

SGCG Marks 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day

Members of the Security and Gender Coordination Group (SGCG) organized a demonstration on March 8, in front of the National Theatre in Prishtina with the motto: "We don't want flowers; we want health insurance and better quality healthcare."

March 8 marks International Women's Day where groups take action and organize various events around the globe to recognize achievements towards the economic, political and social rights of women. On this day, SGCG to action to raise public awareness about women's right to healthcare in Kosovo. The right to enjoy the highest standard of healthcare possible represents a human right, recognized by international law of human rights.

The demonstration aimed to demand that the Government of Kosovo establish a health insurance fund in accordance with the existing legislation and ensure that citizens have better access to quality services in public health institutions. The demonstration involved two speeches and a monologue about women's poor access to healthcare.

The SGCG also sent a letter to the Prime Minister, Minister of Health and members of the Assembly of Kosovo with the aforementioned demands. During the demonstration, citizens were able to sign this letter.



SGCG consists of representatives of state institutions: the Kosovo Police, Agency for Gender Equality, Ministry of the Kosovo Security Force, the Office of the Prime Minister's Office Deputy, women's organizations (like the Kosova Women's Network, Kosovo Gender Studies Center and Kvinna till Kvinna) and international organizations like OSCE, NATO and the UN. This group aims to improve coordination and information exchange between international and local organizations that work on security issues and promote strategic joint actions aimed at improving safety for women in Kosovo.



FES Gathers Women in Politics & Civil Society to Discuss Women's Empowerment

On 9 March, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) organized a roundtable at Hotel Pristina to discuss women's empowerment and progress towards the achievement of gender equality. Women from civil society and women in politics participated.

Mejreme Shema from the Network of Women's Unions of Kosova (NWUK) and Flora Macula from UN Women discussed discrimination against women, women's rights as human rights and how women can continue to further support women's rights in Kosova. They also cited laws that exist but have yet to be implemented by the state.

Mrs. Macula and Flora Brovina, Member of the Assembly of Kosova, thanked civil society for their work; they commented that women's organizations had done so much and contributed where it was needed. Mrs. Brovina commented on the achievements of women in the Assembly, citing the laws to which she said they are working hard to achieve.

Igballë Rogova from the Kosova Women's Network said that women are

satisfied with the mechanisms that exist, but not with their implementation. She stressed the problem of unemployment and the need for economic development. Women's unequal economic situation has multiple consequences for women, such as access to healthcare and education, as well as violence against women. She also stressed the importance of cooperation between women in politics and civil society.

Linda Shala, a businesswoman, expressed her concern with the lack of small businesses run by women in Kosovo compared to other countries.

Both the quota for women's participation in the national assembly and women's access to media were discussed as well. Margarita Kadriu, Editor of Kosova Sot newspaper, discussed this, stating that women should talk to be heard by the media. Luljeta Vuniqi, Executive Director of the Kosova Gender Studies Center also cited the importance of media in promoting women.

KGSC Released Research on Women's Property Inheritance

On 17 March, the Kosova Gender Studies Center (KGSC) promoted new research entitled Women's Property Inheritance Rights in Kosova.

The main purpose of the research is to examine and treat issues related to the property inheritance rights of women in Kosovo.

Through this research KGSC has attempted to identify the attitudes, barriers, challenges and difficulties that women face in Kosovo in realizing their inheritance rights. More specifically, KGSC sought to 1) Analyze the role of traditional norms and their impact on the women's welfare and their inheritance and property rights; and 2) Increase awareness and knowledge among women and the public in general about women's inheritance and property rights.

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