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**Kosova Women's  
Network**

**Annual Report 2010**



# **Kosova Women's Network Program and Activities Report 2010**

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## **THE KOSOVA WOMEN'S NETWORK MISSION**

The Kosova Women's Network (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.

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## **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; and
- III.** Improve and increase cooperation among women's groups and organizations in Kosova, the region, and internationally.

## KWN PROGRAMS

### 1. Increasing Women's Participation in Politics and Decision-Making

Knowledge about the existing legal mechanisms protecting women's rights is important for empowering women's participation in politics and decision-making. Therefore, KWN carried out a campaign to raise awareness about gender equality mechanisms in Kosovo, supported by UNIFEM (KWN planned activity). This involved meetings with approximately 350 women in 12 municipalities and pamphlets with information about United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on Women, Peace and Security.

On the tenth anniversary of UNSCR 1325, KWN cooperated with the Ministry of Public Administration to co-organize a conference on women and security on 15 November. Although there has been some progress, women remain largely marginalized in decisions related to peace and security in Kosovo, participants said.

Related, in 2010, KWN continued to advocate for women's increased participation in the Security Sector. KWN focused particularly on women's inclusion in the Kosovo Security Council, though the Minister of Internal Affairs has only delivered promises to include more women. Following national elections in December, KWN will continue to advocate for women's involvement. One success in 2010 was that since KWN reacted to KFOR's portrayal of Kosovars in KFOR commercials, KFOR has consulted regularly with KWN in designing all KFOR advertisements. KWN also participated regularly in the Security Gender Coordination Group (SGCG), which consists of representatives of state institutions (Kosovo Police, Ministry of Interior, Prime Minister's Office), women's organizations, EUSR, EULEX, OSCE, NATO and UN agencies. The aim of this group is to increase coordination and information sharing between local and international organizations, involved in gender issues and to promote the strategic common actions that aim to increase the safety for women.

In May, the author of the first monitoring report on EULEX's work, Professor Helmut Krammer from University of Vienna, invited civil society experts including KWN to Vienna in May to write a policy paper for the EU regarding Kosovo's European future. The experience also enabled KWN to liaise with key stakeholders in the European Commission, European Union and European Parliament.

Towards increasing women's participation in politics, KWN also organized a meeting between Kosovar women and

European Member of Parliament and Rapporteur for Kosova Ulrike Lunacek on 28 November 2010. Women activists raised several issues, including the importance of freedom of movement and visa liberalization; empowering women's participation in politics and decision-making; the need to financially support women's organizations; and the involvement of women from civil society in future talks between Kosova and Serbia.

Finally, the 2010 work plan foresaw that KWN would research and write a progress report monitoring the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on the Resolution's 10th anniversary. However, due to funding and human resource limitations, this activity was postponed.

## 2. Empowering Voters

Although KWN planned to assist voters with advocacy campaigns in 10 municipalities, towards the end of 2009, KWN saw other organizations becoming more involved in similar initiatives, such as the Speak Up Movement (FOL!). Therefore, KWN decided to withdraw from this initiative and to focus on working just with women. KWN will continue to work with women voters, based on its future strategy. Even so, KWN did undertake two citizen-led advocacy campaigns in 2010.

First, KWN co-founded the NGO Council of 40 NGOs against the trial of Albin Kurti and for the investigation of the manslaughter of two demonstrators on 10 February 2007. The petition stating these two demands was signed by more than 75,000 citizens in Kosova and was delivered to the President of the Parliament, Dr. Krasniqi on 11 February 2010.

In a second advocacy initiative, KWN cooperated with its members and women in parliament to discuss maternity leave within the new Labor Law. KWN later joined a broader coalition of NGOs organized by the Union of Independent Trade Unions of Kosova, which drafted recommendations for the Law, accepted by the Parliament. As a result, the new Labor Law includes one year (rather than the proposed three-month) maternity leave.

### 3. Improving Women's Health

As planned, KWN supported the annual campaign against breast and ovarian cancer. During October, International Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Kosovar Center against Breast Cancer Jeta Vita partnered with other NGOs to organize an awareness-raising campaign. KWN supported these efforts by spreading information about their march. In terms of contributing to the preparation of the Kosova Strategy against Breast Cancer, although KWN consistently advocated for this, the Ministry of Health continually postponed drafting the Strategy. Budgetary limitations and the change of ministers may have been factors contributing to delays.

Finally, the planned assessment report on the capacity of the public health system pertaining to women's health was postponed for 2011 because KWN learned that some research already existed and needed to be reviewed prior to undertaking a new research initiative. Further financial resources also needed to be secured.

### 4. Decreasing Trafficking and Domestic Violence

As planned, KWN representatives contributed to the Law, Strategy and Kosova National Action Plan against Domestic Violence, which were approved by the Parliament of Kosova in September. KWN also supported the Coalition against Family and Sexual Violence, comprised of domestic violence shelters and Medica Kosova, through fundraising.

KWN also sought to raise awareness about the Law and Strategy against Domestic Violence. As a member of the Security Gender Coordination Group (SGCG), KWN participated in launching a campaign to mark the international "16 days of activism against violence against women: Say NO to Violence against Women" on 25 November. KWN organized the opening with songs against violence against women performed in front of National Theatre in Prishtina. Further, debates, discussions and the launch of a documentary on the new Law on Domestic Violence were organized throughout Kosova by SGCG.

In reaction to the murder of a pregnant woman during the 16 days against violence against women, KWN organized the lighting of candles on 3 December near the Grad Hotel in Prishtina. KWN condemned the violence through a press release.



## 5. Increasing Women's Involvement in Regional Peace-building

In 2010, KWN continued its networking and cooperation with women's organizations in the region. Some activities included:

- On 23 April, KWN attended the tenth anniversary of the Centar za Zenske Studije in Croatia.
- On 6-8 May, KWN attended a regional conference organized by Kvinna till Kvinna (KtK) in Becic, Montenegro on "Reaching out for change – a place for exchange, networking and inspiration."
- In June 2010, KWN was involved in the Regional Women's Lobby for Peace, Security, and Justice in South East Europe conference in Macedonia on women and peace-building in the Western Balkans.
- On 25-26 September, KWN participated in Women's 2nd Regional Conference, which focused on "Women's Empowerment in local decision-making," organized by Unë, Gruaja (One Woman) association in Pogradec, Albania. The topics discussed included: the role of women in society, gender equality, the quota for participation in politics, empowering women, and the image of women in politics and in social life. The conference aimed to contribute to women's empowerment in local decision-making during the Albanian local election campaign planned to start on 8 May 2011.
- KWN was involved in a regional effort to establish a Balkan Women's Court. The first meeting occurred in Sarajevo in October (since the KWN Executive Director was denied a visa, she participated via Skype), and the next meeting will occur in December. Efforts toward establishing the Court are part of KWN's next three-year strategy.
- On 22-23 November, KWN participated in a regional meeting "All together for women's dignity" organized in Shkodër, Albania by Gruaja tek Gruaja (Women to Women) association. The meeting focused on domestic violence and how the issue is covered in the media.
- KWN met with individual women's organizations in Macedonia to support their inclusion in women's regional networking.

In accordance with the 2010 work plan, KWN also continued to support and empower Serb women's organizations in Kosova through regular visits, mentoring, and the donation of some office equipment.

## 6. Strengthening the Capacity of the Network

Through this program, KWN:

- Published two of its quarterly newsletters, "Kosovar Women's Voice". KWN in 2011 will start distributing monthly e-news instead of a published quarterly newsletter. This means that news will be fresh and useful for readers. At the same time, it will cut down on KWN's environmental footprint as less paper will be used for printing.
- Published and distributed its 2009 Annual Report in three languages.
- Maintained the KWN website in three languages. KWN is still awaiting information from some of its members in order to post all members' profiles on the KWN website.
- Offered services to KWN members, including information, technical support, project proposal-writing assistance, making contacts with donors, negotiating with donors, and translation assistance. KWN also shared information on different functioning opportunities and events in Kosova and the region. During November and December, KWN began visiting foreign donors to discuss women's organizations' lack of funding and how donors should seek to fund women's organizations directly.
- Held its regular bimonthly membership meetings where members received information on KWN activities and other information. On 12th December 2009, KWN held its annual membership meeting, where KWN's work in 2009 was evaluated and the 2010 strategy was approved
- The monitoring of the implementation of the KWN Ethical and Accountability Code had to be postponed until 2011 due to insufficient human resources.
- Since KWN was unable to secure all informations for preparing a brochure with the profiles of KWN members and offering more services to members, these activities will be continued in 2011.

Other networking activities carried out by KWN in 2010 included:

- Informational sessions for students and journalists about the history of the women's movement in Kosova and the situation of women in Kosova (e.g., John Hopkins University, University of Ljubljana, the New School, University of Prishtina)
- Participation in a conference entitled "Civil society beyond the formal dialogue" On 11th February in Prishtina organized by the project for technical assistance for civil society (TACSO).
- Exchanged experiences with a group of organizations from Japan In February, supported by the Japanese Office in Prishtina.
- Attended a seminar "Storytelling – a good tool for outreach" organized by Kvinna till Kvinna in Stockholm on 11-13 October.

#### Other Activities

- On 23 December 2009, Igballe Rogova, KWN Executive Director, was among 16 women and institutions recognized for their distinctive contribution to the advancement of women's position in Kosovar society, awarded by the Women's Informal Group in the Parliament.
- On 8th March, the play "Never again" premiered at the American School of Kosova Theater. This play was based on the true stories of women who experienced the cruelty of the war, detailed in Sanije Gashi's book.

# KWN STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2013

## Introduction

The Kosova Women's Network (KWN) mission is to support, protect and promote the rights and the 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, partnership and networking, research, advocacy, and service.

Towards achieving its mission, KWN has compiled a Strategic Plan for 2011 through 2013. The purpose of this strategy is to guide KWN's work during this period. The strategy was compiled with input from KWN's membership, Board of Directors, and other key partners and stakeholders. It details KWN's strategy in four programmatic areas:

- I) Building the capacity of KWN;
- II) Women in politics and decision-making;
- III) Women's health; and
- IV) Domestic violence and trafficking.

These four programmatic areas of focus were identified by KWN members as four crucial areas where KWN needed to focus its attentions in the coming years.

In each of these areas, a section of the following report provides a brief overview of the present situation; some of the key challenges; KWN's long-term goal; the outcomes KWN strives to achieve within this timeframe; the expected results towards these outcomes; and the activities that will lead to the achievement of these results.

## Building the Capacity of KWN Program

### The Situation

Established in 2000, KWN was originally an informal network of women's groups and organizations from various regions in Kosova. Since its inception, KWN has developed into a network that advocates on behalf of Kosovar women, at the local, regional and international level. Representing the interests of women's organizations of all ethnic groups from throughout Kosova, KWN is a leader among civil society organizations in Kosova and the region. KWN cooperates regularly with other women's groups in the region both informally and formally through groups such as the Regional Women's Lobby for Justice, Peace, and Security in South East Europe and previously through the Women's Peace Coalition. In 2006, KWN became the first network of not-for-profit, non-governmental organizations in Kosova to adopt a code of conduct, setting an example of transparency and accountability.

While considering these accomplishments, as donors have begun to withdraw from Kosova, decrease their support, or allocate support to other issues, women's organizations are facing challenges in securing funding to continue their work. Many lack skills in fundraising within this new, more competitive context, English writing, and public relations. Much work remains towards fully implementing the KWN Code of Conduct.

### KWN's Strategy

Towards the long-term sustainability of KWN and its members, as well as the implementation of its Code of Conduct, the long-term goal of this program is: Women's groups and organisations in Kosova, the region, and internationally cooperate and communicate regularly, as well as organize around issues of joint concern. The expected outcome in 2011-2013, expected results, and activities contributing to these results are detailed in the following table.

Outcome	Expected Results	Activities
Ensure regular, continued communication and cooperation among KWN members and other stakeholders.	KWN members informed of other members' initiatives, KWN activities, funding opportunities, and other useful information.	<p><b>B</b>imonthly membership meetings.</p>
		<p><b>D</b>istribute information via email.</p> <p><b>A</b>nnual membership meeting.</p> <p><b>P</b>repare and distribute KWN annual report.</p> <p><b>C</b>oordinate activities between members.</p> <p><b>P</b>repare and distribute monthly electronic newsletter.</p>
	KWN, members and their work more visible to potential partners, women activists internationally, and potential supporters	<p><b>U</b>ppdate website and Facebook.</p> <p><b>P</b>ublish brochure with profiles of KWN members.</p> <p><b>D</b>istribute brochure to stakeholders KWN Book (2000-2010).</p> <p><b>L</b>aunch brochure and book with 10 year anniversary cocktail involving members and stakeholders, donors, partners.</p>

<p>Improve the institutional capacity of KWN and its members towards greater advocacy capacity, and long-term sustainability of the network.</p>	<p>More members more able to fundraise, plan effectively, and undertake effective advocacy initiatives.</p>	<p><b>Visit</b> members to identify their needs.</p> <p><b>Make</b> Membership Services Plan.</p> <p><b>Implement</b> membership services plan, including: fundraising, translation, training.</p> <p><b>Support</b> members advocacy efforts.</p> <p><b>Support</b> the functioning of Serb women's organizations in Kosova.</p>
	<p>Increased implementation of the Code of Conduct among members</p>	<p><b>Annual</b> monitoring of the implementation of the Code of Conduct.</p> <p><b>Hands-on</b> individual mentoring and group training to further Code implementation.</p>
	<p>Expert Working and Advocacy Groups within KWN (Health, Domestic Violence &amp; Trafficking, Politics) establish strategies for the future</p>	<p><b>Coordinate</b> their regular meetings.</p> <p><b>Support</b> them in identifying need (problem and stakeholder analyses).</p> <p><b>Support</b> them in developing strategies.</p> <p><b>Fundraising</b> to support their strategies.</p>

	Involve more young women activists in KWN.	<b>Meet</b> groups of girls and youth organizations to collect ideas and push for activities they can do.
Increase cooperation among women in the region towards transitional justice, peace and security.	Cooperation increased among women in the region and identification of common issues.	<b>Networking</b> and cooperation with women's organizations in the region; Sharing experiences, supporting each other, and building coalitions.
	Kosovar women's participation ensured in supporting the establishment of the Balkan Women's Court.	<b>Two</b> regional meetings towards the establishment of the Balkan Women's Court.  <b>Regular</b> communication and meetings with stakeholders to establish.

## Stakeholders, Partners and Supporters

Towards achieving these strategic aims, KWN foresees continued cooperation with its member organizations, Kvinna till Kvinna, the Mott Foundation, and UNIFEM. KWN members will be the primary beneficiaries of this program. Other women's groups in the region and citizens in general will be secondary beneficiaries.



## Women in Politics and Decision-making Program

### The Situation

Militarization and armed conflicts in South East Europe during the 1990s, coupled with the international post-war response, have contributed to women's marginalization in decision-making processes. Until 2008, internationals from the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Kosovar government were responsible for governing Kosova together. This made it difficult for KWN to hold either accountable to meeting women's needs. Further, despite the existence of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on Women, Peace and Security neither international nor Kosovar institutions ensured women's participation in the negotiations over Kosova's political status. KWN cooperated with women leaders and NGOs in the region to advocate for women's involvement, unfortunately to no avail.

After the declaration of independence of Kosova on 17 February 2008, circumstances have changed and KWN is slowly gaining more access to institutions through its advocacy initiatives, as evidenced by institutions addressing KWN's demands related to domestic violence and access to water. Even so, much work remains to further women's participation in politics and decision-making processes (indeed this is among KWN's priorities for the coming years, as discussed below).

Women hold 29% of the seats in the Kosova Assembly (35 of 120 seats).<sup>1</sup> According to the election law, a citizen has one vote for a political party and five for candidates from that party's list.<sup>2</sup> Kosova politics remain largely controlled by political party leaders, and all parties are led by men. The lack of democratization within parties and women's insufficient participation there translates into minimal impact on decisions made in the Assembly. Women are also disadvantaged in terms of political parties' resources. Recent proposals to do away with the quota mean

1. The quota that calls for at least 30 percent of both genders to be on each party's candidate list has contributed to this (Law on General Elections in the Republic of Kosova, No. 03/L-07, Art. 27). At: [http://www.assembly-kosova.org/common/docs/ligjet/2008\\_03-L073\\_en.pdf](http://www.assembly-kosova.org/common/docs/ligjet/2008_03-L073_en.pdf).

2. Article 110.4.

that enhancing women's public image as political leaders is all the more important towards ensuring they have seats in the Assembly in the future.

Of the 13 Assembly of Kosova committees, women chair only two, though they account for 31 percent of 144 committee members. No women are on the 11-member Committee on Foreign Affairs or on the Committee on Internal Affairs and Security. A woman was appointed to chair the Central Election Commission (CEC). However, none of the nine members of the Presidency of the Assembly are women, and the President's seven-member Cabinet has only two women.<sup>3</sup> A gender audit of the Budget of Kosova has never been carried out, though how resources are allocated is of crucial importance.

A women's caucus was established, in which all women deputies were to participate. The group was renamed the Women's Informal Group (WIG) in February 2008. It has a strategic plan, as well as a seven-member board with a representative from each of seven political parties. Besides meetings, they began monitoring the Law on Gender Equality, but the results of this are unclear. They have advocated jointly on a few issues, such as maternity leave within the Labour Law and for the appointment of women ambassadors by the Assembly. However, by and large WIG has faced numerous issues, the greatest of which has been politicization. Women from the ruling party, PDK, in particular have attempted to control decisions made within the Caucus.

Within the outgoing government, women led only two ministries: public administration and energy and mining. Two women were appointed as deputy ministers. Within ministries, women have tended to hold at least 30 percent of the positions, though they have been sorely under-represented in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (only 12%). Considering the numerous women involved in the agriculture sector, particularly women heads of households in rural areas, this is a crucial issue in need of address. The Agency for Gender Equality,

3. The Political Adviser for Legal Matters and Political Adviser for European Integration.

gender focal points, and municipal gender officers have lacked sufficient financial and human resources. The people appointed to these positions, often by male political party leaders, have tended to lack motivation in pushing gender issues at the municipal level and within the ministries. Further, there has been minimal political will to include them in decision-making processes, or for them to ensure women's voices were heard.<sup>4</sup>

Decentralization has meant the transfer of responsibilities from the national to the municipal level. In the future, decentralization will mean that municipalities gradually have much greater authority over the services provided to citizens. Further work is needed to build the capacities of people at the municipal level. Decentralization may impact the quality of services provided through the Centers for Social Work (CSWs), responsible for assisting with domestic violence and child custody. Health and education will both be municipal responsibilities. Considering that women have typically had little voice in municipal decision-making, empowering their voice within the municipality is crucial.

The quota is also applicable within the municipal assemblies. Only a couple municipal assemblies are led by women. At present, the newly elected women in municipalities have minimal support or experience.

Overall, political parties still hold great power in the municipal and national assemblies as well as the government. As few women hold leadership positions in parties, the extent to which women have been able to participate equally in democratic decision-making has been minimal. More work is needed both to empower women's participation and to encourage political parties to make space for women's involvement in decision-making processes.

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4. See KWN, Monitoring the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women Peace and Security in Kosova.

## Institutional Mechanisms

Numerous institutional and legal mechanisms exist towards increasing women's participation in politics and decision-making:

- The Constitution of the Republic of Kosova: Article 7.2 states that "the republic of Kosova ensures gender equality as a basic value for democratic development of the society, equal possibilities for the participation of women and men in political, economic, social, cultural, and other areas of social life."
- The Law on Gender Equality (2004) upholds the policy expressed in the Constitution and prohibits all direct and indirect forms of gender discrimination. In 2005, the law established the Office for Gender Equality as a specific government institution. Municipal Gender Officers have been appointed in municipalities and Gender Focal Points within ministries.
- The electoral law requires a 30 percent quota for women's participation in national and municipal assemblies.
- Towards implementing UNSCR 1325, KFOR and EULEX are required to train all personnel on issues related to gender, ensuring women's participation in decision-making positions, and ensuring that women's rights are respected and upheld in all of its work. The OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality (2004) promotes the prevention of gender discrimination in political, military, economic, environmental, and human fields of governance. UNMIK Office of Gender Affairs (OGA), established in 2000, seeks to integrate gender issues within UNMIK pillars and related offices and to monitor gender equality provisions.

## Key Challenges

Although women in Kosova have achieved some rights and political standing in the last 10 years, there are still three main obstacles preventing further progress: cultural norms on female and male societal roles, low levels of education, and lack of economic security (including property ownership).

One of the obstacles keeping women from participating equally and effectively in politics and decision-making is low level of education. Girls have a higher drop-out rate than boys after the first nine years of schooling.<sup>5</sup> This rate increases with girls who live in rural areas and girls of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian (RAE) communities.

Reasons attributed to the high dropout rate are: insufficient financial resources, a need to work, long distance to school, and insufficient number of schools.<sup>6</sup> Consequently, women are three times more likely to be illiterate than men and more likely to be unemployed. In 2007, the unemployment for women was 55.2% compared to 38.5% for men.<sup>7</sup> Looking at more recent statistics from the World Bank's World Development Index (WDI), only 26.1% of the overall labor force in Kosova were women in 2008.<sup>8</sup> Women are employed primarily in agriculture, wholesale/retail trade, education, health, and social work. Without economic security and financial independence, decision-making power is limited.

More specifically, additional problems contributing to women's unequal participation in political decision-making in Kosova include:

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5. KWN, Monitoring Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 in Kosova (2nd Ed.), Prishtina: 2009, p. 54.

6. KWN, Security Begins at Home, p. 71.

7. Ibid, p. 55.

8. World Bank, World Development Index.

- Women are virtually absent from decision-making positions within political parties, and political parties continue to have great control over all decisions that are made at the municipal and national levels. A cause is the unwillingness of many political party leaders to share power. As a result, women lack financial resources within their parties, as well as political support from party leadership. Women seldom dare to challenge the powerful party leaders, particularly within the leading political parties (PDK, LDK, AAK). At the same time, firm party alliances mean that women have faced difficulties in advocating for issues impacting women.
- Women politicians rarely meet with or collect feedback from their constituencies. A potential cause is that the women assembly members are often appointed by political leaders and they do not consider it their priority; rather many believe that only political party leaders have the right to meet with voters. Women assembly members also lack knowledge regarding what mechanisms could be used to gather input from constituencies. As a result, women and men voters tend to feel that politicians do not care about them or represent their interests.<sup>9</sup> This contributes to citizen apathy and may impact citizens' willingness to vote for women (or men). There is a need to improve and increase interactions between women politicians and voters/constituencies.
- Women politicians rarely have succeeded in pushing issues within the national or municipal assemblies, particularly issues that women would consider priorities. A crucial causal factor is the aforementioned lack of democratization within political parties. As a result of the current situation within political parties, women often lack courage and cannot influence the decisions made within parties. A further result is that women's priorities more generally tend not to be voiced within decision-making processes.
- No gender audit of the budget of Kosova has ever occurred. Ensuring finances are allocated to the issues that women consider most important is a crucial part of participating in the decision-making process. Why it has never been done is unclear, but a result is that women lack evidence and knowledge about how their

9. KWN and its members' conversations with rural women.

taxes are being spent and whether it is on issues that positively impact their lives.

- To date women have been largely excluded from negotiations concerning Kosova's political status, future, and other major peace and security issues. Kosova does not have a strategy for implementing UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, though its application is critical for Kosova. A causal factor, again, is the patriarchal culture that does not see women as political decision-makers, let alone as leaders in discussing security issues or issues of national importance. As a consequence, women have been denied a seat at the table in crucial negotiations regarding Kosova's political status. Thus, the special needs of women following the war have been largely ignored, particularly of those who suffered rape, the loss of loved ones, and significant financial losses. The issue of missing persons that has dire consequences for women also was not adequately addressed.

- Women do not comprise 40% of appointed decision-making positions in accordance with the Law on Gender Equality. Further women still depend largely on the quota in securing 30% of the seats in the Parliament and municipal assemblies. As the debates over amending the new Electoral Law illustrated, there is growing pressure from some political parties and the EU to do away with the quota. There is a need to encourage voting for women candidates, as well as appointing more women to decision-making positions. The causes of this problem are social norms in which women are seen as housewives and mothers rather than political leaders. Consequences include that women do not participate equally in decision-making processes and the Law on Gender Equality has not been implemented. As a result of the male-dominated government, there are few women in decision making positions at the municipal and national levels. Therefore, women's interests are seldom considered in the decisions being made.<sup>10</sup>

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10. For example, during a recent meeting with political leaders in one municipality, they told KWN, "yes, we need to work with the future mothers of our children." KWN had to correct them, noting that women play additional roles besides that of mother and not all women are mothers.

## KWN's Strategy

Considering these challenges, the long-term goal is: Women participate actively in politics and decision-making at the municipal and national levels. The expected outcome in 2011-2013, expected results, and activities contributing to these results are detailed in the following table. The expected outcome in 2011-2013, expected results, and activities contributing to these results are detailed in the following table.

Outcome	Expected Results	Activities
Women's participation in politics and decision-making in municipal and national levels increased and improved.	Gender Equality Advocacy Groups established and functioning in 5 pilot municipalities and at the national level.	<p><b>M</b>eetings with women politicians and political parties at the municipal level.</p> <p><b>M</b>eetings every two months with the Gender Equality Advocacy Groups.</p> <p><b>S</b>upport for the Gender Equality Advocacy Groups to advocate for at least 1 priority for women at the municipal level.</p>



Women's participation in politics and decision-making in municipal and national levels increased and improved.

Women in politics, women's NGOs, and women voters communicate and cooperate more regularly around issues women consider priorities.

**Meetings** between women in politics, NGOs, and women voters at municipal and national level

Public policies changed to reflect women voters' priorities.

**Research** on women's priorities to inform public policy proposals to municipal/national gov.

**Meetings** between women politicians and women voters to discuss women's priorities and plan advocacy strategies.

**Joint** advocacy involving women politicians, women's NGOs, and women voters.

Kosova Budget reflects more priorities advocated by women.

**Gender** Audit of Kosova Budget.

**Advocacy** based on gender audit of budget.

Women participate more in decision-making processes related to peace and security, as per UNSCR 1325

**Advocacy** for NAP on UNSCR 1325.

**Monitoring** NAP on UNSCR 1325.

**Advocate** for UNSCR 1325 implementation by international institutions in Kosova.

	More women elected and appointed at municipal and national levels.	<p><b>M</b>eetings between with women voters and women candidates for municipal elections.</p> <p><b>L</b>ocal media coverage of women candidates and politicians.</p> <p><b>M</b>eetings with political party leaders to advocate for more women to be appointed to decision-making positions</p>
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### Stakeholders, Partners and Supporters

The target group and primary beneficiaries will be women politicians at the municipal and national levels. Women voters in these municipalities will also be primary beneficiaries, as KWN will support politicians in meeting with women voters and advocating for women voters' priorities to be addressed. Secondary beneficiaries will include political parties who may experience party reform towards greater democratization within their parties, particularly at the municipal level; and men in politics who will learn more about the priorities of women and how these impact the society as a whole.

KWN's member organizations will continue to be key partners towards this long-term goal. This will decrease overlap in activities and strengthen women's voice; many organizations are often stronger than one advocating alone. Similarly KWN will also continue to communicate with other organizations that have similar aims. Towards achieving its strategic aims, continued cooperation with women politicians at the national level, namely the informal women's group, and at the municipal level will be crucial. KWN will also seek to cooperate with other key stakeholders like the UNIFEM, the National Democratic Institute, and the National Endowment for Democracy. Further support will be sought from UNDEF.

## Women's Right to Healthcare Program

### The Situation

Even though women make up half of Kosova's population, access to quality reproductive and gynecological healthcare is very limited. The public health system, financed by the Kosova Consolidated Budget, accounts for only 9.2% of government expenditures.<sup>11</sup> The annual per capita government expenditure in health is only 35 Euros, the lowest in Europe.<sup>12</sup> Women living in rural areas have also cited travel costs as a barrier to receiving gynecological and antenatal treatment. There is no budget for research and development.

The under-funded healthcare sector has a profound negative impact on women's health, resulting in a lack of general awareness regarding gynecological health, prenatal care, and breast cancer prevention. For example, 65% of women interviewed by UNICEF said they do not believe that any special food diet is necessary during pregnancy and 12.9% of respondents confirmed that they smoke during pregnancy.<sup>13</sup> This can have serious repercussions both for women and children as Raka reported in 2009:

Kosovo has one of the highest perinatal mortality (23 per 1,000 live births) and maternal deaths (7 per 100,000 live births) in Europe. It is of great concern that 40% of hospital mortality is among infants [...] Life expectancy at birth is the lowest in the region, with 69 years of expected life. The majority of deaths (53%) among population are from noncommunicable diseases (cardiovascular diseases, cancers), followed by neonatal deaths (28%) and deaths from communicable diseases (12%).<sup>14</sup>

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11. Lul Raka, National Background Report on Health Research for Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244), Prishtina: 2009, p. 10.

12. Ibid, p. 10

13. UNICEF, Antenatal Care in Kosovo: Quality and Access, Prishtina: 2009, p. 7.

14. Raka, p.11.

Between 2000 and 2007, 24 maternal deaths were reported by emergency obstetrics care facilities.<sup>15</sup> Deaths were attributed to pregnancy-induced hypertension, hemorrhage, obstructed labor, abortion-related complications, and other indirect causes.<sup>16</sup> These cases and statistics only confirm the urgent need for improving women's health in Kosova.

In addition to an under-funded health sector, traditional socio-cultural norms impact women's health in Kosova. Although abortion (and sometimes even gender selection)<sup>17</sup> is acceptable among married women, premarital sex and abortion among unmarried women are taboo topics. This has resulted in unsafe abortions and child abandonment by young mothers. Although values and opinions regarding premarital sex are undergoing a transformation, especially in large cities such as Prishtina, more attention is needed to sexual education and family planning.

### The Institutional Framework

There are several institutional mechanisms in place to help improve and strengthen Kosova's health sector overall, thereby improving women's health:

- The Committee for Health, Work, and Social Welfare in the Assembly of Kosova is the parliamentary committee responsible for monitoring the implementation of health related legislation and policies by the Government of Kosova.
- The Millennium Development Goals in health, agreed to by the Kosova government for 2005-2015 include: 1) Healthy start in life; 2) Improving the health of young people; 3) Improving mental health; 4)

<sup>15</sup>. Tengiz Asatiani, Assessment of Emergency Obstetric Care in Kosovo, Prishtina: 2008, p. 2.

<sup>16</sup>. Ibid, p. 2.

<sup>17</sup>. Discussions among KWN member organizations assisting women.

Developing human resources for health; 5) Reducing communicable and non-communicable diseases; 6) Institutional reforms; 7) Improvement of management in healthcare.

- The Reproductive Health Strategy and the Reproductive Health Law

### Key Challenges

- Some women, particularly those in rural areas, hesitate to receive annual obstetric gynecological exams because most gynecologists are male. Culturally, many women and men consider shameful allowing a man who is not her husband see a woman naked.
- The embarrassment surrounding gynecological exams holds true in receiving antenatal care.
- Because premarital sex is taboo, especially with girls, parents do not talk to their children about practicing safe sex. There is an absence of sexual education in schools for the same reason. Further, sometimes youth do not heed warnings from educators. Peer-to-peer sexual education and discussion groups have proven to be most successful.<sup>18</sup>
- There is a lack of breast and ovarian cancer awareness and education.
- The health sector is immensely under-financed, resulting in lack of medical equipment, scarcity of medical specialists, poor quality healthcare providers, and poor infrastructure of healthcare facilities (such as no elevators or heating).
- Limited access to family planning assistance and free/low-cost contraceptives.
- Women's health and access to healthcare is also impacted by domestic violence.<sup>19</sup>

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18. According to Caritas Luxembourg in Montenegro.

19. KWN, Exploratory Research on the Extent of Gender-Based Violence in Kosova and Its Impact on Women's Reproductive Health, Prishtina: Kosova, 2008.

## KWN's Strategy

Considering these challenges, the long-term goal is: Women have access to and are accessing affordable, quality healthcare. Kosovar women's organizations can and have helped this process by facilitating discussions surrounding the challenges discussed in the previous section. KWN and its members are committed to continuing to be proactively involved in researching issues preventing women from realizing their right to access healthcare; promoting public awareness about these issues; and advocating for an improved institutional response, namely an increased budget. The expected outcome in 2011-2013, expected results, and activities contributing to these results are detailed in the following table.

Outcome	Expected Results	Activities
Improve women's access to quality healthcare.	Research completed on the situation for women in public health institutions.	<b>Realize</b> research in partnership with organizations carrying out research.
	More women and girls are aware of their right and the importance of accessing healthcare; More women aware of how to detect signs of cancer.	<b>Health</b> education meetings with women.  <b>Media</b> campaign.
	The quality of health services improved.	<b>Support</b> the KWN health working group to advocate for improving the quality of health services (e.g., budget).

## Stakeholders, Partners and Supporters

The target group and primary beneficiaries will be Kosovar women, particularly those with limited access to quality healthcare services. Secondary beneficiaries will include citizens in general as society as a whole can benefit from improvements to the healthcare system in Kosova.

Again, KWN's member organizations will be key partners in carrying out these efforts. Considering UNFPA's mandate as the "lead agency in reproductive health in Kosova," it may also support KWN's efforts. Other potential supporters and stakeholders is the World Health Organization, American International Health Alliance (AIHA), Kosova's public health institutions, healthcare workers, and citizens who may support KWN's advocacy efforts in this area.

## Program against Domestic Violence and Trafficking

### The Situation

In KWN's Kosova-wide survey in 2008, approximately 43% of respondents had experienced domestic violence at some point in their lives.<sup>20</sup> Women were more likely to have suffered domestic violence: more than 46% of all women suffered domestic violence compared to 39.6% of all men. Domestic violence was attributed to the poor economic situation, high unemployment, alcohol, trauma from war, and a lack of education.

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20. KWN, Security Begins at Home, Prishtina: 2008, p. 2.

## The Institutional Framework

Multiple agencies, organizations, and legislation exist towards promoting the reporting of domestic violence cases, preventing domestic violence, and assisting victims of domestic violence:

- The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) with Recommendation 19 on Violence Against Women establishes principles of state responsibility to undertake adequate measures to combat domestic violence.
- The UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power sets basis of intervention and standards for authorities in responding to domestic violence cases. These measures provide the following to victims: judicial representation; information on the judicial process; judicial redress from the acts suffered; psychological and medical support; and shelter and assistance.
- The Criminal Code of Kosova (CCK) and Criminal Procedure Code of Kosova (CPCK) both define a number of criminal offences committed in a domestic relationship that may be considered domestic violence.
- The Kosova Police have a special unit against domestic violence. Domestic Violence Police Units (DVU) requires each station to have two trained domestic violence officers (usually a woman and a man) on-call 24/7.
- A new Law against Domestic Violence and National Action Plan against Domestic Violence have been approved in Kosova.

## Key Challenges

- Marriages usually end in divorce if violence is reported, especially if the reporting was done by the wife.



Women often lack sufficient financial resources for supporting themselves following divorce.<sup>21</sup>

- Women's poor financial situation is a common reason for granting child custody to the male perpetrator; the perpetrator's economic status takes precedence over consideration for the physical and psychological well-being of the child(ren). Awarding child custody to perpetrators may place children at grave risk of violence and dissuade women from reporting domestic violence.
- Delays are common within the court system in handing down verdicts and issuance of protection orders within the legally required timeframe.
- Reconciliation is preferred by courts and lawyers, but the return of victims to their prior dwellings have often proven ineffective.
- Patriarchal perceptions embedded in society run the risk of impacting judicial opinions and the course of proceedings.
- There is a lack of communication between courts and police. Courts rarely intervene when protection orders are violated and/or alimony is not paid. There are often delays, a lack of urgency, and insufficient follow up.
- Some prosecutors lack knowledge regarding domestic violence regulations.
- Protection orders are usually considered a substitute for initiation of criminal proceedings.

## KWN's Strategy

Considering these challenges, the long-term goal is: Women live a life free from trafficking and domestic violence. The expected outcome in 2011-2013, expected results, and activities contributing to these results are detailed in the following table.

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21. For more information about all of these issues, see KWN, More Than "Words on Paper"? The Response of Justice Providers to Domestic Violence in Kosovo, Prishtina, 2009.

Outcome	Expected Results	Activities
Improve the implementation of the trafficking and domestic violence legislation.	Increased implementation of the Law and Strategy for trafficking and domestic violence.	<b>Monitoring</b> implementation  <b>Awareness-raising</b> regarding the extent to which it has been implemented  <b>Advocacy</b> to further implement it
Increase public awareness about the legislation and how to seek assistance.	More citizens informed about the legislation, including men.	<b>Awareness</b> campaign

## Stakeholders, Partners and Supporters

The primary beneficiaries will be women and girls experiencing or at risk of domestic violence or trafficking. Institutions responsible for implementing the existing legislation related to trafficking and domestic violence will be targeted, including: the Kosova Police, Centers for Social Work, judicial system, Victims' Advocacy and Assistance Division, the Agency for Gender Equality, Legal Aid Bureaus, the Kosova Judicial Council, and EULEX. Additionally, citizens in general will be targeted towards increasing public awareness about the existing legislation and ways to seek assistance.

One trafficking shelter and six domestic violence shelters are operated by KWN members in Prishtina, Mitrovica, Gjakova, Peja, Prizren, and Gjilan. Further, women's organizations, including KWN members, create public campaigns raising awareness and encouraging reporting of domestic violence. KWN will continue to involve actively these members in implementing its strategy. KWN will also continue its cooperation with the aforementioned institutions. Supporters of these efforts may include the UNDP Women's Safety and Security Initiative and the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women.

## KWN BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010

The KWN Board of Directors met three times in 2010. Board members were also informed regularly regarding KWN activities via email or telephone. Five Board members' mandates end in 2010 and new members, nominated by KWN members, will be voted upon during the Annual Members' Meeting. The 2010 Board included:

Belgjyzare Muharremi - Board Chair - (Director, Open Door)

Arjeta Rexhaj (Gender Training and Research Center)

Ariana Qosja – Mustafa (Legal Expert)

Behar Selimi (Kosova Police Service)

Nazlije Bala (Activist for women's rights)

Shukrije Gashi (Partners Kosova)

Veprorre Shehu (Medica Kosova)

### KWN ADVISORY BOARD

The KWN Advisory Board offers expertise and advice to KWN based on their experience. The members are:

Besim M. Kajtazi (Ministry for Public Services)

Delina Fico (Public Administration, Albania)

Marte Prenkpalaj (Director, Motrat Qiriazhi)

Rachel Wareham – Independent Consultant

Vjosa Dobruna (Board of Radio Television Kosova – Activist for Human Rights)

## KWN STAFF MEMBERS IN 2010

Igballe Rogova  
Executive Director

Besa Shehu  
Finance Manager

Alba Loxha  
Information and Outreach Manager

Nicole Farnsworth  
Consultant and Researcher

Amy Chin  
Intern

Aida Dërguti  
(Part-time during December)

# KWN ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT

KOSOVO WOMEN'S NETWORK (KWN)  
REPUBLIKA E GJERANIT-VE GJERANIT-VE KOSOVAS (RKG/GK)

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To: EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT OF KOSOVO WOMEN'S NETWORK (KWN)  
PRISTINA

We have audited the costs and supplementary financial data of Kosovo Women's Network (KWN) expresses in EUR, for the period January-December 2010. 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, 2010 and the results of operations in accordance with International Standards of Accounting and Kosovo Standards of Accounting.

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Prishtine,

23 April 2011

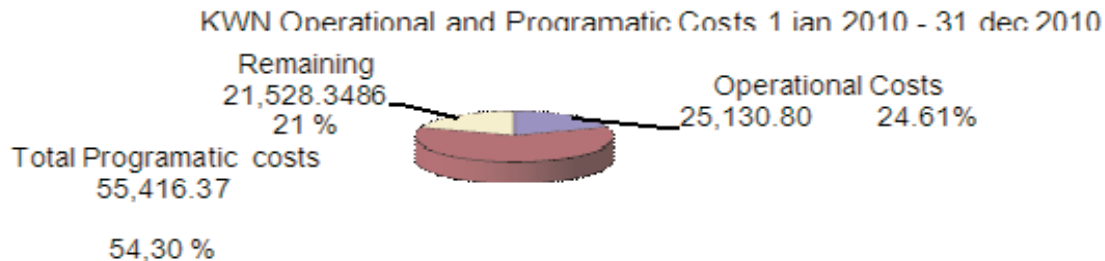


XHEMAIL SYLJA  
Auditor (sigil)  
Statutory Auditor  
044/156 921, Prishtine

## KWN FINANCIAL REPORT

Donor	Projects	Carried over from '09	Total income 2010	Spent 2010	Remai-ning
Kvinna till Kvinna	Strengthening KWN Capacity for Advocacy	600	32,005.00	29,501.61	3,103.39
Mott Foundation	Institutional Support for KWN	427.35		427.35	
UNIFEM Kosova	Increasing Awareness of Gender Equality Mechanisms in Kosova	2,478.17	4,410.00	6,888.17	
BTD	Citizens Initiative to Increase good Governance	17,791.40		17,791.40	
Urgent Action Fund	Support to Activist		3,110.59	3,110.59	
Mott Foundation 2010 - 2011	Institutional Support for KWN		28,714.41	12,832.05	15,882.36
Global Fund for Women 2010 - 2011	Documentary Film Production		10,542.59	8,000.00	2,542.59
Ministry of Energy	Publishing of the book		1,996.00	1,996.00	
<b>Total</b>		<b>21,296.92</b>	<b>80,778.59</b>	<b>80,547.17</b>	<b>21,528.34</b>

## OPERATIONAL AND PROGRAMATIC COSTS



Prgramatic Costs	54.30%
Operational Costs	24.61%
Remaining (project continues in 2011)	21.52%

### List of goods donated to KWN members:

1 Laptop DELL	1 Video camera FLIP
1 Monitor DELL	1 Voice recorder OLYMPUS
1 Laptop TOSHIBA	1 Printer HP 1018
1 Desktop DELL	1 File folder
4 Computers (without monitor)	1 Photocoy machine CANON
1 UPS	6 Months payment for internet
2 Office desk	5 Office chairs

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Kosova Women's Network  
Annual Report 2010

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ALBA LOXHA

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