



February 2014

Kosovar Women's Voice

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

Join Us!

Protest "We Are With You"

8 Mar., 12:00, March starts at square Zahir Pajaziti, Prishtina

KWN Meeting Strategic Plan 2015/2018

10 Mar., 11:00-15:00 Hotel Prishtina

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8 March: Women Seek Address, Justice for Missing Persons

On 8 Mar. 2014, International Women's Day, with the initiative of the association "Thirjet e Nënave" (Mother's Call), [KWN](#) will organize a protest to support mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of missing persons with the motto: "We are with you." [KWN](#) and Thirjet e Nënave invite citizens to "Zahir Pajaziti" Square at 11:30, from which they will march at 12:00 to the Assembly of Kosova.

A year ago, photos of missing persons were removed from fences of the Assembly of Kosova with the promise that a memorial would be constructed for missing persons. That promise was never realized.

"For 15 years they have neglected and deceived us, while criminals run free," said Nesrete Kumnova, Head of *Thirjet e Nënave*. "Even those who are punished receive low or decreased sentences. There has been no justice for the thousands of persons who were murdered, raped and disappeared. We will return the photos of missing persons where they were because the case of missing persons is still unresolved."



Nesrete Kumnova from Thirjet e Nënave invites citizens to demand that the government fulfil its promises with regard to missing persons.

One Billion Rise to End Violence against Women

One Billion Rising Kosovo gathered men and women in Striking, Dancing and Rising at an outdoor street party at the plateau near the Grand Hotel in Pristina.

On Friday, 14 Feb. men and women in Kosovo stood up and danced, calling for an end to violence against women and girls. President Jahjaga and her staff joined this year's event.

The event included the traditional dance of One Billion Rising. NGO Artpolis also performed a play called "Justice for Women". It depicted several unresolved cases of domestic violence, bringing them to the attention of the courts.

"This is the best way to protest and raise our voice," said a participant.

One Billion Rising in Kosovo was organized by a coalition of NGOs and individuals (including [Kosova Women's Network](#), Artpolis, Alter Habitus, Oda Haliti and Bleona Foniqi) and was supported by [Kvinna till Kvinna](#) and [UNDP](#).

One Billion Rising is a global campaign to end violence against women, rise for justice and promote gender equality. It started in 2012 as part of the [V-Day movement](#). One Billion Rising and [V-Day](#) campaigns were launched by playwright Eve Ensler, creator of "The Vagina Monologues". The campaign highlights the startling statistic that one in every three women on the planet will be raped or beaten in their lifetimes. In 2012, the One Billion Rising campaign culminated in the biggest mass global action to end violence against women ever with tens of thousands of events held in more than 190 countries.

In 2014 OBR was held in 207 countries.



Participants at One Billion Rising Kosovo call for an end to violence against women on 14 Feb., in Prishtina.

Hendifer Organizes Trainings on Cancer

The number of women endangered by breast cancer appears to be increasing every day, especially in rural areas where people lack information about the importance of early detection and regular visits to the doctor.

Considering this issue, NGO [Hendifer](#) has organized lectures about breast and cervical cancer in different villages of Ferizaj.

To date, 205 women have taken part in these lectures. Seven villages from Ferizaj Municipality (Jezerc, Cernill, Zllatar, Koshare, etc.) sent written requests to Hendifer to organize this lecture in their villages as well. During lectures women have the opportunity to ask questions about their general health concerns, as well. Women who were worried that they had dangerous lumps received examinations by the doctor who also showed them how to conduct self-exams for breast cancer at home.

"The number of women participants was surprising high and most of them went to the doctor to take tests," said Fazlie Bungu, Director of Hendifer. "Unfortunately we had two women diagnosed with cervical cancer, but they were detected in a very early stage, so they are receiving treatment and their lives are no longer in danger."



Dr. Shpresa Tafashaku provides information about breast cancer to women in Dremjak.

KWN Members Create Policy Manuals

Based on members' requests, on Feb. 19, [KWN](#) organized the first interactive workshop this year, which focused on how to update or create a Policy Manual.

Around 30 members, including young women, gathered at Hotel Prishtina. Some of them brought their laptops while others had their existing policy manuals in hand, ready to learn more about this topic. Elmaze Gashi led the workshop, explaining the importance of having a policy manual.

Using KWN's policy manual as an example, she went through every article explaining how it was written and how members could adapt it, depending on the way their organization functions. Members understood that everything in the policy manual is written based on the laws of the Republic of Kosova, and that is why it has to be updated as laws change or come into force, as well as when important changes occur within their organizations. Strong policy manuals also make organizations transparent and stronger, she said.

Later members divided into three groups: organizations who do not have a policy manual at all; organizations



Elmaze Gashi explains the importance of having a policy manual to KWN members on 19 Feb. in Prishtina.

who have a policy manual but did not update it for a long time; and organizations who have an updated policy manual but wanted to compare it with KWN's existing one. Each group worked for more than three hours on their policy manuals. Those who had a laptop made changes directly on their policy manuals, while others took notes. Elmaze Gashi and KWN staff supported each group, answering questions as needed.

KWN members who need to work more on their policy manuals will continue working and send their drafts to KWN for review and feedback. In the end, KWN members will seek to update their policy manuals, towards enhancing their implementation of the KWN Code of Conduct.

Members were very motivated because the workshop coupled with follow-up mentoring will

provided them with a ready-to-use policy manual by the end of March.

"I'm very thankful to KWN for providing these important workshops free of charge. I would never have had the chance to attend a workshop of this kind," said a KWN member participating in the workshop.

KWN will continue to provide workshops for member organizations, based on its Capacity Development Plan for Members in 2014. KWN also has started offering individualized mentoring for members, visiting their organizations and providing assistance towards strengthening their organizations.

Women's Initiative Assists Girls' Advocacy Efforts

Association Iniciativa e Grave (*Women's Initiative*) from Dragash together with the Officer for Gender Equality. Mrs. Lindita Kozmaqi-Piraj, organized a meeting between Dragash Mayor Mr. Salim Januzaj and a group of girls from Opoja.

During the meeting with the Mayor, girls presented two written requests: financial support to continue sewing courses for two months and the Mayor's mediation for their employment at the factory that will open soon.

The Mayor approved the first request to support the course, while for the mediation for their employment at the factory they agreed to coordinate activities between civil society, institutions and the owner of the factory.

These were not the only topics that the girls discussed. They also asked the Mayor for assistance in decreasing the number of illiterate girls from Dragash municipality. They agreed to start offering informal education this year. He also promised to contribute some of the municipal budget for education.

"I will continue to support girls in achieving their goals," said Xhejrane Lokaj from the Women's Initiative.

Members Gather for Bimonthly Meeting

On 3 Feb. at Hotel Prishtina, KWN held its Bimonthly Meeting. In the beginning participants recalled the training provided by Shqipe Malushi in Durres. She encouraged positive thought in overcoming the negative experiences we have in life.

After welcoming 70 participants, Igballe Rogova, KWN Executive Director, spoke about the possibility of Shqipe Malushi coming to Kosova for three months to visit member organizations in their offices.

Towards better planning, members were asked to send a request expressing their needs regarding the trainings that Shqipe Malushi will organize.

Members were briefed regarding the delegation of KWN board and staff members' visit to Mayor Mimoza Kusari - Lila in her office in the Municipality of Gjakova. They congratulated Mrs. Kusari - Lila for her victory in the local elections and both parties discussed ideas for women's empowerment in Gjakova.

Mimoza Paçuku, [Kosovo Women's Fund \(KWF\)](#) Coordinator at KWN, presented information about the Fund, its accomplishments and challenges in 2013.

In 2014, the Fund will focus on supporting members in their advocacy initiatives. In the past, some beneficiary organizations took part in handcrafts and agriculture. KWN's Strategic Plan for 2011-2014 includes a program towards Economic Empowerment, so KWF supported these projects in 2013. In the future such initiatives will no longer be funded since other funds exist in Kosova, which support business development.

KWN informed its members about the establishment of the G7, a group of seven strong women entrepreneurs. This group, supported by the President of the Republic of Kosova and the U.S. Embassy, has created the Women's Economic Chamber, and they are in the final stages of creating the Women's Business Network (WBN). In the future KWN will support this network. KWN's Economic Empowerment Program will not offer support to business development, but will focus solely on supporting advocacy initiatives. KWN will cooperate with WBN, which will directly support organizations involved in supporting business development. All members present at the meeting unanimously agreed to revise some of the activities within KWN's Economic Empowerment Program, based on these changes in the Kosova context. KWF will only support advocacy initiatives in the future.

KWN congratulated and thanked Lina Andeer, the Kvinna till Kvinna (KtK) representative in Kosova, for trusting in the Network, and for continuous support from her and KtK. Lina was not present at the meeting, but all members expressed their pleasure to have worked with her. Lina will finish her work at KtK in the end of March. Meanwhile KtK will finish its mission in Kosova at the end of 2014.



Mimoza Paçuku, Kosovo Women's Fund Coordinator at KWN, presents an evaluation of the Fund on Feb. 3 in Prishtina.



Approximately 70 participants attended KWN bimonthly meeting at Hotel Prishtina on Feb. 3.