



## **KWN AND ALTER HABITUS LAUNCH REPORT “WHERE’S THE MONEY FOR WOMEN’S RIGHTS?”**

Pristina (Monday, 18 Nov. 2013) – The Kosova Women's Network (KWN) and Alter Habitus – Institute for Studies in Society and Culture launched the report *Where's the Money for Women's Rights? A Kosovo Case Study*.

This event brought together more than 40 participants (donors, non-governmental women's organizations and other civil society representatives) to discuss the findings and recommendations of the nine-month study.

In her presentation, Nicole Farnsworth, KWN Lead Researcher, said that “organizations for women's rights play an important role in supporting and developing democratic institutions, promoting women's rights as human rights, shifting gender norms, raising public awareness, providing services to marginalized groups (especially when they lack support from the state), and seeking accountability from the government through advocacy.”

More specifically, the research examines: the importance of supporting women's organizations in relation to social change processes; funding trends between 2000 and 2013; the financial sustainability of women's organizations; trends impacting donors' decisions to fund women's organizations (or not); and opportunities for collaboration among women's organizations and donors in creating collective resource mobilization strategies and funding mechanisms for women's organizations. The report also makes recommendations for all stakeholders: government, non-governmental women's organizations and donors regarding the best ways for achieving fruitful results in promoting gender equality in Kosovo, as well as for creating a comprehensive strategy for mobilizing resources from the perspective of the feminist movement.

Participants unanimously agreed that better coordination between donors, women's organizations and the government would help in advancing women's rights. Moreover, the KWN Kosova Women's Fund, which combines small grants, intensive training and mentoring for organizations, was seen as a potential solution for donors who want to support small organizations. While small organizations may not have the capacity to compete with larger organizations, they carry out very important work with rural and marginalized groups.

Also, women's organizations requested to have long-term contracts with donors, which would enable organizations to implement strategies towards their long-term visions. For them, long-term support clearly impacts on strengthening the women's movement in Kosovo and advances social change.

Research for *Where's the Money for Women's Rights?*, supported by the Association of Women in Development (AWID) and Kvinna till Kvinna, was conducted between January and September 2013. The report draws from 40 interviews with donors who have worked in Kosovo and a survey of 90 diverse women's organizations.

For more information about the report and findings, please visit the KWN website:

<http://www.womensnetwork.org/documents/20131120160749318.pdf>.

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