



To: President Martti Ahtisaari, UN Secretary General Envoy
in Charge of the Negotiations on the Future Status of Kosovo
From: Women's Peace Coalition
Date: February 12, 2007
Subject: Support a Just and Lasting Solution for Kosovo

Dear President Ahtisaari,

Women from Kosovo and Serbia established the Women's Peace Coalition to monitor negotiations regarding Kosovo's final political status. As efforts to resolve the future status of Kosovo intensify, we believe it is necessary to remind you, the negotiation teams, and the international community of some very essential points.

First, the future status of Kosovo must be resolved taking into consideration the will of the Albanian majority population. Kosovo's path to European Integration must occur outside the borders of the Serbian state, and must include the full protection of individual and collective human rights for all citizens of Kosovo and Serbia.

Second, cultural sites should not be used as political tools toward the homogenization of communities in Kosovo. This will lead to the isolation and division of communities, which could contribute to future violence. Instead, cultural sites should be considered part of a heterogeneous history that involves all ethnic groups and be used to promote joint ownership in all communities' inter-ethnic heritage as well as their shared future.

Third, we believe that a just and lasting settlement of Kosovo's political status can be achieved by guaranteeing minorities' full rights, according to international and national standards on human rights; integrating the concept of decentralization based on the European Convention on Local Governance; and avoiding decentralization according to ethnic lines. This will prevent attempts to create separate institutions based on ethnic lines in the name of providing assurances for minorities.

Fourth, despite our many advocacy efforts and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (UNSCR 1325), which calls for women's inclusion in post-conflict decision-making, we feel that our respective governments have failed to involve women as equal partners in the negotiation process concerning Kosovo's final political status. The Women's Peace Coalition advocates strongly for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Therefore we urge the relevant bodies to involve women during all processes of building the new state of Kosovo, including drafting the constitution. While UNMIK failed to implement UNSCR 1325, we

hope any new international presence in Kosovo will steadily involve women in all monitoring processes.

The Kosova Women's Network and the Women in Black Network in Serbia launched the Women's Peace Coalition in March 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.

Sincerely,

The Women's Peace Coalition

Represented by:

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