these requests will be available for signing all day at the Grand Hotel in Prishtina.



In addition, televised debates and roundtables on this topic will be organized all month, as well as public service announcements on National TV Stations.

Special thanks to KOHA Printing House, the Kosova Red Cross and all media for their support for this campaign.

"Every Monday" Opens Campaign

On 8 Mar., at ODA Theatre at 8 pm, a Campaign Against Violence Against Women will be launched with a play by Italian playwright Sara Bogatti entitled "Every Monday at 1:30 pm" sponsored by MAMACASH. It is among the best-selling plays and also among the most produced shows in Italy on women's issues and their attitudes toward their role in society.

The one-act play portrays three intellectual women who meet on a park bench once a week and discuss what it is like to be a woman in modern society. They are all successful career women, yet they face various professional and emotional problems while working



Ilire Vinca and Anisa Ismajli perform debut of "Every Monday" at the KWN Annual Meeting.

with male colleagues.

The play is a light comedy, communicating its message easily and universally, beyond cultural or national boundaries.

The play is completely produced by women: Director

Burbuqe Berisha, Assistant Director Shota Bukoshi, Stage Designer Rozafa Basha, Costume Designer Iliriana Loxha-Basha, Make up Labinote Geci, and cast members: Ilire Vinca-Celaj, Anisa Ismaili and Arberesha Grabovci-Nixha.

WPC Sends Letter to Ahtisaari

On 12 Feb., the Women's Peace Coalition sent a letter to Mr. Ahtisaari, UN Secretary General Envoy in Charge of the Negotiations on the Future Status of Kosovo, to remind him, the negotiation teams and the international community of some essential points. For full letter see:

www.womensnetwork.org.
KWN and the Women in Black Network in Serbia launched the Women's Peace Coalition in Mar., 2006 as an independent citizens' initiative founded on women's solidarity that crosses the divisions of ethnicity and religion, as well as state borders and barriers.

Feb. Notes

Three organizations presented projects on women's economic empowerment. Then members split into three working groups to discuss the KWN 2007 strategy (see pg. 4).

Atlantic Capital Partners (ACP) is a MicroFinancial Institution that works in Kosovo. It recently started a new program to economically empower Kosovar women. For more information contact: info@acapitalpartners.com

Norges Vel, a NGO working in Lipjan has two projects: Agriculture Support Kosova (ASK) and Lifelong Learning (LLL). For more information see: www.norgesvel-ks.com

The Kosova Enterprise Program is another Micro-Financial Institution, which offers opportunities for women to borrow money for their businesses. KEP provides special credit specifically for women for up to 60 months. For more information see: www.keponline.net

www.womensnetwork.org

KWN Holds Fourth Annual Meeting

On 9 Dec. 2006, the Kosova Women's Network (KWN) held its third annual meeting at Restaurant "Hani i 2 Roberteve" in Prishtina, in which 98 people participated, including network members, KWN staff, partners and supporters.

KWN Executive Director Igballe Rogova presented the network's main activities in 2006. During this period, KWN continued to build its capacity as a network; participated in local, regional and international meetings; cooperated with and advocated to the government; and cooperated closely with international organizations.

After the meeting, network members strategized regarding KWN priorities for 2007, which include empowering women's participation in politics; women's health; and against the trafficking of women and girls.

During the meeting, Hamijet Dedolli from the Center to Protect Victims, Prevent Trafficking and Habit Hajredini from the Office for Good Governance spoke about the trafficking of women and girls. Two factors contributing to the expansion of trafficking in human beings are the bad economic situation and a lack of awareness among the population, especially in rural areas. Local and international organizations are cooperating to fight trafficking. In 2004, the Office for



Habit Hajredini from the Office for Good Governance and Hamijet Dedolli from the Center to Protect Victims, Prevent Trafficking present information about anti-trafficking efforts in Kosovo.

Good Governance created an action plan for the prevention of trafficking. The ministry workgroup included two NGOs: the Center to Protect Victims, Prevent Trafficking and the Women's Wellness Center.

In 2005 and 2006, local and international agencies began to implement the action plan. Using the plan, they have made progress toward preventing trafficking, protecting victims of trafficking and providing legal protection, said Mr. Hajredini. Subgroups have been formed for preventing the trafficking of children and overall prevention. The plan foresees the formation of two other subgroups. The Ministry of Labor must also implement the document.

In order for the plan to be properly implemented, cooperation with civil society, in the region and at the international level is needed, they said. Dur-

ing 2007 they will continue to implement the anti-trafficking plan.

At the end of the meeting, KWN held a raffle and three KWN members won prizes: Motrat Qiriazzi won a desktop computer which they gave to the Council for Disabled Women; Lulishtja won a printer/scanner/photocopy machine; and Liria won a mobile phone.

During the meeting KWN members also filled out evaluations of KWN's work in 2006. Finally, they watched two episodes of a new show "Every Monday," performed live by Kosovar actresses Ilire Vinca-Çelaj, Anisa Ismaili and Arberesha Grabovci-Nixha. The text, based on a premise similar to *Sex in the City*, was written by Sara Bogatti and the show was directed by Burbuqe Berisha.



KWN Executive Director Igballe Rogova reports to members on network activities in 2006, at the KWN annual membership meeting.

Medica Kosova Advocates for Victims of Sexual Violence to be Assisted through New Law

Medica Kosova, a NGO based in Gjakova, provides psychosocial support, gynecological visits and legal assistance to women and girls traumatized by war in Kosova. Medica Kosova specifically cares for women and girls who suffered from sexual violence during the war.

Knowing the long term consequences of war trauma and the conditions under which victims of rape live, Medica Kosova launched an awareness-raising campaign.

The campaign aimed to integrate victims of sex-based violence into the existing law on the families of martyrs, invalids and veterans of war and civilian victims of war, which was still under review by UNMIK. The law would enable women who experienced sexual violence during the war to enjoy the same public benefit status as other civilian victims of war.

In order to raise awareness



Women watch "ANATEMA" at Cinema ABC in Prishtina in Dec. The film by Agim Sopi describes hardships faced by women as a result of the war.

about the issue, on 1 Dec. Medica Kosova organized a showing of the film "ANATEMA" produced by Agim Sopi at Cinema ABC in Prishtina.

The showing was followed by a debate entitled "They want dignity."

Another discussion was held

on 14 Feb. at the Ombudsman Institution in Prishtina. Participants discussed developing processes for integrating rape survivors into the law for civilian victims of war.

UNIFEM financially supported the campaign.

Kosovar Gender Studies Centre Releases Audit of Gender Issues in the Kosova Education System

The Kosovar Gender Studies Centre (KGSC) released yet another publication entitled Auditing of Gender Issues in the Education System, in Prishtina on 16 Feb.

The KGSC publication presents a clear overview of gender within the education system as

well as recommendations for politicians, activists and education professionals toward ensuring gender equality within Kosova's education system.

In spite of recent reforms, education in Kosova continues to face numerous challenges, according to Luljeta Vuniqi, executive director of KGSC.

"The research results showed a clear need for greater attention to gender in Kosova's education system in order to overcome traditional perspectives and encourage women and men to receive equal education and build careers according to their choosing," she said.

At the public release, Sibel Halimi, research manager and lead researcher for the project, presented the main research findings and recom-

mendations to representatives from the government, civil society, media and international institutions.

The publication addressed the following questions:

- How far has the education system progressed with gender reforms?

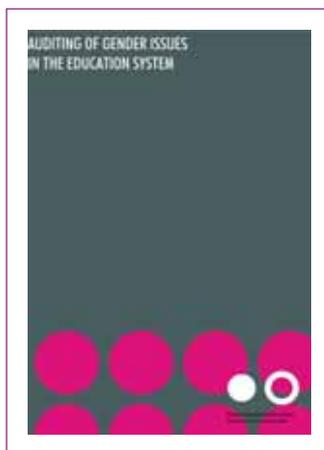
- How much are gender perspectives included in the curricula?

- Does the content of school textbooks reflect a gender sensitive approach?

- Has the situation changed regarding prejudices based on gender within the education process?

- How sensitive are teachers, principals and school administrators to gender issues?

For a copy of the research, see www.kgsccenter.org.



Womens Wellness Center Releases Publication on Gender-Based Violence

On 12 Feb., the Womens Wellness Center (WWC) / Safe House released the book *The Spread of Gender-Based Violence (Përhapja e Dhunës ne Baza Gjinore* in Albanian) at "Coctail" restaurant in Peja.

The report presents information gathered through cooperation between WWC and the American Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

In total, 332 women of reproductive age (18-49) from nine villages in Peja region were interviewed.

The research looked at sexual and physical violence from armed and non-family members during three historical periods: before the war, during the war and after the war.

Research questions examined all forms of violence women experienced, the results of violence such as pregnancy, what sources of assistance they received, and the current health of the interviewee.

UNFPA financially supported the publishing of this book.

For more information or a copy of the research, contact the Women's Wellness Center:

pejawwc@yahoo.com.

KWN Members Create 2007 Strategy

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*"Kosovar Women's Voice"
was written and designed by
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www.womensnetwork.org

At the Feb. KWN bimonthly meeting, members established working groups to discuss the KWN 2007 strategy, which will address three issues:

Trafficking of Women and Girls

KWN will create a network of organizations addressing trafficking, which will focus on prevention and providing direct help to victims of trafficking.

Organizations working with trafficking victims will provide direct help, and organizations specializing on awareness-raising will conduct campaigns toward prevention. The KWN working group discussed the role of the network in addressing trafficking, potential supporters for their activities, to which institutions they should advocate at the local and central level and standard procedures for action, especially in rural areas. The task force members include Teuta Abrashi, Belgjyzare Muharremi, Shemsije Seferi, Naime Sherifi and Sevdie Bunjaku.

Empowering Women in Politics and Decision-making

The second working group will focus on ways to support women's involvement in politics and decision-making. They discussed projects for empowering women in politics, activities with men and women voters and reactivating the women's advocacy groups established through the "Women Propose" campaign in 2004.

They will work on organizing advocacy campaigns to em-

The KWN Strategic Priorities for 2007 are:

- o Trafficking of Women and Girls
- o Empowering Women in Politics and Decision-making
- o Women's Health

To join a working group please contact KWN at:
info@womensnetwork.org
or 038 245 850



Women's Health

The working group will focus on the health of women with disabilities, women affected by war and elderly women. The working group will create a network of organizations with similar interests; provide trainings and advice related to health; advocate for institutional support for all health services; and push for local institutions to support member organizations' work. The working group's main goals are to: organize campaigns to raise awareness about women's health and advocate for the implementation of legal mechanisms that protect women's health. The group also discussed strategies for fighting breast cancer. Task force members include Ajshe Nuhui, Drita Vukshinaj, Feride Rushiti and Zamira Hyseni.

All KWN working groups will meet at KWN during March to further discuss steps toward implementing their strategies.

The work group will support cooperation between women in civil society and women in politics; build cooperation between political parties, institutions, etc.; exchange information with women in the parliament, government, political parties and other structures; support regional experience exchange through conferences and roundtables; hold regular meetings with the Office for Gender Equality in the Prime Minister's Office; and monitor political processes in Kosova.

Task force members include: Igballe Rogova, Arjeta Rexha, Violeta Shehu and Luljeta Vuniqi.

International Students Visit, Learn from KWN

On 15 Dec., students from the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratization based in Venice, Italy visited KWN. The university cooperates with students from the University of Prishtina to visit Kosovar institutions and KWN each year.

During the meet they discussed Kosova's current political situation and the status of women in Kosova.

Also, on 20 Feb., another group of students from the University of Toronto, Canada visited KWN. The group, led by Ylber Kusari who is currently studying for his master's degree in Canada, was impressed by the role women's organizations played in Kosova before, during, and after the war.