



Kosovar Women's Voice

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

Inside this issue

KWN, MLSW, GIZ Launch Budgeting for Social Welfare..... 2

14 KWN Members Receive Grants for Advocacy 2

U.S. Ambassador Visits NGO Liria 3

Vita Jeta Offers Free Medical Exams to Diagnose Osteoporosis..... 4



Facebook Page

E-News Mailing List

Feminist Summer School 2014 Unites Girls from Kosova and Serbia

The Feminist Summer School brought together approximately 20 girls from Kosova and Serbia in Ohrid, Macedonia from 15 to 21 July.

The six-day Summer School addressed the history of the feminist movement both in the world and in South East Europe during a lecture by Nadja Bobicic. The next day Ana Vilenica talked about Feminism and Nationalism in an emotional session, during which participants reflected on the intersections between nation-states, gender and women's bodies, particularly concerning sexual violence perpetrated against women during the war. The third day participants learned about feminist research methodologies from Nicole Farnsworth. Another lecture, by Sibel Halimi, focused on Everyday Feminism and Women in Media. Their workshops involved a variety of non-formal interactive learning methods, including oral history interviewing.

"I liked the short films about women's stories," said one participant. "But mostly [I liked] the exercises we did with each other because it is interesting to talk about their childhood, the war and other things with someone else that you didn't know before." Indeed, feminists have long realized the importance of consciousness-raising and building understanding across borders as an important foundation in order to build a diverse, strong feminist movement. "This was the first time that I had the chance to sit and actually have a long conversation with an Albanian girl," another participant from Serbia said. Several participants found oral history interviewing important for learning more about the politics of what had happened in each other's countries, including

stories that their media had not told them. Participants also discussed human and women's rights, the definition of grassroots activism and academic activism, among other topics. Outside more formal discussions, young women also had free time to socialize with each other and spend time on the beautiful beaches of Ohrid. They organized yoga sessions at the lake and went salsa dancing. The Feminist Summer School provided participants with the necessary tools, ideas and contacts to join feminist organizations and defend women's rights in their countries. On the last day they reflected on what they had learned during the summer school and made concrete plans for continuing this initiative. The organizers supported them in dividing responsibilities for future steps.

"I'm surprised by their ideas and readiness to make them into concrete actions," said Mimoza Pachuku from KWN, an organizer. "It's fascinating how much positive energy they have and that they are ready to work on a voluntary basis, if needed. This shows that the initiative for this kind of school is very much needed. I am so happy that we made it happen even though it wasn't easy. I cannot wait for the participants to continue developing their ideas and to make this school a tradition."

This Feminist Summer School was organized by KWN, the Alternative Girl's Center from Krushevac, Serbia and Association Dea Dia from Kovacica, Serbia as a feminist peace-building initiative for young women. It was supported by Kvinna till Kvinna.



The Feminist Summer School brought together approximately 20 girls from Kosova and Serbia in Ohrid, Macedonia from 15 to 21 July.

KWN, MLSW, GIZ Launch *Budgeting for Social Welfare*

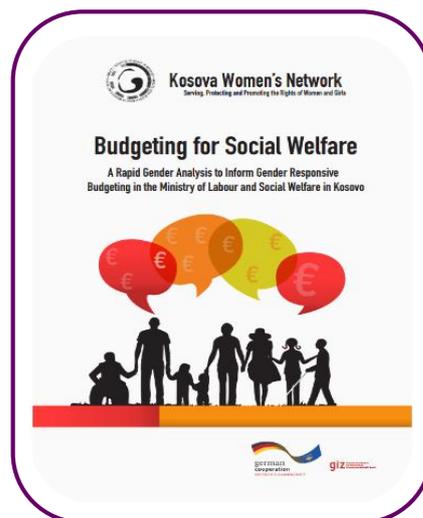
The Kosova Women's Network (KWN), the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH officially launched a ground-breaking new report entitled *Budgeting for Social Welfare: A Rapid Gender Analysis to Inform Gender Responsive Budgeting in the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare*.

The report was written by KWN in close collaboration with MLSW and supported by GIZ. The report utilizes a simple approach to gender responsive budgeting that involved analysing records maintained by MLSW departments and divisions from 2011-2014 from a gender perspective, and then using the findings to identify specific indicators and activities that can be integrated into budget documents for 2015- 2017.

"The presentation of this report was very appropriate and necessary for citizens and representatives of institutions because people think that the budget is something untouchable. However, this report made it tangible," said Dea Pallaska O'Shaughnessy, a participant at the launching. "It clarified the 'numbers' allocated for men and women."

The report reveals several surprises about the distribution of pensions, social assistance, social services, employment services and vocational training to women and men, girls and boys in Kosovo, including:

- The social assistance budget line is unnecessarily limited. Social assistance as per the minimum basket of goods for an average family of four members, the funding gap in the budget is roughly €24,000,000.
- In 2013, men MLSW staff members' salaries comprised 56% of the budget, whereas 44% of the budget went to women. Men tend to hold higher positions than women within the Ministry, which may impact the quality of services provided to women and men.
- Although women and men register as jobseekers in almost equivalent numbers, far more men (64%) are placed in jobs than women (34%).
- Men collected 89% of the basic contributory pension, whereas women received 11% in 2013.
- MLSW has not had sufficient funding for providing most social services in accordance with the legal framework.



Drawing from these findings, the report proposes concrete ways that MLSW can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its budget, contributing to gender equality and improving social welfare, as a government priority stated in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

"I congratulate the respective organizations for the report," said Dren Rexha, Officer for Social Protection at Children's Rights & Emergency Relief Organization, UNICEF. "It shows an inclusive overview of a budget analysis from a gender perspective. Maybe in the future there also should be research regarding the designing of specific schemes from which men and women benefit, so that we can see whether social transfers have been designed in such a way that women and men really benefit from them."

The current Budget Circular and amendments proposed to the Law on Gender Equality both encourage

gender responsive budgeting as part of Kosovo's budget process. This report provides a concrete example of how gender responsive budgeting can be carried out within a ministry.

Although the report focuses on MLSW, it can serve as a useful example for other ministries, municipalities and interested actors on how concretely they can carry out gender responsive budgeting within their institutions.

"I think this discussion today is a good example that data analysis is done to start a discussion. It's not an end in itself," concluded Lukas Fischer from GIZ. He encouraged continued discussions within MLSW and with other stakeholders regarding the report's findings and recommendations.

14 KWN Members Receive Grants for Advocacy



KWN, MLSW and GIZ officially launched a ground-breaking new report entitled *Budgeting for Social Welfare*.

On 8 July, 14 KWN member organizations received grants from the KWN Kosovo Women's Fund, funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), totaling €43,922.

This round encouraged individual organizations' advocacy initiatives as well as joint advocacy between two organizations via KWN's new "Networking for Change" grants. Ten organizations received grants for individual advocacy, and four organizations received two grants for "Networking for Change" initiatives.

The organizations to receive grants and their initiatives include:



On 8 July, 14 KWN member organizations received grants from the KWN Kosovo Women's Fund, funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), totalling

1. Dora Does' initiative "Development of Gender Policies in the Municipality of Prizren" aims to develop gender policies by defining both specific objectives for actors and the necessary budget for realizing the new Municipal Action Plan towards Gender Equality. Then they will advocate for the approval of the Action Plan in the Assembly of the Municipality of Prizren (€3,000)
2. The Women's Initiative Association's initiative "Women of Sharr Aim to Integrate in Social and Political Life" seeks to integrate women from Sharr in Dragash municipality in social and political life by improving the position of women in both family and social settings (€3,000).
3. The Inter-municipal Organization of the Blind and Partly Sighted will advocate for the "Implementation of the Law for Blind People" in Prizren (€2,620).
4. Top Radio in Gjakova will seek to "Release Women and Girls from Municipal Taxes for New Businesses" for up to a year for all women and girls who seek to open business but do not have financial support (€3,000).
5. Women's Center ATO's initiative "Involvement of Women (and Men) in the Community to Advocate in the Municipality to Ensure Free Transport for all Children for Obligatory Education" aims for men and women in the rural areas of the municipality to advocate for transportation for students attending obligatory education (€2,850).
6. The Association of Deaf Women in Prizren aims for "Women to Become Active in Preserving their Health" and to increase the quality of services available for preventing health issues (€2,600).
7. The Centre for Promotion of Women's Rights has an initiative for the "Identification of Rape Cases," which seeks to increase efficiency in protecting persons who suffered sexual violence during the war (€3,000).
8. NGO Luna in Priluzje has the initiative: "Prevention is the Key to Health: Regular Medical Exams Save Lives." They aim to raise awareness about preventive healthcare for women and girls (€2,410).
9. Through their initiative "Violence against Women: It is Not a Family Matter," NGO Venera will monitor sessions relating to domestic violence cases, as well as court cases on inheritance and divorce. They also will advocate to authorities to treat these cases with seriousness and fairness. Monitoring will be carried out in Basic Court proceedings in Peja (€2,467).
10. NGO Bliri in Drenas will work towards "The Improvement of Women's Access to Quality Health Care" (€2,975).
11. Open Door and Ruka Ruci received a "Networking for Change" Grant, entitled: "Empowering Vulnerable Women through Knowledge and Awareness on the Law on Gender Equality, Law No. 2004/2." They aim to empower vulnerable women by increasing their knowledge and awareness about the Law on Gender Equality, so that they can advocate for its implementation (€8,000).
12. Divine Woman and the Association for Education and Family Care also received a "Networking for Change" Grant. "Be Aware for a Better Life" aims to improve physical and mental health among young people from the municipalities of Gjakova and Gjilan (€8,000).

All grant recipients attended an orientation session in Prishtina on 8 July, prior to signing contracts.

"This session is like a training on project implementation, but also capacity building for KWN member organizations because it shows exactly how to act with other donors in implementing projects," a KWN member organization said. Other organizations agreed, "The orientation session helps us to be more prepared also for other projects.

U.S. Ambassador Visits NGO Liria

The U.S. Ambassador to Kosovo, [Tracey Ann Jacobson](#), visited the [Centre for Protection and Rehabilitation of Women and Children "Liria"](#) in Gjilan on 1 July. Zyhdi Haziri, Head of [Basic Court](#); Elmina Mahmuti, Head of the [Regional Police](#); and Labinota Demi, Head of the [Directorate for Health and Social Welfare](#) also took part in the visit.

Nazife Jonuzi, Director of Liria, said that domestic violence remains one of the biggest human rights abuses in Kosovo.

"Violence happened during the conflict and it is happening also now, during peacetime," she said.

Part of the discussion focused on important institutional and legal mechanisms that exist on paper, but are not being implemented in practice.

"For this reason, our center continues to advocate at the local and central level for the creation of a long-term system for handling all aspects of domestic violence and gender-based violence. This includes having law enforcement for protection from domestic violence and long-term financial sustainability," added Jonuzi.

Ambassador Jacobson congratulated Jonuzi and the staff of Liria for their work and commitment towards women's empowerment, particularly in domestic violence cases. The Ambassador pledged strong support in terms of treating victims of domestic violence. She said that she would push processes at both the local and central level in law enforcement for protection from domestic violence and implementation of the [Kosovo Program against Domestic Violence and Action Plan 2011-2014](#).



The US Ambassador to Kosovo visits NGO "Liria" in Gjilan on 1 July 2014.

Vita Jeta Offers Free Medical Exams to Diagnose Osteoporosis

Approximately 50 pensioner women squeezed inside NGO [Vita Jeta's](#) office, waiting to take a free medical exam that determines if they have osteoporosis.

This was the fourth group to undergo the check-up. In total, 600 women will receive the service provided by Vita Jeta, a KWN member organization.

Osteoporosis is a progressive bone disease characterized by a decrease in bone mass and density. This can lead to an increased risk of fracture. Since most of the association's approximately 1,000 members are pensioners, they are particularly at risk of this disease.

"This is the second time we have been supported by KWN's [Kosovo Women's Fund \(KWF\)](#) in offering exams to diagnose potential cases of osteoporosis to our NGO members; we already offered these check-ups to 240 members back in 2012," said Ajshe Nuhiu, Executive Director of Vita Jeta.

Few of Vita Jeta's members can afford regular checkups that will enable them to detect osteoporosis early. With this in mind, the association also offers treatment and medicines for the women who are diagnosed with the disease from the exam.

"In 2012 I was diagnosed with osteoporosis and the doctor together with the NGO's staff helped me by offering treatment and medicine," said Arzie Borovci, a member of the association. "Now that I repeated the medical exam, it turned out that my condition has improved and I am doing much better, therefore I am very thankful to Vita Jeta."

The association has also initiated a petition requesting for the Ministry of Health to provide an examination device to the public health institution. This would allow more women to be given free exams to diagnose potential cases of osteoporosis.

"We expect that all our NGO members will sign the petition, but if that number is not enough we won't stop collecting more signatures, in order to achieve this," said Ajshe Nuhiu.

Vita Jeta has received support for this work from the 5th round of Kosova Women's Fund, supported by the [Kvinna till Kvinna \(KtK\)](#).



Vita Jeta offers free medical exams to diagnose osteoporosis through their initiative supported by KWN's Kosovo Women's Fund (KWF).