

# KOSOVA WOMEN'S NETWORK

## ANNUAL REPORT 2008



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## KOSOVA WOMEN'S NETWORK (KWN) MISSION

KWN supports, protects, and promotes the rights and interests of women and girls throughout Kosova, regardless of their political beliefs, religion, age, level of education, sexual orientation, and ability.

KWN fulfills its mission through the exchange of experience and information, partnerships and networking, advocacy, and research.

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## A MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF THE BOARD AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Network members and supporters,

Kosovo Women's Network strives to support the achievement of gender equality in Kosovo, through its activities and cooperation with local institutions and international partner organizations, and in this respect in 2008 it developed significant activities towards the advancement of the position of women.

Mechanisms to achieve gender equality are established at all levels of governance, but their functionalization is slow due to financial constraints and lack of will shown by the officials of highest decision-making levels.

Gender Equality Law, Anti-Discrimination Law, Law on Family, Kosovo Program for Gender Equality and the National Human Rights Strategy of Republic of Kosovo represent significant achievements towards achievement of gender equality and comprehensive protection of human rights in Kosovo. However, in order of achieving effective women's human rights protection, proper implementation of applicable legislation and implementation of international treaties and instruments is required.

Occurrences of sexual violence and harassment against women are increasing, and this fact is reflected in the research conducted by KWN titled "Security Begins at Home" published in October 2008. In this report, domestic violence is presented as a pressing issue, whereas its recommendation on remediation is compilation of a law and strategy against domestic violence. We commend the efforts of Office of Prime Minister's Gender Equality Agency, which is compiling the law and strategic plan against domestic violence, with support by UNDP/WSSI.

We invite all institutions to join this process and engage their financial or human resources to prevent violence, protect victims and criminally prosecute the perpetrators. On the other hand, we need to raise public awareness on the new mechanisms, as soon as they are adopted by the Assembly of Kosovo.

There is still much work to be done. We have to continue to monitor implementation of existing laws and functioning of institutional mechanisms. We have to seek accountability for the promises made by elected politicians. We have to inform women and girls on their rights, through campaigns to be developed during 2009.

We wish to thank KWN members for their continuous commitment to the network and their efforts to make women's voices heard. We thank Members of the Board for their support and contribution. Also, we would like to thank our financial supporters that trust in our work. Finally, a special thanks goes to the media for their continuous support to our activities. We at KWN are committed to further cooperation with You and we hope that this year will be yet another active and successful year.

Sincerely,

Belgjzare Muharremi, KWN Chair of the Board

Igballe Rogova, KWN Executive Director

## KWN OBJECTIVES

- I.** Ensure equal, effective and active participation of women and girls in Kosova's political, economic, and social development;
- II.** Improve women's human rights in all spheres of life in Kosova; and
- III.** Improve and increase cooperation among women's groups and organisations in Kosova, the region, and internationally.

## ABOUT THIS REPORT

This program activities report covering the period of 1 December 2007 to 1 December 2008 serves to inform KWN's members, partners, and friends of its activities and achievements in the last year. The report is divided into sections according to KWN's program areas identified by the Board of Directors:

- 1.** Increasing women's participation in politics and decision-making
- 2.** Empowering voters
- 3.** Improving women's health
- 4.** Decreasing trafficking and domestic violence
- 5.** Increasing women's involvement in regional peace-building
- 6.** Strengthening the capacity of the network

The report also contains a financial report for KWN for 2008. It concludes with an overview of the planned activities under each of the aforementioned program areas for 2009.

## INCREASING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS AND DECISION-MAKING

### **New Kosovar Assembly and Civil Society Representatives Met**

On 22 Jan., the French office organized a forum as part of a project funded by the European Agency for Reconstruction on the topic of "Assembly and Civil Society – exchanging best practices" at the Grand Hotel, Prishtina. In addition to other civil society representatives' presentations, the KWN Executive Director spoke about "Improving Active Cooperation between the Kosovar Government and Civil Society." She said that civil society has a role to play in assisting institutions. She also critiqued the prior Assembly members for listening more to UNMIK officials than to the citizens who elected them. The forum resulted in recommendations for the new Assembly, including opening an office for civil society led by a civil society representative to improve collaboration between politicians and civil society representatives. The KWN Executive Director opposed this idea, stating that it would limit cooperation by establishing procedures and institutionalizing when, where and how civil society could bring issues to the attention of the government.

### **KWN Published a Report Monitoring the Implementation of UNSCR 1325**

On 5 Dec. 2007, KWN publicly released its report "Monitoring Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 in Kosovo" at the Grand Hotel in Prishtina. This research report resulted from interviews with key figures in public life in Kosovo, including politicians, civil society activists, UNMIK staff and other persons in leading positions in Kosovar institutions. The report documents and evaluates the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in Kosovo. Many people attended the public release, including KWN member organizations, media, officials from governmental institutions, and representatives from international offices in Kosovo.

The speakers included Regional Manager for UNIFEM Osnat Lubrani, UNIFEM Project Manager for Kosovo Flora Macula, Shqipe Krasniqi from the Agency for Gender Equality, KWN Executive Director Igballe Rogova, and Dafina Beqiri, a KWN researcher who contributed to writing the report.

Participants decided to prepare a work plan in cooperation with legal and gender experts based on the recommendations made in this report. KWN later organized a working group that compiled the work plan, which outlines concrete steps that can be taken by Kosovar institutions to implement Resolution 1325. KWN held a meeting

on 8 Mar. at the Grand Hotel attended by member organizations, gender experts and government representatives where the plan was finalized.

### **A KWN Representative Spoke in the European Commission and European Parliament**

On 28 Feb., KWN Executive Director Igballe Rogova, Member of Parliament Edita Tahiri and Project Manager for UNIFEM Flora Macula spoke at the Commission of Gender Equality in the EU Parliament in Brussels. Afterward they spoke at the European Commission, thanks to the connections and advocacy efforts of UNIFEM which organized the meeting. In both meetings, Rogova said the incoming EU mission to Kosovo (EULEX) should learn from the mistakes made by the United Nations mission (UNMIK). In accordance with UNSCR1325, they should involve women in all programmatic planning, policy-making and peace-building efforts. UNMIK failed to do this, she argued.

The opportunity to speak at the EU Parliament resulted from KWN's participation in a conference with European decision-makers in Berlin in May 2007 entitled "Roadmap to 1325: Gender Perspective in the European Union." Following Rogova's speech there, Ana Maria Gomes, Member of EU Parliament, suggested Rogova speak at the EU Parliament. Since then Gomes advocated for this meeting together with UNIFEM.

### **KWN Organized and Participated in Debates on Kosova's New Constitution**

KWN was very active in reviewing Kosova's draft constitution from a gender perspective and making recommendations to the Commission for Drafting the Constitution. KWN involved member organisations, activists and citizens to make recommendations to the Committee. Members of the Committee, legal experts, gender experts and EU representatives have attended the meetings, listening to citizens' concerns.

On 25 Feb., KWN and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) organised a debate on the Constitution with Parliamentary women at the Parliament. One of the main issues raised was including in the Constitution a quota of 40 percent representation of both genders at all levels of government, including the Parliament and ministries.

On 26 Feb., the Prime Minister's Office for Good Governance organised a debate in which a KWN representative spoke about the draft constitution from a gender perspective. She said that the draft Constitution was quite vague in regards to ensuring a gender balance at all levels of political decision-making, as well as ensuring human rights for women.

On 1 Mar., KWN members further discussed the Constitution with Commission representatives Minister of Justice Nekibe Kelmendi, Lirije Osmani and Gjyljeta Mushkolaj and gender expert Vjosa Dobruna at Hani i 2 Roberteve Restaurant. In addition to the quota, another issue debated was whether to include UNSCR 1325 in the Constitution. While a member of the Commission felt it was too ambitious to be implemented by Kosova's institutions and should not be included, activists argued that it had to be included so Kosova would abide by international standards. Including UNSCR 1325 in the Constitution would give activists the legal framework for demanding that the government implement it. At the end of the meeting, KWN presented an award to Minister Nekibe Kelmendi for her outstanding support of women's rights.

On 2 March, KWN sent recommendations to the Commission that the Constitution should include:

- The quota of 40 percent participation in all levels of government from the Law on Gender Equality;
- UNSCR1325 in the list of international conventions and instruments;
- Mechanisms guaranteeing that the Agency for Gender Equality will ensure implementation and monitoring of international and Kosovar legal acts toward gender equality;
- Provisions that guarantee women's and men's right to own property;
- Specific references to equality within marriage for property and personal relations for both spouses;
- Provisions that ensure women and men employees receive equal pay for equal work, as well equal conditions and rights in the workplace; and
- Provisions that ensure women will not lose citizenship following marriage with a foreigner.

### **KWN Made Recommendations for the EU Mission to Kosova**

On 10 Oct., the KWN Executive Director spoke at a conference entitled "From Commitment to Action – The EU Delivering to Women in Conflict and Post-conflict: Implementing SCR 1325 and 1820 in EU missions: Improving immediate and long-term security for women" held at the European Commission in Brussels. The meeting, organized by the EU and UNIFEM, brought together high level EU officials and activists from SEE. In her speech during the second panel, KWN Executive Director Igballe Rogova said that EU actors had rarely interacted with Kosovar women activists or listened to women's concerns regarding key decisions being made. She made specific recommendations for the new EU mission to better protect women in Kosova.



## EMPOWERING VOTERS

### KWN Launched New Mechanisms for Citizens to Voice Concerns to Politicians

Through the "Voters' Voice" project, launched on 16 Sept., voters can contact KWN to make complaints and suggestions about politicians or policies at the municipal or national level. Citizens can call anonymously a toll-free number (0800 201 401) every working day from 9:00 to 17:00, send an email (zerivotuesve@gmail.com) or attend public meetings. The project is supported by the British Embassy and the Post and Telecommunications of Kosova (PTK).

The Voters' Voice initiative enables citizens to make their priorities known to elected officials, and, when coupled with advocacy, forces politicians to acknowledge citizens' needs as priorities rather than secondary obligations.

From 16 Sept. to 31 Oct., 610 calls were made to the "Voters' Voice" hotline. People's main concerns were: corruption among politicians; electricity cuts; water reductions; the absence of water utility systems especially in villages where inhabitants drink water from untested wells; the lack of sewage systems in villages; and unpaved roads in rural areas. They also complained about nepotism, unemployment, poverty, pension and the political situation in North Mitrovica. Citizens also expressed concerns during public meetings in eight municipalities: Gjakovë, Vushtrri, Kastriot, Viti, Prizren, Drenas, Mitrovicë and Fushë Kosovë.

KWN released its first report detailing citizens' priorities on 10 Nov., which received broad media coverage. The report was delivered to Deputy Prime Minister Hajredin Kuçi and all parliament deputies. For the report, please visit [www.womensnetwork.org](http://www.womensnetwork.org).

### Tens of Thousands of Citizens Marched to Defend Kosova's National Sovereignty

Tens of thousands of citizens marched through Prishtina on 19 Nov. in peaceful protest against the six-point plan put forth by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The plan would give Serbia administrative powers over Serb majority areas within the Republic of Kosova, including police, judiciary, transportation and infrastructure, boundaries, customs and religious sites. KWN was deeply involved in organizing the demonstration along with other civil society groups, and KWN representatives appeared in numerous media promoting citizen participation in the peaceful demonstration. The six points threaten Kosova's territorial sovereignty, violate the Constitution of Kosova, conflict with the Proposal for Kosova's Status Settlement put forth by UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari and jeopardize the fragile peace in Kosova and South East Europe (SEE), civil society leaders said.





## IMPROVING WOMEN'S HEALTH

### **KWN Helped Medica Kosova Raise Funds**

KWN helped Medica Kosova raise funds from UNIFEM-Austria so that it can continue to visit women in rural areas with its mobile health clinic to carry out medical examinations for women that would not otherwise have access to such care. Medica Kosova examinations can detect breast cancer early as well as help identify other serious health issues affecting women in Kosova.

### **KWN Advocated for the New Constitution to Protect Women's Reproductive Rights**

The Constitution of the Republic of Kosova was adopted by the Assembly of Kosova on 11 June. Despite efforts from some religious groups, particularly American "pro-life" groups visiting Kosova in the weeks prior to its adoption, the Constitution protects women's reproductive rights. KWN sent a statement to its Constitutional Commission, countering the American delegation's lobbying efforts. In the letter, KWN stated that Kosova's Constitution guarantees women's "right to personal integrity," which includes "the right to make decisions related to reproduction," and Article 25 states, "each individual since birth has the right to life." Critiquing "pro-life" arguments that life begins at conception, KWN remarked, "in cases of miscarriages that occur during the first two or three months of pregnancy, no [religious institution] organizes a funeral." Following KWN's and other letters from Kosovar human rights groups, the Commission did not make changes to the draft Constitution. Thus, the Constitution protects Kosovars' human rights to reproductive choice, family formation and sexual orientation.

### **KWN Supported the March against Breast Cancer and Jeta Vita**

In Oct., the Kosovar Center for Fighting Breast Cancer (KCFBC) Jeta Vita in partnership with the Balkan Breast Cancer Initiative (BBCI) and U.S. Embassy organized a campaign to raise awareness about breast cancer during the International Month of Fighting Breast Cancer. KWN supported its efforts by distributing broadly information about the march.

## DECREASING TRAFFICKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

### **KWN Welcomed UNSCR 1820 on Sexual Violence against Women in Conflict**

On 19 June 2008, the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1820, condemning sexual violence against women in the midst of conflict. KWN sent a statement in support of the new resolution. At the same time, KWN noted that in places where women are raped on a daily basis and the rule of law does not exist, it is unlikely that this Resolution will be enforced. The question remains: how will parties to armed conflict be punished for violating the Resolution?

The Resolution does offer a means toward justice for women who have experienced sexual violence in periods of armed conflict. This is a critical element of Resolution 1820 and is pertinent to the post-conflict situation in Kosova. The issue of transitional justice and sexual violence committed against women has not been resolved. This Resolution must be used to prevent war criminals who committed sexual violence from gaining amnesty. Further, the ICTY must issue more than indictments against criminals who committed mass rape in order to restore justice and end impunity for sexual violence perpetrated against women during the war.

### **KWN Contributed to the Kosova National Action Plan against Trafficking**

KWN representatives attended a strategic planning session in Durres, Albania toward drafting the Kosova National Action Plan against Trafficking. The Ministry for Internal Affairs took the lead in drafting the Plan with support from the UNDP Women's Safety and Security Initiative. The Ministry officially thanked KWN for its involvement and has included some KWN recommendations in the Plan.

### **The Kosova Coalition against Family and Sexual Violence Solidified Its Strategy**

The Kosova Coalition against Family and Sexual Violence convened in Durres, Albania from 11–14 Nov. to discuss the Coalition's strategy for 2009 and future structure. Seven shelter organizations participated including the Center for Protection of Women and Children (Prishtina and Mitrovica), Medica Kosova (Gjakova), Liria (Gjilan), Women Wellness Center (Peja), Hope and Homes for Children (Prishtina) and Safe House Gjakova. The meeting was moderated by Delina Fico with assistance from Eli Krasniqi. Members cooperated to formulate the Coalition's

vision, mission, principles, strategy for 2009, structure, decision-making process and representation and communication both within the Coalition and with the general public. Coalition members agreed that the mission of the Coalition is to prevent family and sexual violence, as well as support, help and empower survivors of violence. The strategic goals for 2009 are:

- Reducing the causes of family and sexual violence by supporting programs for gender equality and gender mainstreaming;
- Increasing awareness;
- Completing the legal framework;
- Increasing capacities; and
- Empowering the Coalition.

Planned activities include an initiative for decreasing poverty in Kosovo; a campaign during the 16 days of activities against violence against women; advocacy in regards to the law against domestic violence and National Action Plan against Domestic Violence; monitoring; cooperation on the regulation for licensing shelters; and securing budgets for shelters.

The Coalition's organizational structure involves the Leading Committee comprised of executive directors from the shelters as the highest decision-making organ; the Coalition Representative, which will represent the Coalition; and the Coalition Coordinator, an outside person working part-time to organize meetings, take meeting minutes, prepare project proposals and develop public relations materials. Coalition members decided that the group will remain informal, functioning within KWN. The Coalition will meet at least every two months.

On Nov. 20, the group met again to discuss a Memorandum of Understanding between the Coalition and KWN, election of the Coalition Representative and who will fundraise for the Coalition's 2009 activities. The Coalition was established last year and has since functioned as an informal group. The Coalition received financial support from UNFPA and technical assistance from KWN.

### **KWN Contributed to the Swedish Plan against Gender-based Violence**

On 12 Sept., the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) in Stockholm organized a conference entitled "Successful strategies to end gender-based violence in post-conflict societies." Women from conflict and post-conflict societies around the world convened to discuss factors contributing to gender-based violence and ways to address it. Conference participants reviewed the Swedish national action plan against gender-based violence and made recommendations for enhancing it. In her speech, the KWN Executive Director said that international 'peacekeeping' forces often supported gender-based violence through their demand for sex services, which contributed to increases in sex trafficking. She also emphasized the importance of women being involved in peace negotiations, as per UNSCR 1325.

### **KWN Released Findings from First Kosova-wide Household Survey on Domestic Violence**

The first in-depth inquiry into domestic violence in Kosovo, entitled "Security Begins at Home" was released on 27 Nov. at the Grand Hotel in Prishtina. The Agency for Gender Equality in the Prime Minister's Office of Kosovo with support from the UNDP Women's Safety and Security Initiative contracted KWN to write the report. The findings and recommendations will serve as a basis for the first Kosovo National Action Plan and Strategy against Domestic Violence.

KWN employed a mixed method methodology that involved collecting statistics from relevant institutions; reviewing relevant law, legislation, and social services available; surveying 1,256 women and men of all ages and ethnic groups across Kosovo; and surveying representatives of Kosovar institutions, relevant organizations and experts. The report chapters include:

1. Citizens' Perceptions about Domestic Violence: What is Abusive and in What Circumstances
2. The Pervasiveness and Main Forms of Domestic Violence in Kosovo
3. The Consequences of Domestic Violence

4. Citizens' Response: The Methods Citizens Use and Propose for Ending Violence or Reducing Its Circumstances
5. Social Constraints that Deprive Particular Demographic Groups in the Private and Public Spheres, Potentially Increasing Domestic Violence
6. Legal and Institutional Gaps in Addressing Domestic Violence

The report includes recommendations for legal and legislative reform; the Kosova Police Service; Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and Centres for Social Work; Ministry of Justice; Kosova Judicial Council; Ministry of Economy and Finance; Ministry of Health; and Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology. For the full report, visit: [www.womensnetwork.org](http://www.womensnetwork.org).

#### **KWN Responded to Cases of Domestic Violence**

Following media coverage of two serious cases of domestic violence in Kosova, KWN wrote an editorial regarding domestic violence in Kosova, which was published in Teuta magazine. KWN representatives were also invited to two radio shows and on TV21 to speak about the issue of domestic violence in Kosova as a result of this reaction.

## **INCREASING WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN REGIONAL PEACE-BUILDING**

#### **Regional Women's Lobby for Justice, Peace and Security**

The Regional Women's Lobby for Justice, Peace and Security in South East Europe (SEE) met in Istanbul, Turkey from 17-19 May 2008. The Regional Women's Lobby (RWL) is comprised of women leaders from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosova, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. The meeting focused on creating a structure for RWL, which will consist of a Steering Committee with a representative from each of the seven countries. The responsibilities of the Steering Committee are to identify strategic priorities for action within each country, as well as other initiatives that arise. The Chair of the Steering Committee is Edita Tahiri, a politician from Kosova. RWL will also be supported by a Secretariat comprised of three representatives from UNIFEM, which will coordinate communication, fundraising and other events. Lastly, RWL will establish an Advisory Board of peace advocates and politicians who can help advise RWL on particular issues. The meeting also resulted in a RWL statement to the governments of Serbia and Macedonia regarding elections, available on the KWN website: [www.womensnetwork.org](http://www.womensnetwork.org).

#### **Regional Women's Lobby Held Its First Public Conference in Prishtina**

The Regional Women's Lobby for Peace, Security and Justice in SEE (RWL) held its first public conference entitled "A Secure Future for Our Region: What Does It Take? Women Leaders Speak Out" on 27 Oct. 2008 at the Grand Hotel in Prishtina with support from UNIFEM. The conference resulted in a declaration adopted by RWL members on peace and security in SEE, which will be presented to the UN Security Council in November 2008 (at <http://www.rwlsee.org>). A RWL delegation also met with the President of Kosova, and members appeared on two TV debates. During the conference, RWL members identified the following priorities:

- Fight organized crime, corruption and violence in the region;
- Address the role poverty plays in prolonging regional instability and insecurity; and
- Focus on transitional justice and the importance of truth-telling forums toward reconciliation in the region.

In addition to RWL members, the President of Kosova Fatmir Sejdiu, Minister of Internal Affairs Zenun Pajaziti, Minister of Justice Nekibe Kelmendi, Minister of Energy and Mining Justina Pula and EULEX and ICO representatives spoke at the conference. The full conference report is available at: <http://www.rwlsee.org/report.pdf>.

### **Women's Peace Coalition Continued Collaboration**

Members of the Women's Peace Coalition met twice in Prishtina to formulate plans for future collaboration. Members also remained in contact via three security updates that KWN and Women in Black exchanged during the year regarding the security situation. KWN member organizations including Open Door, ODA, Norma, the Kosovo Gender Training and Resource Centre, and Kalabria took part in horizontal networking meetings and in visits to women in Serb enclaves where they shared information with Serb women and Serb women's organizations and identified areas for future cooperation. WPC will hold another meeting in early Dec. in Prishtina.

## **STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF KWN AND SERVING OUR MEMBERS**

### **KWN Held Its Fifth Annual Meeting**

On 1 Dec. 2007, KWN held its fifth annual members' meeting at Hani i 2 Robertëve restaurant in Prishtina, attended by KWN members, staff, partners and supporters. KWN Executive Director Igballe Rogova presented KWN's work from Dec. 2006 to Dec. 2007. During this period, KWN fulfilled its mission by continuing to build its capacity; attending international and local meetings; and advocacy at the local and regional level.

The KWN activities report for 2007, distributed during the meeting, described KWN's work in 2007: KWN members continued to have regular bimonthly meetings; the elected KWN board met three times; KWN published four issues of its newsletter "Kosovar Women's Voice" in Albanian, English and Serbian languages; KWN helped the Kosovar Centre against Breast Cancer organize campaigns to raise awareness about breast cancer; the Women's Peace Coalition organized its second conference in Struga, Macedonia; KWN organized lectures in KFOR camps to raise awareness about UNSCR 1325; KWN educated voters and monitored election campaigns for the Nov. elections in Kosova; and KWN supported financially shelters in Kosova as well as conducted research resulting in a report titled Exploratory Research on Gender-Based Violence and Its Impact on Reproductive Health in Kosova.

During the annual meeting, members discussed revising the KWN Ethical and Accountability Code application and elected members of the first Code of Conduct committee, who will be responsible for evaluating whether KWN members are fulfilling the Code of Conduct. KWN members proposed experts for this committee and then elected the following members: Cyme Mahmutaj, Delina Fico, Linda Gusia and Teuta Sahatçia

During the annual KWN lottery, eight member organizations won awards: Alma in Peja won a desktop computer; Women for Women won a digital camera; Medica won a desktop computer; Lepsa Buducnost, Open Door and Dora Does won 20 euro phone cards; Dora e Ngrohët won a 1GB USB; and Hareja won a combination scanner and photocopy machine.

KWN members evaluated KWN's work in 2007. A report based on their evaluation was distributed during the next KWN members' meeting on 9 Feb. 2008.

### **KWN Organized Six Bimonthly Meetings**

KWN held six members' meetings. These meetings provided a forum for members to receive updates on KWN programs, exchange information and experiences with each other, and initiate joint activities. Meetings were held on 9 Feb., 7 Apr., 5 May, 2 June, 2 Sept., and 3 Nov.

### **KWN Continued to Publish Its Quarterly Newsletter**

KWN continued to publish "Kosovar Women's Voice" newsletter. Three issues of the KWN quarterly newsletter contained information about KWN and its members' activities. The newsletter was widely distributed both electronically and in hard copy in three languages: Albanian, Serbian, and English.

### **KWN Involved Board Members and There Were Changes to the KWN Board**

The KWN Board of Directors and Advisory Board met four times in 2008, on 24 Jan., 28–29 Mar. in Tirana, 23 July, and 24–25 Oct. in Struga. During the meeting in Tirana, the KWN Board of Directors in cooperation with staff created and adopted KWN's strategy for 2008–2010. The KWN Executive Director was also regularly in contact with KWN Board members, providing updates via e-mail and telephone, as well as seeking advice as needed.

### **KWN Continually Shared Information Locally and Internationally**

KWN provided information via its website and email communication to researchers, writers, and activists around the world. For example, KWN was in regular correspondence with The Advocacy Project, which posted blogs and articles about the work of KWN and its members. Further, KWN representatives sat for numerous interviews by journalists from RTV21, RTK, KTV, Lajmi, Express, Koha Ditore, Kosova Sot, Teuta magazine, Radio Dukagjini, Radio Kosova, Television Opinion, a Finnish daily paper, a women's magazine in Spain, a women's magazine in France, an Austrian daily paper, a Norwegian daily paper, a Swedish daily paper, Swedish channel eight, and Swedish channel one. KWN representatives also were interviewed by international organizations like UNDP, OSCE, the Mott Foundation, The Advocacy Project, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. KWN shared information especially about the UN Secretary-General's six points proposed for Kosova; women's efforts to participate in decision-making; women's efforts towards peace in the region; and domestic violence.

### **KWN Offered Services to Members**

Every year at its annual membership meeting, KWN asks its member organizations to evaluate the network and to make suggestions for improving its work. Last year, 56.1 percent of members requested more information from KWN. We have made an extra effort to distribute information this year via email and telephone. For example, KWN has forwarded information about various funding opportunities to members (e.g., calls for proposals) and shared info among members about events.

More than 70 percent of members asked for more joint programming and efforts. In 2008, KWN tried to support more joint programming through: the Voters' Voice initiative which brought members together to plan meetings with citizens in 10 municipalities of Kosova; offering technical support to the Coalition against Family and Sexual Violence; and financing some joint meetings between members.

Eighty-five percent of members requested assistance with contacting donors. KWN helped raise funds through technical support, drafting proposals, connecting organizations with donors, negotiating with donors on behalf of members, and/or writing recommendation letters for Medica Kosova, Open Door, Committee of Blind Women, and Kosovar Center for Combating Breast Cancer Jeta Vita.

### **KWN Hosted International Students**

On 17 Jan. 2008, a group of students from the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratization based in Venice, Italy visited KWN. This university that cooperates with students from the University of Prishtina sends students to visit Kosovar institutions and KWN each year. During the meeting they discussed Kosova's current political situation and the status of women in Kosova.

On 18 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, heard about the role women's organizations played in Kosova before, during and after the war. The students were the first visitors to KWN after Kosova's declaration of independence.

### **Japanese NGOs Learned from Grassroots Organizing in Kosova**

On 2 Feb. 2008, KWN Executive Director Igballe Rogova led a seminar for 100 Japanese NGOs during the "Seminar on Democracy Support for Japanese NGO," at the Institute for International Cooperation, Japan International Cooperation Agency in Tokyo. Shanti Volunteer Organization in Tokyo, Japan organized the seminar, commissioned by the Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Division, Foreign Policy Bureau of Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The seminar aimed to build the capacity of Japanese NGOs working to support democracy in developing countries and to provide them with "know-how" for applying for funds from the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF). Preeti Shroff-Mehta from World Learning also provided insight to NGOs, and the head of UNDEF, Roland Rich, spoke.

Based on her experience organizing democracy projects in Kosova, Rogova provided concrete examples as to how Japanese NGOs could implement democracy projects in Japan and abroad. Japanese activists discussed with KWN how the biased system used by UN donors is prejudiced against non-English speaking organizations, and, conversely, rewards proposals written in good English with UN terminology while refusing potentially better quality proposals that do not use this terminology or perfect English. Aside from the seminar, KWN representatives visited two women's organizations in Tokyo. Japanese NGOs were very interested in the work of Kosovar NGOs and expressed interest in visiting Kosova to learn more and cooperate on future joint initiatives.

### **"Women, the Forgotten Face of War" Premiered in Kosova**

On 4 June at Oda Theatre in Prishtina, filmmakers Susan Muska and Greta Olafsdottir premiered their documentary, "Women, the Forgotten Face of War", with support from KWN. The documentary narrates the stories of nine women during the war in Kosova: Sevdie Ahmeti, Ardiana, Brita, Ema, Aferdita, Nafie, Tatiana, Kada and Kosovare Kelmendi. The film explores the effects that war and the loss of family members had on women. The documentary also explores the issue of rape as a weapon that was used against women during the war. Despite their struggles, each of these women conveys a message of strength. Their resilience illustrates that women and children truly are "the substance of society". While many war criminals (such as Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic)

have not been brought to justice, these women fought on and sought to help others because they refused to let their society be destroyed.

### **KWN Shared Experiences with Women Activists in the Middle East**

From 20-22 May 2008, women's groups from Israel and Palestine gathered in Jordan for a conference organized Kvinna till Kvinna. The meeting served to open discussions on issues that women face in both societies: discrimination, militarism and sexual violence. The groups in attendance were partner organizations with Kvinna till Kvinna.

Kvinna till Kvinna invited KWN Executive Director Igballe Rogova to attend the conference and speak about KWN's activities. She spoke about the methods KWN has used to monitor the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, as well as the development of the Women's Peace Coalition, a coalition between activists in Serbia and Kosova. A documentary made by RTV21 on the Women's Peace Coalition was shown. The film was moving and empowering for Israeli and Palestinian women's groups who are working to establish a similar coalition and address similar goals in the Middle East.

### **KWN Attended a Regional Meeting Organized by the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation**

On 27-29 Oct., the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation (KtK) held a regional meeting in Struga, Macedonia. They gathered their partner organizations from Kosova, Albania and Montenegro to discuss women's physical and psychological health.

### **KWN Monitored Implementation of Code of Conduct**

After making revisions to the KWN Code of Conduct Application, based on members' comments, KWN representatives met with KWN member organizations to fill out the application. As of 1 Dec. 2008, most members have completed the application. Using the application, KWN has also compiled profiles of member organizations, which will be posted on the KWN website and published in a pamphlet about members next year.

## KWN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### KWN Board of Directors through 2008:

Belgjzare Muharremi - Board Chair (Open Door)  
 Arjeta Rexhaj (Gender Training and Research Center)  
 Behar Selimi (Kosova Police)  
 Besim M. Kajtazi (Ministry for Public Services)  
 Marte Prenkpalaj (Motrat Qiriazhi)  
 Nazlije Bala (Activist for Women's Rights)  
 Veprora Shehu (Medica Kosova)

### Board of Directors for 2009:

Belgjzare Muharremi - Board Chair (Open Door)  
 Ariana Qosja - Mustafa (KCDF)  
 Arjeta Rexha (Gender Training and Research Center)  
 Behar Selimi (Kosova Police)  
 Nazlije Bala (Activist for Women's Rights)  
 Shukrije Gashi (Partners Kosova)  
 Veprora Shehu (Medica Kosova)

### KWN Advisory Board:

Vjosa Dobruna (Activist for Human Rights)  
 Delina Fico (Activist for Women's Rights)  
 Besim M. Kajtazi (Ministry for Public Services)  
 Marte Prenkpalaj (Motrat Qiriazhi)  
 Rachel Wareham (Independent Adviser)



## KWN PERMANENT STAFF MEMBERS IN 2008

Igballe Rogova – Executive Director

Aida Dërguti – Program Manager

Besa Shehu – Finance Manager

Alba Loxha – Information and Outreach Manager

## PROJECT STAFF IN 2008

Nicole Farnsworth – Consultant and Researcher

Adelina Berisha – Researcher

Mimoza Gashi – Researcher

Dafina Beqiri – Project Coordinator for KWN Code of Conduct

Nicole Slezak – Intern from The Advocacy Project (June-August)

KOSOVO WOMEN'S NETWORK (KWN)  
 NJEKTET I GRUPEVE TE GRUPEVE TE KOSOVES (ORG/GK)

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To: EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT OF KOSOVO WOMENS NETWORK (KWN)  
 PRISHTINA

We have audited the costs and supplementary financial data of Kosovo Women's Network (KWN) expresses in EUR, for the period January-December 2008. These financial statements and supplementary financial data are the responsibility of the project's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the aforementioned financial information based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the reporting forms are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the reporting forms. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the proper accounting and reporting of the data on the financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial information present fairly, in all material respects, the costs as of Kosovo Women's Network December 31, 2008 and the results of operations in accordance with International Standards of Accounting and Kosovo Standards of Accounting.

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 Licensed auditor  
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Pristina.

24 May 2009

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 Licensed Auditor

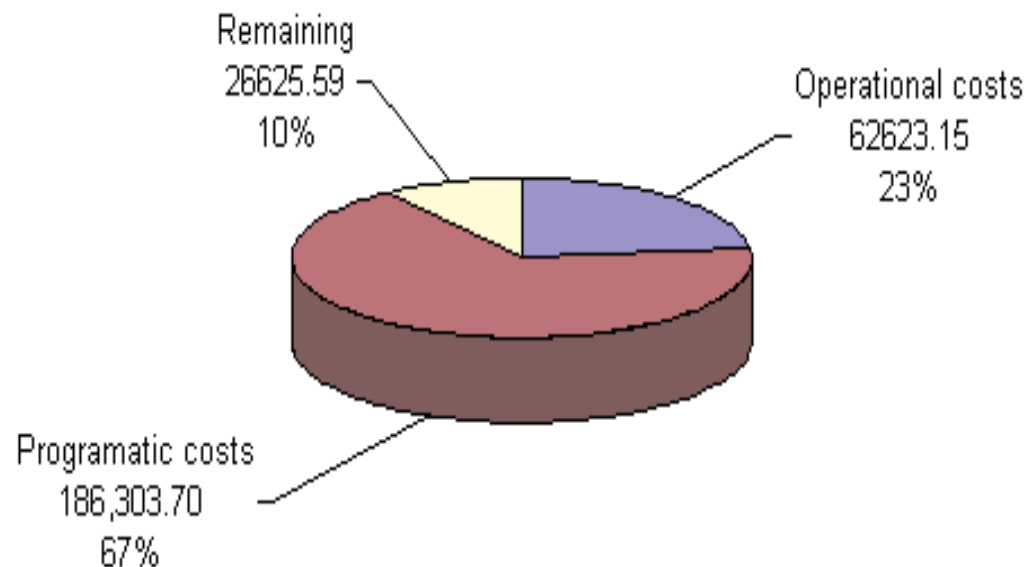
## KWN FINANCIAL REPORT 2008

Donators	Projects	Remaining from 2007	Received	Spent Expenses	Remaining
1 UNDEF ('07 - '08)	Women Networking for Peace and Regional Stability	35,560.59	68,461.39	88,944.39	15,077.59
2 British Embassy Prishtina	Citizens initiative to increase good governance		31,686.42	21,338.42	10,348.00
3 UNIFEM (2007-2008)	Empowering women in decision making	3,600.00	2,400.00	6,000.00	-
4 UNDP / WSSI	Research on Forms of Domestic Violence in Kosova		16,340.00	16,340.00	-
5 MOTT Fondation	Institutional support for KWN		20,400.87	19,900.87	500
6 Kvinna till Kvinna	Strengthening KWN' Capacity for Advocacy	983	32,514.00	32,797.00	700
7 UNFPA	Supporting coalition of the shelters		7,040.00	7,040.00	-
8 UNIFEM Austria	Women's access to health care		20,000.00	20,000.00	-
9 Kvinnor till Kvinnor	Supporting Members in Activities		4,000.00	4,000.00	-
10 OSCE	Good governance through educating voters		5,099.22	5,099.22	-
11 Carried over Projects from 2007		27,467.82	-	27,467.82	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>67,611.41</b>	<b>207,941.03</b>	<b>248,927.72</b>	<b>26,625.59</b>





### KWN Operational and Programmatic Costs for 2008



### List of Goods Donated from KWN to its Members

NGO Committee of Blind Women	€ 700
NGO Alma	€ 800
NGO Open Door	€ 200
NGO Legjenda	€ 150
NGO Flaka	€ 200
NGO Lulishtja	€ 200
NGO Lidhja e gjalle	€ 200
NGO Motrat Qiriaz	€ 250
NGO Jeta Vita	€ 150
NGO Antigona	€ 200
NGO Warm Hand	€ 250

Total € 3,300

### List of Inventory Donated from KWN to Members

NGO Ruka Ruci	1 fax machine 1 vacuum cleaner
NGO Warm Hand	1 computer 1 office desk 1 UPS battery backup 1 sound system
NGO Assotiation for Family Education	1 computer 1 office desk
NGO Motrat Qiriaz	1 computer
NGO Jeta Vita	5 office chairs
NGO One to One Kosova	1 camera
NGO Women for Women	1 camera
NGO Hareja	1 multi-functional printer
NGO Alma	1 computer
NGO Medica Kosova	1 computer

## KWN STRATEGY FOR 2009

The KWN Board of Directors approved KWN's strategy for 2009 at its meeting in Struga on 24 and 25 October 2008. The strategy contributes to KWN's three organizational objectives via six programs and the coresponding activities:

### Ensure equal, effective and active participation of women and girls in Kosova's political, economic, and social development

**Program 1.** Increasing women's participation in politics and decision-making

- 1.1 Progress report monitoring the implementation of UNSCR 1325.
- 1.2 Campaign raising awareness about the mechanisms toward gender equality in Kosovo.
- 1.3 Advocacy towards increasing women's participation in the Security Sector (Counsel for Security and Intelligence Agency).
- 1.4 Coordination meetings and cooperation with political parties (support for the activities of the Center for Training and Gender Studies).

**Program 2.** Empowering voters

- 2.1 Assist voters with advocacy campaigns in 10 municipalities.
- 2.2 Continually accept complaints and suggestions for politicians from citizens.
- 2.3 Continual media campaign – promotion of where complaints were addressed and cases of successful advocacy.

### Improving women's human rights in all spheres of life in Kosova

**Program 3.** Improving women's health

- 3.1 Medical examinations of women in rural areas with the mobile clinic
- 3.2 Support campaign against breast cancer

- 3.4 Contribute to the preparation of the Kosovo Strategy against Breast Cancer
- 3.5 Assessment report on the capacity of the public health system pertaining to women's health

**Program 4.** Decreasing trafficking and domestic violence

- 4.1 Support the Coalition Against Family and Sexual Violence
- 4.2 Contribute to Strategy and Kosovo National Action Plan against Domestic Violence
- 4.3 Advocate for, contribute to drafting, and later monitor implementation of the Law against Domestic Violence

### Improve and increase cooperation among women's groups and organisations in Kosova, the region, and internationally

**Program 5.** Increasing women's involvement in regional peace-building

- 5.1 Networking and cooperation with women's organizations from Macedonia, Albania, and Montenegro (for quotas and violence against women)
- 5.2 Support and empower Serb women's organisations in Kosovo
- 5.3 Support for Network of Balkan Women for Peace

**Program 6.** Strengthening the capacity of the network

- 6.1 Quarterly newsletter "Kosovar Women's Voice"
- 6.2 Annual Reports
- 6.3 Monitor the implementation of the KWN Ethical and Accountability Code
- 6.4 Prepare a brochure with the profiles of KWN member organisations
- 6.5 Support KWN member organizations by profiling and corresponding with donors (perhaps in form of one presentation)
- 6.6 Continually update the KWN website
- 6.7 Services for KWN member organizations: fundraising support, translation, training.

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Annual Report 2008  
Kosova Women's Network

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