



Kosovar

# Women's Voice

Supporting, protecting, and promoting the rights  
and interests of women and girls in Kosovo

January 2013



*KWN Executive Director Igballe Rogova shares experiences of women's organizing in Kosovo with students from Italian and Austrian universities (p. 3).*

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**One Billion Rising Global Campaign, in Pristina,**  
14 Feb. 2013

**KWN Bimonthly Meeting,**  
4 Feb. 2013, 11-13,  
Hotel Sirius, Pristina



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## Security Force Publishes Suggestions for Integrating Women

*Best Practices and Suggestions for the Integration of Women and Communities in the Ministry for the Kosovo Security Force and Kosovo Security Force* was published by the Office for Community Affairs at the Ministry for the Kosovo Security Force (MKSF) on 16 Jan. 2013. The Ministry already had endorsed gender equality based on international and national agreements and commitments, approving the [Human Rights and Gender Equality Policy together with an Action Plan](#) last year.

The Ministry launched its newest study at the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) camp Adem Jashari in Prishtina. MKSF Minister Agim Çeku opened the event.

Among the speakers was Kosovo Women's Network (KWN) Executive Director Igballe Rogova who spoke about cooperation between civil society and security organizations. Cooperation between KWN and MKSF began ten years ago when Agim Çeku, then Commander of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), KSF's predecessor, hosted a KWN delegation. After KWN's visit, KPC formed a Gender Equality Board. Later, in 2009 when KPC transformed into KSF, they invited KWN to participate in the process of drafting KSF's Strategy for Gender Equality. KWN seeks to continue this positive cooperation, Rogova said.

"Thanks to Kvinna till Kvinna, KWN previously organized lectures on women's position in Kosova at Swedish KFOR [NATO] military bases around Kosova," Rogova said. She offered for KWN to provide similar lectures for KSF at its bases around Kosova.

Azemina Culum, Head of the Office for Community Affairs at MKSF, and Flora Macula, Representative of UN WOMEN were among the other speakers who participated in the event.



*The new Ministry of the Kosovo Security Force report calls for women in the Force.*

## Kosovo Women's Fund Impacts an Estimated 5000 Women, Continues in 2013

KWN established the Kosovo Women's Fund in 2012, supported by Kvinna till Kvinna, to support, protect and promote the rights and interests of women and girls in Kosovo. The Fund has proven to be a great success, affecting the lives of an estimated 5,000 women and girls of various ages, ethnicities and religions located throughout Kosovo.

Between Oct. and Dec. 2012, the new Fund financially supported 12 KWN member organizations, amounting to €10,209. These organizations provided education, support and counseling to women and girls, contributing to their health, education, independence, security and economic empowerment. With support from the Kosovo Women's Fund, KWN members increased women's and girls' awareness about osteoporosis, unplanned or unwanted pregnancy, breast cancer, post-abortion concerns and family planning strategies. They reached out to survivors of sexual violence and advocated for their rights. They also sought to prevent domestic violence and supported women's organizations in promoting their work through public media. In these initiatives, KWN members networked with other non-governmental organizations, hospitals, health clinics, student bodies and local government officials.

Building on these accomplishments, the KWN Kosovo Women's Fund will continue offering grants in 2013 with support from the Austrian Development Agency and Kvinna till Kvinna.



*Through the Kosovo Women's Fund, KWN member Jeta-Vita tested 243 women pensioners for osteoporosis, as well as advocated successfully for free medication for those in need. This was one of 12 Kosovo Women's Fund-supported small grants that resulted in big changes for an estimated 5,000 diverse women and girls throughout Kosovo in 2012.*

## AWID, KWN Ask: Where's the Money for Women's Rights?

KWN in partnership with Alter Habitus – Institute for Studies in Culture and Society has begun research on "Where's the Money for Women's Rights: A Kosovo Case Study". The research has received funding from the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), an international, multi-generational, feminist, creative, future-orientated membership organization committed to achieving gender equality, sustainable development and women's human rights. KWN is an AWID member.

The research will contribute to KWN's broader objectives "to empower the network by identifying funding trends related to women's rights". At the same time, it will aim to increase young feminists' research capacities on issues related to economic power, as well as further knowledge regarding donors' current and future funding priorities in Kosovo. The research will examine the present financial situation of women's organizations in Kosovo, as well as donor support for women's rights.

The Kosovo Case Study is part of AWID's international "[Where Is the Money for Women's Rights?](#)" research, contributing knowledge and a potential advocacy platform that could support other women's groups internationally. The idea to cooperate with AWID for this research rose out of AWID's international conference on women's economic power, held in Istanbul in 2012 and attended by KWN members. Findings can provide a better understanding of how to empower women and women's NGOs in Kosovo and beyond. Finally, the research and its recommendations have the potential to transform the economic power of women's NGOs (and the communities they serve), particularly organizations marginalized by current donor trends.

## Gender Equality Advocacy Groups, Kosovo Women's Fund Continue in 2013

The Kosovo Women's Fund and Gender Equality Advocacy Groups, supported by KWN, are set to continue through Dec. 2014 with additional support from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), totaling €280,800. Funds will support small grants provided to KWN members through the Kosovo Women's Fund, and the work of Gender Equality Advocacy Groups (GEAGs), particularly related to increasing women's participation in municipal decision-making processes.

The project seeks to establish five more GEAGs in new municipalities while strengthening the existing 13 GEAGs. GEAGs bring together women assembly members, CSO representatives, gender equality mechanisms and other gender equality advocates at the municipal level (including men). GEAGs will focus on identifying women's priorities prior to municipal elections, advocating for these priorities and encouraging women's greater participation as candidates and voters in the elections.

At the same time, KWN will continue supporting its members in furthering their existing capacities for planning, fundraising and

undertaking effective advocacy initiatives through the Kosovo Women's Fund. The Fund offers small grants in amounts ranging from €1,500 to €3,000. Supported by ADA, KWN will make open calls for two rounds per year in 2013 and 2014 for KWN members to submit applications for funds. The dates will be announced through information sessions and the KWN website.



*Gender Equality Advocacy Groups bring together diverse women from politics and civil society to discuss issues obstructing gender equality at the municipal level and to identify solutions.*

## Students Learn about Kosovo Women's Organizing

Students from the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation in Venice, Italy have been visiting Kosovo since 2004. Their European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation involves a field trip to a post-conflict country, so they visit Kosovo and meet international, national and local institutions, organizations and civil society. They discuss human rights issues in post-conflict settings. Postgraduate students from the University of Vienna's Master in Human rights program visited as well.

During their stay in Kosovo, they met with KWN Executive Director Igballe Rogova on Jan. 17. Students learned about the history of KWN's creation, its work and the challenges it has faced over the years.

"This meeting is the most interesting one we have attended so far in Kosovo" said Güler Alkan, a Turkish student.

Rogova told students stories about the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security in Kosova, which can be found in KWN's latest research report [1325 Facts & Fables](#). Students asked questions and participated in discussion.



*Students from Italian and Austrian universities learn about women's organizing in Kosova.*