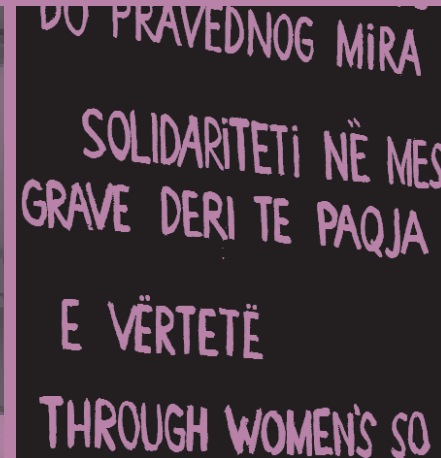
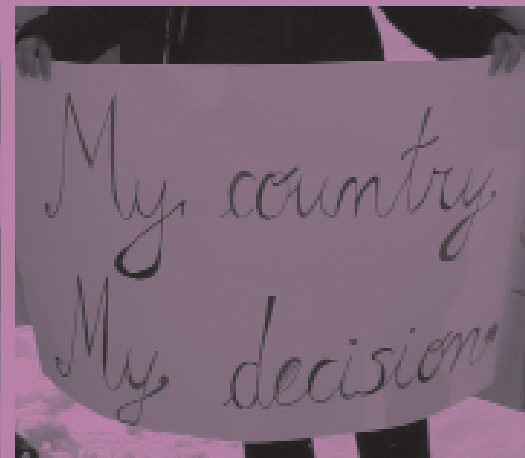




Kosova Women's Network
Serving, Protecting and Promoting the Rights of Women and Girls

Annual Report 2007



Prishtina, Kosova

Our Mission

KWN supports, protects, and promotes the rights and interests of women and girls throughout Kosova, regardless of their political beliefs, religion, age, level of education, sexual orientation, and ability. KWN fulfills its mission through the exchange of experience and information, partnerships and networking, advocacy, and research.

Kosova Women's Network Annual Report 2007

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Kosova Women's Network Annual Report 2007

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A Message from the KWN Executive Director

Dear KWN members, partners, and friends,

Since 1999, each time I arrived at a European airport, a similar scenario would play out: I would hand my "UNMIK travel document" to the officer at the immigration passport control desk. She or he would look perplexed and ask, "What document is this? From which country do you come?" and began typing away at the computer. I, like my fellow citizens, would wait for several minutes as the officer searched and searched, attempting to verify that such a document could exist. Finally, the officer would exclaim loudly, "Ah-ha! I found it! You are category 'XXX'!"

If you come from an established state with widely recognized travel documents, you cannot imagine the feeling of not having an identity; of trying to explain to people internationally the place from which you come; of waiting for weeks to receive a visa for business travel and having embassy officers accuse you of attempting to immigrate when you have a letter of invitation from high level decision-makers in the state to which you are traveling; of international organizations labeling you refugee number "xxxxxxx" so you can receive aid because you have been physically forced out of your home; of being from a place called XXX.

On 17 February 2008 the citizens of Kosova celebrated the birth of our new state. Many of us had tears in our eyes, as we danced and sang in the streets for more than three days. Finally we have a name: Kosova! Finally we have an identity. Finally we are one step closer to a peaceful future for our country and the region.

Women contributed much to this day. During the 1990s, they risked their lives traveling across borders to advocate loudly for Kosova's independence. Women explained the conflict to high level international decision-makers not in political language, but so they could understand what it meant for people to live in an oppressive state.

After the war in 1999, women continued to advocate to decision-makers for Kosova's independence and to help put in place Kosova's laws, the Constitution, and new state systems. Members of the Kosova Women's Network

(KWN) contributed to building a strong advocacy network that could voice women's concerns to international and local decision-makers.

Even though we were denied a seat at the negotiation table regarding Kosova's final political status, through groups like the Women's Peace Coalition and Regional Women's Lobby for Peace and Security, women in Kosova and the region joined forces to bring a women's perspective into political discussions. We continually wrote letters and held meetings with high level decision-makers like negotiator President Martti Ahtisaari and UN Security Council delegations.

We at KWN know that much work remains. We must continue to monitor the implementation of existing laws and the functioning of institutional mechanisms. We must continue to hold our elected representatives accountable to their promises. We must continue to monitor the new European Union mission to Kosova (EU-LEX) to ensure that its representatives better implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security than did its predecessors, UNMIK. Together with women in the region, we must continue to be a voice for peace in South East Europe.

I wish to thank KWN members for their continued dedication to the network and its struggle to ensure women's voices are heard. I appreciate greatly the ongoing support and contributions of KWN board members. I also thank our financial supporters who trust our work and the methods we use. We at KWN look forward cooperating with you for another active, successful year.

Sincerely,

Igballe Rogova

A Message from the KWN Chair of the Board

Dear KWN members,

Several years of work, dedication and engagement have passed, since the establishment of the Kosova Women's Network. We have walked together along our joint path toward our common goal to advance women's involvement in a democratic society, offering an alternative voice and supporting the interests of the citizens of Kosova, nationally and internationally.

As Chair of the Kosova's Women's Network Board, I am honored to congratulate the citizens of Kosova for their newly independent state. Women's general and individual engagement, organized through networks such as KWN, contributed significantly to this day.

This report describes the strategic objectives and activities of KWN in 2007. In addition to KWN's ongoing work to build its capacity as a network, special achievements were made in the direction of international networking, in lobbying for Kosova's independence, and sharing information regarding gender equality and gender integration initiatives in the region and beyond. The report also details activities in KWN's three programmatic areas: women's participation in decision-making and politics; women's health; and challenging various forms of violence against women.

As Chair of the Board, I would like to thank you for trusting me to represent your interests through this position, and I invite your mutual cooperation and continuous support to the network. I would also like to express my gratitude to everyone who contributed to this report. Especially, I would like to thank the financial supporters that trust and respect the network. We appreciate their continual support and efforts to meet the needs of KWN member organizations.

Respectfully,

Belgjzare Muharremi

KWN Objectives

- I. Ensure equal, effective and active participation of women and girls in Kosova's political, economic, and social development;
- II. Improve women's human rights in all spheres of life in Kosova;
- III. Improve and increase cooperation among women's groups and organisations in Kosova, the region, and internationally;

About this Report

This report is divided into five sections according to the five areas in which the Kosova Women's Network (KWN) worked in 2007. First, KWN continued its efforts to build the capacity of the network and to better serve KWN member organizations through regular members' meetings; the formation of work groups comprised of members working to address common issues of interest; publishing its quarterly newsletter "Kosovar Women's Voice"; involving its Board of Directors in decision-making; initiating implementation of the KWN Ethical and Accountability Code; and hosting a visit from the Global Fund for Women. Second and closely related, KWN remained committed to international networking and information sharing. KWN shared information locally and internationally; informed visiting student groups about Kosova's political situation and the position of women; and supported KWN representatives, including members, to attend various international conferences.

The third section details KWN's efforts to increase women's participation in politics and decision-making: supporting peace-building efforts in South East Europe; bringing Kosovar women's concerns to the attention of European decision-makers; presenting recommendations for UN Special Envoy for the Future Status Process for Kosovo Martti Ahtisaari's plan for Kosova's political status; ongoing cooperation with women political leaders; sharing information about United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security on KFOR military bases; monitoring implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Kosova; releasing letters, strategic planning, and cooperating with the Women's Peace Coalition; advocating with the Regional Women's Lobby for Peace and Security in South East Europe; supporting citizens' declaration of independence; educating voters about the new electoral system; monitoring electoral candidates' campaign promises for future advocacy efforts; and participating in a symposium on shaping the future of Kosovar and Serbian women in Vienna.

The fourth section focuses on combating trafficking and violence against women: raising funds for the "Every Monday" play about women's attitudes about and role in society; and supporting shelters and efforts against gender-based violence in Kosova. Finally, the fifth section describes KWN's efforts to improve women's health: supporting improved access to reproductive healthcare for women; and assisting the Kosova Center for Fighting Breast Cancer Jeta/Vita in addressing breast cancer.

Overall, this report serves to inform our members, partners, supporters, and friends of our activities and achievements in 2007. If you seek additional information please contact us or visit our website: www.womensnetwork.org.

Building the Capacity of KWN & Serving Our Members

KWN Held Its Fourth Annual Membership Meeting

On 9 December 2006, KWN held its fourth annual meeting at Restaurant "Hani i 2 Roberteve" in Prishtina, in which network members, KWN staff, partners, and supporters participated. During the meeting, KWN staff presented the network's main activities in 2006: KWN continued to build its capacity as a network; participated in local, regional and international meetings; cooperated with and advocated to the government; and cooperated closely with international organizations. KWN members evaluated KWN's work in 2006. At the end of the meeting, KWN held a raffle and three KWN members won prizes.

KWN Members Created the Network's 2007 Strategy

Soon after the fourth annual membership meeting, network members strategized regarding KWN priorities for 2007. Members established working groups to discuss the KWN 2007 strategy, which had three objectives: 1) to empower women's participation in politics and decision-making; 2) to improve women's health; 3) to combat the trafficking of women and girls. KWN members specializing in these areas divided into working groups on these three issues to create and implement strategies for KWN.

The KWN working group on addressing the trafficking of women and girls decided to focus on prevention and providing direct help to victims of trafficking. Organizations working with trafficking victims continued to provide direct assistance, and organizations specializing on awareness-raising led campaigns toward prevention. The working group discussed the role of the network in addressing trafficking, potential supporters for their activities, to which institutions they should advocate at the local and central level, and standard procedures for action, especially in rural areas.

The KWN working group to empower women in politics and decision-making focused on ways to support women's involvement in politics and decision-making. They discussed projects to empower women in politics, activities with men and women voters, and how to organize advocacy campaigns to empower women in politics and decision-making at the municipal and national levels. They also discussed ways to implement the National Action Plan for the Achievement of Gender Equality in Kosova, Law for Gender Equality, Election Law, and gender equality mechanisms.

The third group focused on improving women's health, especially women with disabilities, women affected by war, and elderly women. The group discussed how to create a network of organizations with similar interests; provide training and advice related to health; advocate for institutional support for all health services; and push for local institutions to support member organizations' work. The main goals of this group were to organize campaigns to raise awareness about women's health and to advocate for the implementation of legal mechanisms that protect women's health.

The three working groups were involved in organizing and carrying out the programs and activities described later in this report.

KWN Organized Four Bimonthly Meetings

KWN bimonthly meetings provided a forum for members to receive updates on KWN programs, exchange information and experiences with each other, and initiate joint activities. Four meetings were held in 2007 on 5 February, 2 April, 4 June, and 10 September.

KWN Published Its Quarterly Newsletter

KWN continued to publish "Kosovar Women's Voice" newsletter. Four issues of the quarterly newsletter contained information about KWN and its members' activities. The newsletter was widely distributed both electronically and in hard copy in three languages: Albanian, Serbian, and English.

KWN Involved Board Members and There Were Changes to the KWN Board

The KWN Board met twice in 2007, on 13 April and 29 September. The KWN Executive Director was also regularly in contact with KWN Board members, providing updates via e-mail and telephone, as well as seeking advice as needed.

In the fall, Naxhije Bucinca resigned from the position of the Chair of the Board, and the other board members accepted her resignation with a statement. Belgjzare Muharremi replaced her as the acting Chair of the Board until the new election at the KWN annual meeting in December.

KWN Members Started to Implement the KWN Ethical and Accountability Code

In 2006, KWN members adopted the KWN Ethical and Accountability Code. The document sets standards of accountability and transparency for KWN members. The code includes six basic principles: Mission and Program, Good Governance, Human Resources, Financial Transparency and Accountability, Civic Responsibility and Partnerships, and Networking. Most importantly, the code is meant to assist members with building their capacity as organizations towards a sustainable future. KWN members signed an agreement to implement the code and began work toward incorporating the principles within the code into their work.

In November 2007, KWN representatives began visiting KWN member organizations with an application to help members evaluate progress made toward implementing the code this year. Many members have filled out applications and prepared the accompanying documentation, as stipulated within the code. In early 2008 an evaluation committee comprised of five stakeholders elected by KWN member organizations at the annual meeting will evaluate if members have met at least 30 percent of the code in 2007, a pre-requisite to remaining a KWN member in 2008. KWN prepared the Ethical and Accountability Code in Albanian, Serbian, and English, in order to further explain the code to members, future potential members, partners, and potential donors (supported by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation).

KWN Hosted a Visit from the Global Fund for Women

In April, a representative from the Global Fund for Women visited Kosova. KWN members organized meetings throughout Kosova where members could learn more about the Global Fund for Women and the support it had available for women-led organizations in Kosova. Following the meeting, the Global Fund for Women's internationally circulated newsletter had an article on women's organizations in Kosova. Member organizations have since received grants from the Global Fund for Women.

International Networking & Information Sharing

KWN Continually Shared Information Locally and Internationally

KWN provided information via its website and email communication to researchers, writers, and activists around the world. For example, KWN was in regular correspondence with The Advocacy Project, which posted blogs and articles about the work of KWN and its members. Further, KWN representatives sat for numerous interviews by journalists from RTV21, RTK, KTV, *Lajmi*, *Express*, *Koha Ditore*, *Teuta* magazine, Radio Dukagjini, Radio Kosova, Television Opinion, a Finnish daily paper, women's magazines in Spain and France, Austrian and Swedish daily papers, Swedish channel eight, and Swedish channel one. KWN representatives also were interviewed by international organizations like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. KWN shared information especially about women's efforts to participate in negotiations concerning Kosova's final status, the position of women in Kosova, and inter-ethnic cooperation.

Two Groups of International Students Visited KWN

On 15 December 2006, students from the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratization based in Venice, Italy visited KWN. The university cooperates with students from the University of Prishtina to visit Kosovar institutions and KWN each year. During the meeting they discussed Kosova's current political situation and the status of women in Kosova. Also, on 20 February 2007, another group of students from the University of Toronto, Canada visited KWN. The group was impressed by the role women's organizations played in Kosova before, during, and after the war.

A KWN Representative Attended a Regional Conference on Women's Activism

On 14-16 June, KWN representative Advije Gashi from member organization Norma Lawyers' Association attended a regional conference entitled "Women's Activism – experiences and good practices in the post-war period" in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina organized by the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka (HCA). The conference aimed to analyze the legal and actual position of women in peace and development processes; share positive and negative experiences; and recommend future activities. During the conference, women-led

organizations from the region presented examples and shared experiences of joint activism, regional cooperation, and women's contribution to peace-building and resolving post-war conflicts. Advije Gashi presented the mission and activities of KWN at the conference. She also shared information about Kosovar women's efforts to integrate minorities in Kosovar society. Participants also discussed gender stereotypes in the media and the editing policies of journalists. Participants were surprised to learn that some media in Kosova are led by women, Gashi said.

Nobel Women's Initiative Held Its First International Women's Conference

The Nobel Women's Initiative's First International Women's Conference entitled "Women Redefining Peace in the Middle East & Beyond" took place in Galway, Ireland from 29-31 May. Eighty women's rights activists from 30 countries were invited to the conference, including KWN Executive Director Igballe Rogova. Activists from around the world, including ex-political prisoners, founders of international rights organizations, disarmament experts, journalists, and the most promising emerging activists joined the discussions, which aimed to deepen the understanding of how the private and public dynamics of violence against women, particularly in the Middle East, intersect. Further, they argued that solutions must therefore reflect a far more integrated approach.

The Nobel Women's Initiative was established in 2006 by sister Nobel Peace Laureates Jody Williams, Shirin Ebadi, Wangari Maathai, Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Betty Williams, and Mairead Corrigan Maguire. Six women representing North and South America, Europe, the Middle East and Africa, decided to bring together extraordinary experiences in a united effort for peace with justice and equality.

KWN Participated in a Seminar on Gender Evaluation Methodology and Information and Communication Technologies

On 19-21 October, two KWN representatives participated in a regional Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM) seminar in Sarajevo, organized by One World Platform for Southeast Europe (OWPSEE) with support from the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and ZaMirNet. The seminar aimed to discuss matters related to women's rights with a special focus on integrating gender into Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). The conference resulted in a new regional online network, through which conference participants planned to share information regularly.

The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation Held a Regional Meeting

On 2-4 November, the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation (KtK) held a regional meeting in Albania. Since KtK cooperates with local women's organizations that generate projects themselves on the basis of the needs in their society, they gathered their partner organizations from Kosova and Albania to discuss women's concerns and how KtK can contribute regionally to addressing these issues. Participants divided in two working groups: women in decision-making and violence against women. During working groups, women from Kosova and Albania discussed causal factors influencing these issues and how they could cooperate regionally. They also discussed future regional campaigns.

A KWN Representative Spoke about UNSCR 1325 in Vienna

Vepror Shehu, Director of KWN member organization Medica Kosova, attended a conference in Vienna on United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security where she presented the work of KWN and other Kosovar women's organizations toward implementing the resolution.

Increasing Women's Participation in Politics & Decision-Making

Women Acted: KWN Supported Peace-building in South East Europe

On 19 April, at the "Summit of Women for Sustainable Peace in South East Europe," the Regional Women's Lobby for Peace and Security in South East Europe, including women politicians and civil society representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, and Kosova, met in Vienna. During the meeting, they discussed the political situation in their countries and how women could influence peaceful solutions to political conflicts in the region. Participants created a strategy for 2007. The summit concluded with a statement written by the Regional Women's Lobby, which they sent to the United Nations Security Council. The declaration stated:

The Lobby expresses its grateful support to Ahtisaari's proposal on the future status of Kosovo; the Lobby encourages the Security Council to guarantee that the new resolution on Kosovo recognizes the right to human security for all women and men as the foundation for sustainable peace in Kosovo and the region; the Lobby welcomes the higher standards set by Mr. Ahtisaari's proposal on the protection of the rights of all ethnic and religious communities and their full integration in Kosovar society, and; the Women's Regional Lobby recognizes the right of displaced citizens to return to Kosovo, and that the Government of Kosovo should support their integration.

KWN took the responsibility for organizing the logistics and proceedings of the Regional Women's Lobby meeting, with financial support from UNDEF and UNIFEM.

KWN Brought Women's Concerns to European Decision-makers

During a conference in Berlin, entitled "Roadmap to 1325: Gender Perspective in the European Union (EU)" on 4-6 May, KWN Executive Director Igballe Rogova described the struggles women faced in Kosova while advocating for the United Nations Mission in Kosova (UNMIK) to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. She recommended that the future European Union (EU) mission to Kosova learn from the successes and failures of UNMIK. In particular, she called for the EU mission to involve Kosovar women in all decision-making processes.

KWN Presented Recommendations following Ahtisaari's Plan

On 7 May, KWN Executive Director Igballe Rogova spoke at a seminar organized by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) in Sweden on the subject "Kosovo: its road toward independence." She spoke after UN Special Envoy for the Future Status Process for Kosovo Martti Ahtisaari presented his proposal on the future status of Kosovo to high level European decision-makers attending the seminar.

Rogova presented Kosovars' efforts to integrate Serbs in Kosovo, including the work of the Women's Peace Coalition that brought together Serb and Albanian women activists starting in 2006. She said politicians in Belgrade were encouraging Serbs in Kosovo not to integrate and were manipulating Serbs. She provided the example of the representative of the Serbian delegation ordering the Serbian community not to cooperate with Albanians. In conclusion, Rogova voiced her concern for peace activists in Serbia who have received threats daily from the Serbian government. Threats came after they publicly supported independence for Kosovo. She recommended that the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs pressure the Serb government to condemn such threats and ensure the security of activists in Serbia.

Among the people present at the seminar were ambassadors from Russia, Serbia, and Albania; representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden; Ann-Sofie Nilsson - Chief of the Swedish Office in Kosovo; representatives of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), various Swedish organizations; and members of the Serbian and Kosovar Diasporas.

KWN Continued Cooperation with Women Political Leaders

In 2007, KWN cooperated with governmental institutions in various ways. On 23 March, the Women's Caucus of the Assembly of Kosovo invited representatives of the network to a roundtable on the subject "Women and Elections." The roundtable sought to identify ways for women in civil society and politics to cooperate, as well as to discuss Kosovo's Election Law.

In April, the Agency for Gender Equality in the Office of the Prime Minister held a meeting where it presented a Memorandum of Understanding. The document outlined the rights and obligations for official cooperation between non-governmental organizations and the Agency for Gender Equality. On 24 May, KWN signed the initial document and soon after signed a Memorandum of Understanding, which outlined concretely the scope of cooperation between KWN and the Agency. Throughout this process, KWN held ongoing talks with representatives of the

Women's Caucus in the Assembly of Kosovo.

KWN representatives also participated in a meeting organized between government officials and non-governmental organizations. As a result of this ongoing coordination, the Minister of Public Services publicly recognized and supported the work of civil society organizations, particularly women activists.

In May, officials from the Ministry of Public Services issued Administrative Instruction Nr. 2007/03 on "The measures for achieving gender equality in institutions of the public administration." KWN welcomed the instruction, which signaled the government's willingness to support the improvement of the position of women in Kosovo.

During the elections, KWN cooperated with the Women's Caucus and women Members of Parliament to discuss how women in civil society could support women in politics to reach voters during their pre-electoral campaigns. For this and other aspects of its cooperation with women in politics, KWN received support from UNIFEM.

KWN Shared Information about Women, UNSCR 1325 on KFOR Military Bases

In July, KWN started a series of informational sessions on KFOR military bases. KWN staff provided information about Kosovar society, women in Kosovo, and UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security. KWN visited the Finnish, Swedish, and Irish KFOR camps two times each.

At the Finnish camp, Shehindere Dedushi from Flaka, a KWN member organization working in the area, presented the problems confronting citizens in Lipjan. The meeting provided space for networking and gave KFOR representatives a local contact to which they could refer relevant cases encountered during their patrols. At some camps KWN showed the documentary "Who's Security?", used under the kind permission of the producer, Crossing Bridges. The film examines human security issues facing women and UNSCR 1325 implementation in Kosovo. The film served as a catalyst for interesting questions and debate. Since 2000, KWN advocated for KFOR to include women activists as trainers for KFOR troops arriving in Kosovo. Through such sessions, Kosovar women activists could debunk prejudices about Kosovar women, raise awareness about UNSCR 1325, and address other critical issues like links between KFOR bases, prostitution, and the trafficking of women. Yet, prior to July 2007 only one visit had been arranged to a Swedish KFOR base in 2005, following advocacy efforts on behalf of the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation. The new round of informational sessions on KFOR bases occurred thanks to the efforts of Carl Henrik Assargard, former political advisor at the KFOR Multinational Taskforce Headquarters who arranged the informational series.

KWN Monitored UNSCR 1325 Implementation in Kosova

Starting in June, a KWN research team interviewed key figures from Kosovar public life to document and assess the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Kosova. Their research included interviews with local politicians, civil society activists, UNMIK staff, and other leading figures. The research attempted to determine if the resolution on women, peace, and security, passed by the UN Security Council in 2000 and applicable to all states, has been implemented in Kosova over the past eight years. The resolution covers areas such as the inclusion of women in decision-making and peace-building, efforts to mainstream gender awareness into peace-keeping missions, and the protection of women and girls from gender-based violence during and after conflict.

Professor Lynne Alice of Deakin University in Australia coordinated the research. Since working at the University of Prishtina from 2001 to 2003, she has returned to Kosova many times to assist with various civil society and university initiatives. She spent two months overseeing the research carried out by the local research team: Dafina Beqiri, Albana Lumi, and Ali Misimi.

Elizabeth Carolan, an intern from Ireland, also assisted with the research. The research was supported by UNDEF and UNIFEM.

Zena Zenama undertook a similar research project in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Lynne Alice and members of the research team traveled to Sarajevo in September to assist with the final stages of data collection there. On the seventh anniversary of UNSCR 1325 on 31 October, the executive summary of the report was widely distributed via email. KWN released the final report on 5 December in Prishtina at the Grand Hotel.

The KWN research team (clockwise from left corner): Elizabeth Carolan, Dafina Beqiri, Albana Lumi, Ali Misimi, and Lynne Alice.



The Women's Peace Coalition Continued to Issue Letters

The Women's Peace Coalition (WPC) was founded in 2006 by KWN and Women in Black Network Serbia (WiB) in the context of negotiations concerning Kosova's political status. WPC is an independent citizens' initiative founded on women's solidarity that crosses national, ethnic, and religious borders, barriers, and divisions. On 12 February, the Women's Peace Coalition (WPC) sent a letter to Mr. Ahtisaari, the UN Envoy in Charge of the Negotiations on the Future Status of Kosova, to remind him, the negotiation teams, and the international community of essential points to consider during the negotiations. For all WPC letters, see the KWN website.

The Women's Peace Coalition Drafted Its Future Plans

On 29 March, the WPC strategic group met at KWN's office in Prishtina. During the meeting, the group discussed the coalition's previous activities. They also analyzed the impact of recent political developments in Kosova and Serbia on activists in the respective countries. The coalition formulated its strategy and activities for 2007, which included ongoing coordinating meetings, preparing materials that promoted the coalition, and preparing a documentary film on the work of WPC. RTV21 offered to produce this documentary film free of charge.

The coalition also planned to further support networking between women's organizations in Kosova and Serbia and to continue international advocacy. During the meeting, UNIFEM representatives offered support and pragmatic suggestions for future coalition activities. UNDEF financially supported the meeting.

WPC Held Its Second Annual Conference: "Through Women's Solidarity to a Just Peace"

More than sixty women activists who represented Serbian and Albanian organizations from Kosova and Serbia gathered in Struga, Macedonia on 31 August through 3 September for the second annual Women's Peace Coalition (WPC) conference, entitled "Through Women's Solidarity to a Just Peace." Osnat Lubrani from UNIFEM, Stasa Zajovic from Women in Black Network Serbia (WiB) and Igballe Rogova from KWN opened the conference. During the first panel, Stasa Zajovic outlined the importance of a feminist approach to transitional justice, and Milos Urosevic gave specific examples of how WiB had supported transitional justice processes by visiting war survivors and monitoring judicial processes against war criminals, among other initiatives. Following Vepore Shehu's discussion on justice for women who suffered sexual violence, Nexhmije Fetahu presented potential challenges women in civil society might face in supporting transitional justice. Working group discussions elaborated upon the panelists' speeches.

In the evening, coalition members participated in a street performance in Struga's town center. Curious tourists and local citizens stopped to watch the performance, which symbolically asked if taxpayers' money would be better spent on food and assistance than on military spending. While some WPC members acted in the performance, others held signs in support of peace and discussed handouts with onlookers.

On the second day, Haya Shalom from Women in Black Israel, Marija Perkovic, Jasmina Mitrovic, Mima Rasic, Igballe Rogova, and Flora Macula spoke about women's solidarity, peace, and security. Participants then brainstormed concrete actions WPC could undertake in the next year. One of the outcomes included plans for WPC members to visit Serb enclaves in Kosovo. Following the successful street performance the prior evening, activists also hoped to increase the visibility of WPC and women's efforts toward peace across national and ethnic boundaries via street performances throughout Kosovo. Serb members of WPC expressed their interest in visiting Kosovar communities especially affected by war like Suhareka and having Albanian women share their personal experiences of the past in Serbia. Participants emphasized the importance of sharing



and documenting personal histories of Albanians and Serbs as part of a transitional justice process. The conference report, to be released in early 2008, will outline concretely their plan of action and include the full conference proceedings.

The conference built upon the foundation established during last year's conference, which focused on trust-building and increasing coordination and cooperation among Serb and Albanian women's organizations in Kosovo and Serbia. Kosovar and Serbian activists were joined by special guests from around the world, including representatives from the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, UNIFEM, the Urgent Action Fund, and Women in Black Israel. UNDEF and UNIFEM supported the conference.

As per the conference recommendations, toward increasing the sharing of information between activists in Kosovo and Serbia, KWN sent contact information about its member organizations to the Women in Black Network – Serbia immediately after the conference. In November, KWN sent its first bimonthly statement regarding the security situation in Kosovo to Women in Black in order to inform them regarding the latest political and security developments.

The Regional Women's Lobby Made Women's Priorities Heard Internationally

The Regional Women's Lobby (RWL) for Peace and Security in South East Europe wrote three statements in 2007, and KWN took an active role in distributing these statements locally and internationally. A KWN representative also served as the contact person in Kosovo for further questions and interviews in regards to the statements. On 19 April, RWL wrote a letter to members of the UN Security Council, requesting a meeting with the UN Security Council fact-finding mission set to visit Prishtina and Belgrade that month. As a result of the letter and following strong advocacy efforts on behalf of UNIFEM, RWL members were invited to an informal meeting in Prishtina with the UN Security Council fact-finding mission where they advocated for international support of Ahtisaari's proposal on the future status of Kosovo, encouraged a new resolution on Kosovo's political status, and recommended that women be more involved in future political talks, as per UNSCR 1325, among other issues.

On 20 April, RWL wrote another letter that called upon the Republic of Serbia to present censored documents. Then, on 7 September, RWL issued a statement calling for support of women candidates in Kosovo's national elections. All statements are available on the KWN website: www.womensnetwork.org.

Citizens Declared Symbolically Kosova's Independence

On 23 July, citizens demanded that a date be set for the resolution of Kosova's political status. The demonstration in Prishtina resulted from meetings held by an ad-hoc coalition of local civil society groups, including KWN. The coalition had formed to coordinate action following the prospect of further delays in negotiations when the UN Security Council decided to continue negotiations after the submission of Ahtisaari's plan. Gathered in front of the National Theatre, protesters declared Kosova independent in a symbolic gesture designed to pressure local and international decision-makers to not further delay the process.

Following their declaration, citizens danced in the streets. The event passed peacefully. The protest was organized to coincide with a meeting between the Kosovar government's delegation and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Washington, DC to discuss the political deadlock regarding Kosova's political status. The protest was attended by approximately 200 people and received wide media coverage in Kosova and abroad.



Citizens dance in the centre of Prishtina after declaring Kosova's independence.

KWN Educated Voters about Women Candidates and the New Electoral System

In November, KWN cooperated with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and UNIFEM to educate voters about the new election system in Kosova and women candidates running for office. KWN member organizations arranged for meetings attended by more than a thousand citizens representing all ethnic groups throughout Kosova. During meetings, KWN members provided tips for using the new open list electoral system, as well as distributed a publication with information about women candidates, prepared by the Centre for Training and Gender Studies. KWN representatives also appeared on local media talks shows to explain the electoral system.

KWN Monitored Election Campaign Promises

Since 1999, Kosovar political leaders have used Kosova's final political status as an excuse for failing to meet citizens' every day needs. Once Kosova's political status is decided, the numerous social issues plaguing Kosovar society will percolate up (e.g., high unemployment, bad roads, inconsistent electricity, and water). Politicians will no longer be able to hide behind a United Nations administration for their failure to meet the needs of citizens living in Kosova. At the same time, the elections in November employed an open list electoral system, through which citizens elected individuals rather than political parties. The new election system further enabled citizens to hold decision-makers accountable. Now citizens have the power to monitor how individual elected officials, as well as political parties, are meeting their needs and following through with promises made during the electoral campaign.

In October and November 2007, with support from the Balkan Trust for Democracy, KWN began monitoring the promises politicians and political parties made to citizens in the media during their pre-election campaigns, as well as collecting political parties' platforms. In the future, KWN will use these to help citizens hold elected officials accountable to their promises.

KWN Participated in Vienna Symposium

A representative of KWN, KWN member organizations, and Kosovar women experts representing various fields attended a symposium entitled "Shaping our European Future - Networking of Serbian and Kosovar Women" in Vienna on 5-6 November 2007. Women from Serbia and Kosovo split into working groups to discuss issues including "Education – Strategies for Developing a European Identity," "Media – Strategies for Conflict Prevention and Reconciliation by Changing the Image of the 'Other'," and "Economic and Social Affairs – Strategies for Enhancing Women's Participation." Conference participants presented their recommendations to Austrian Federal Minister for European and International Affairs Ursula Plassnik and international decision-makers at the end of the conference.

Combating Trafficking and Violence against Women

"Every Monday" Launched Campaign

On 8 March, at ODA Theatre the campaign against violence against women was launched with a play by Italian playwright Sara Bogatti entitled "Every Monday at 1:30 pm" sponsored by MAMACASH. KWN helped raise funds for this bestselling play, also among the most produced shows in Italy on women's issues and their attitudes toward their role in society. The one-act play portrayed three intellectual women who met each week to discuss what it is like to be a woman in modern society. All successful career women, they still faced various professional and personal problems while working with male colleagues.

A light comedy, the play communicated its message easily and universally, beyond cultural or national boundaries. The play was completely produced by women: Director Burbuqe Berisha, Assistant Director Shota Bukoshi, Stage Designer Rozafa Basha, Costume Designer Iliriana Loxha-Basha, Make up Labinote Geci, and cast members: Ilire Vinca-Çelaj, Anisa Ismaili, and Arberesha Grabovci-Nixha.



Anisa Ismaili and Ilire Vinca-Çelaj perform debut of "Every Monday" at KWN Annual Meeting 2006.

KWN Supported Shelters and Efforts against Gender-based Violence

During the second part of 2007, KWN was actively involved in a project entitled "Providing Security, Promoting Health: Combating Gender-Based Violence in Kosovo," supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Kosovo lacks the necessary infrastructure to support women and children suffering from gender-based violence. The existing shelters that protect victims of violence lack sufficient financial support for providing adequate healthcare to victims, adequately protecting them, and assisting with their reintegration into society. In addition, there is a lack of consistent coordination among all actors dealing with gender-based violence.

KWN became involved in this project to help increase financial support for shelters as well as to support the establishment of specific systems of cooperation among shelters, so as to better protect and assist persons suffering from violence. Through this six-month project supported by UNFPA, KWN provided direct support to four shelters in Kosovo. KWN partners for this project held regular coordination meetings, during which they worked to establish specific procedures and standards of operation for shelters, as well as to troubleshoot and discuss key issues affecting shelters.

Through this project, KWN in cooperation with its partners, conducted exploratory research on the extent of gender-based violence in Kosovo and its potential relation to women's reproductive health. The research, the first of its kind in Kosovo, aimed to provide the most up-to-date information available on this issue, as well as to pose policy recommendations for KWN's media/advocacy campaign. KWN will use the recommendations from the research to advocate to the relevant institutions for regular support for shelters, as well as other policy recommendations identified through the research. The research report is available in English, Albanian, and Serbian on the KWN website.

KWN also organized a media campaign to raise awareness about the problem of violence against women in Kosovo. KWN and its member organizations worked to reach women and men in rural and urban areas with information about gender-based violence and its impact on reproductive health. KWN member organizations played an important role in making this project successful by participating in the coordination meetings, establishing standards for shelters, participating in the research, and/or organizing aspects of the public information campaign.

Improving Women's Health

KWN Supported Improved Access to Reproductive Healthcare for Women

Through the aforementioned UNFPA-supported project, KWN provided direct support to Medica Kosova. With these funds, Medica provided health services to women in rural areas, as well as breast cancer screening. The KWN media campaign and discussions with citizens organized in each region also discussed breast cancer and other serious health issues confronting women. Further, through this project funds have been made available to shelters to provide better healthcare services to women residing in shelters.

KWN and the Kosova Center for Fighting Breast Cancer Jeta/Vita Initiated the Fight Against Breast Cancer

The Kosova Center for Fighting Breast Cancer Jeta / Vita (KCFBC) with support from KWN organized a campaign in March to raise awareness among women and society regarding a significant health problem, breast cancer. Unfortunately, Kosovo lacks exact data on this disease, but evidence from other countries in the region suggests that one in nine or ten women suffer from breast cancer. Cancer represents the most common random cause of mortality among women.

While the number of reports of breast cancer has increased in Kosovo, the conditions for prevention, early detection, and treatment are extremely limited. Kosovo lacks elementary conditions for fighting breast cancer: an Oncology Institute with qualified medical personnel and necessary equipment; the institutional and social organization for offering treatment; and support for these institutions and programs.

KCFBC and KWN wrote a letter and requested a meeting with the Prime Minister and Minister of Health to call for the establishment of a National Strategy for Combating Breast Cancer; finalization of the construction of the Oncology Institute and making it operational; and more serious engagement of policymakers and the government, especially considering the threat breast cancer poses to so many women. On 8 March, KWN and KCFBC organized a petition signing, encouraging citizens to call for the implementation of these requests. In addition, KWN and KCFBC representatives appeared in televised debates and roundtables on this topic. KWN also advocated for public service announcements to be shown on national television stations. KOHA Printing House, the Kosova Red Cross, and all media supported this campaign.



Citizens sign a petition calling for the government to establish a strategy for combating breast cancer and to finish the oncological institute.

KWN Board of Directors

The KWN Board of Directors in 2007 were:

Board Chair - Naxhije Buçinca (Women Veterans of Education)
Behar Selimi (Kosova Police Service)
Belgjzare Muharremi (Open Door)
Besim M. Kajtazi (Ministry for Public Services)
Delina Fico (Public Administration, Albania)
Marte Prenkpalaj (Motrat Qiriazhi)
Vjosa Dobruna (Radio Television Kosova)

During the KWN Annual Meeting in December, members elected the new Board of Directors for 2008 (left to right, top to bottom):

Nazlije Bala (UNDP - WSSI)
Board Chair - Belgjzare Muharremi (Open Door)
Arjeta Rexha (Gender Training and Research Centre)
Besim M. Kajtazi (Ministry for Public Services)
Veprorre Shehu (Medica Kosova)
Behar Selimi (Kosova Police Service)
Marte Prenkpalaj (Motrat Qiriazhi)



KWN Permanent Staff Members

Igballe Rogova – Executive Director
Aida Dergurti – Program Manager
Besa Shehu – Finance Manager
Alba Loxha – Information and Outreach Manager

Project Staff in 2007

Nicole Farnsworth – Consultant and Researcher
Aida Dërguti – Project Coordinator
Besa Ahmeti – Project Coordinator
Adelina Berisha – Researcher
Mimoza Gashi – Researcher

Dafina Beqiri – Researcher for UNSCR 1325 project, Project Coordinator for KWN Code of Conduct
Linda Gusia – Media Campaign Consultant
Lynne Alice – Head of Research on Implementation of Resolution 1325
Ali Misimi – Researcher for UNSCR 1325 project
Albana Lumi – Researcher for UNSCR 1325 project
Remzije Asllani – Project Coordinator
Elizabeth Carolan – Intern (June-August) from Ireland

KWN Annual Audit Report



KOSOVO WOMEN'S NETWORK (KWN)
RRJETI I GRUPEVE TË GRAVE TË KOSOVËS (RRGGK)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To: EXECUTIVE MANAGMENT OF KOSOVO WOMENS NETWORK (KWN)
PRISHTINA

We have audited the costs and supplementary financial data of Kosovo Women's Network (KWN) expresses in EUR, for the period January-December 2007. These financial statements and supplementary financial data are the responsibility of the project's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the aforementioned financial information based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the reporting forms are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the reporting forms. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the proper accounting and reporting of the data on the financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial information present fairly, in all material respects, the costs as of Kosovo Women's Network December 31, 2007 and the results of operations in accordance with International Standards of Accounting and Kosovo Standards of Accounting.

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XHEMAIL SYLA
Auditor i Licencuar
Licensed Auditor
Xhemail Syla

Prishtina,

06 April 08

KWN Financial Report 2007

Donators	Projects	Remaining from 2006	Received	Spent / Expenses	Remaining
1 RBF	KWN Capacity Building	1,637.37	22,276.68	22,664.68	1,249.37
2 BTD	Good governance through educating voters		14,717.79	8,330.80	6,386.99
3 KTK	Strengthening KWN's Capacity for Advocacy		28,593.00	27,610.00	983.00
4 MAMA CASH	"Every Monday" theater play		11,900.00	11,900.00	0.00
5 OSCE	Why Vote?		25,780.00	25,139.22	640.78
6 OSCE	Voter Education Campaign to rural areas		3,300.00	3,300.00	0.00
7 SDC	Relations and Advocacy Project		8,400	8,400.00	0.00
8 UNDEF (2007-2008)	Women Networking for Peace and Regional Stability		137,609.80	102,049.21	35,560.59
9 UNFPA	Protecting health combating violence		108,981.32	89,960.64	19,020.68
10 UNIFEM	Regional Women's Lobby Meeting in Vienna		8,200.00	8,200.00	0.00
11 UNIFEM (2007-2008)	Empowering women in decision making and increasing good governance through educating voters		9,600.00	6,000.00	3,600.00
12 Urgent Action Fund	Citizens Public Manifestation		3,600.00	3,430.00	170.00
Total		1,637.37	382,958.59	316,984.55	67,611.41

KWN Financial Supporters

In 2007, KWN programs and activities received support from:

Balkan Trust for Democracy (BTD)
 Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation (KtK)
 Mamacash
 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
 Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF)
 Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
 Urgent Action Fund (UAF)
 United Nation Democracy Fund (UNDEF)
 United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
 United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Distribution of Expenditures

Type of Expenditure	Amount	Percent
Salaries for Staff	47,573	12%
Direct support to member organizations	112,051	29%
Programs and activities	155,728	41%
Amount remaining for continued activities	67,608	18%
Total	382,960	100%

Future Programs

On 28-29 March 2008, members of the KWN Board of Directors, Advisory Board, and staff gathered in Tirana, Albania to create KWN's strategic plan for 2008 – 2010. The meeting resulted in a strategic plan that KWN will follow for the next three years. KWN will maintain the same organizational goal (mission) statement and similar strategic objectives. KWN has clarified the programs that will contribute to each of these objectives, as well as the specific activities under each program.

KWN's first objective will be to "Ensure equal, effective and active participation of women and girls in Kosova's political, economic, and social development." The first program under this objective is "Increasing women's participation in politics and decision-making," which will include the following activities: Monitoring the implementation of mechanisms towards the achievement of gender equality, including UNSCR 1325; Advocacy towards increasing women's participation in drafting and implementing security policy; and Coordination and cooperation meetings with political parties. The second program, "Empowering voters," will include: Assisting voters with advocacy campaigns in ten municipalities; Establishing a telephone hotline and email account for voters to submit recommendations and complaints to political leaders; and a media campaign. For these activities, KWN plans to cooperate closely with the Agency for Gender Equality, the informal group of women members of parliament, and the Kosova Police Service.

KWN's second objective will be to "Improve women's human rights in all spheres of life in Kosova." The "Improving women's health" program will involve: Medical examinations of women in rural areas with Medica Kosova's mobile clinic and support for the Kosovar Center for Combating Breast Cancer's campaign against breast cancer. The second program, "Decreasing trafficking and domestic violence," will include: Support for the Kosovar Coalition Against Family and Sexual Violence; Establishing a National Action Plan against Domestic Violence in coordination with the Agency for Gender Equality, Women's Safety and Security Initiative, and UNDP; and Advocating for, assisting with drafting, and later monitoring the implementation of the Law against Domestic Violence together with the Agency for Gender Equality and Informal Group of Women Members of Parliament.

According to its third objective, to "Improve and increase cooperation among women's groups and organisations in Kosova, the region, and internationally," the program "Increasing women's involvement in regional peace-

building," involves: meetings, advocacy, an annual conference, involvement in transitional justice processes, and awareness-raising as part of the Women's Peace Coalition; Regional networking, especially in cooperation with Macedonian women's organizations; and Visiting the Kosovar Serb community. The program "Strengthening the capacity of the network" will include: Continued publication of KWN's quarterly newsletter "Kosovar Women's Voice" and annual reports; Monitoring the implementation of the KWN Ethical and Accountability Code; Organizing a donors meeting to introduce donors to the areas of expertise of members fulfilling the Code; Translating the KWN website into three languages and adding more information about member organizations; and Providing services to members, such as support in fundraising, translation, and organizational development.

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