

STRATEGIC PLAN 2019 - 2022



RWL REGIONAL WOMEN'S LOBBY IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE

Dedicated to empowering women in peace, security and justice



REGIONAL WOMEN'S LOBBY IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE (RWLSEE)

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Foreword from the Chair

“More women in decision-making and peacebuilding is likely to result in more peace, stability and prosperity” is a grounded assertion both in theory and practice. Underrepresentation of women in peacebuilding and democratic governance in the Western Balkans and beyond is not only unjust but also wrong. With women representing half of the world population and being a strategic asset to be invested for a better future, to work for empowerment of women is both inspiration and challenge.

With this motivation, the RWLSEE has been working hard to pursue its vision to build a just, peaceful, prosperous and Euro-Atlantic future for our, countries, region and beyond, with women at the heart of leadership, equal with men.

We will continue our work towards implementing our vision and, this is why the RWLSEE has developed this four years Strategic Plan 2019-2022, to ensure meaningful participation of women in political decision-making, peacebuilding, peace negotiating tables and gender responsive processes where women’s vision and needs are integrated.

Towards this overarching aspiration, the RWLSEE have set three strategic goals to work towards:

- 1) Fostering peace through women’s empowerment in decision making and peacebuilding
- 2) Building women capacities to become leaders, mediators and agents of peace
- 3) RWLSEE becoming leading regional women voice in peacebuilding

We consider that more women in decision-making, peacebuilding and negotiating tables can result in more sustainable outcomes. We urge that women should play a key role in the process of deciding on peace and implementing peace and ensuring that peace is sustainable. The time has come to bring ourselves at the forefront and lead the changes for a better world.

On the eve of the 20th anniversary of the Resolutions 1325 and the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform, impetus and readiness of governments should be demonstrated while their political will should be put in action for significant advancement of gender equality and comprehensive empowerment of women. International and regional organizations should respond more effectively towards these goals, as words and commitments are not enough.

It is time to move from papers and commitments into actions. Time has come for balance of power between women and men, ensuring a better future for all.

Dr. Edita Tahiri, RWLSEE Chair

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ABBREVIATIONS

RWLSEE	Regional Women's Lobby for Peace, Security and Justice in Southeast Europe
UNSCR 1325	United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325
UN	United Nations
ECA	Europe and Central Asia
CEDAW	The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CSW	Commission on Status of Women
RAWLM	Regional Academy for Women in Leadership and Mediation
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CSO	Civil Society Organization
MP	Members of Parliament
EU	European Union
HQ	Headquarters
RO	Regional Office
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SC	Steering Committee
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
WB	Western Balkans
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

1. ABOUT RWLSEE

Regional Women's Lobby for Peace, Justice and Security in South East Europe (RWLSEE) is a regional women peacebuilding and mediation organization founded in 2006, in aftermath of conflicts in Western Balkans and as such is a unique in the region and beyond. Founders and leadership of the RWLSEE are women leaders of politics and civil society from seven countries of the region who in close cooperation with UN Women have established the organization and inspirationally works for women's central role in building peace, reconciliation and Euro-Atlantic future of all Western Balkan countries. It operates in seven focus countries, Kosovo, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania and North Macedonia, from where its membership comes from.

RWLSEE's vision is to build a just, peaceful, prosperous and Euro-Atlantic future for our societies, countries and region, with women at the heart of leadership equal with men.

The mission of the RWLSEE is to empower women in political and peace processes for achieving sustainable and gender inclusive peace, security, justice, reconciliation, prosperity in Southeast Europe and European and Euro-Atlantic integration for all seven focus countries in the region, in the complex and challenging post-conflict setting of the region.

The RWLSEE considers that underrepresentation of women in peacebuilding and democratic governance in the Western Balkans and beyond is not only unjust but also wrong. The striking absence of women from formal peace negotiations reveals a troubling gap between the aspirations and the reality of peace processes. The case of Balkans is typically illustrative for the fact out of five peace processes to end wars and resolve conflicts in the process of disintegration of former Yugoslavia, there was only one women in peace negotiating table, who is the RWLSEE Chair. Therefore, we work for this reality to change in favor of gender balance. It's time to move from papers and commitments into actions.

RWL is committed to gender equality, empowering women and including a gender perspective in all political and peace processes in the region. The goal of RWL is to strengthen the women's leadership in peacebuilding and governances ensuring peaceful, stable and prosperous future in the region. Our goal is to have countries live side by side in equality and good neighborhood, in democracy, justice and reconciliation, while history of wars is put behind. RWL is dedicated to ensuring sustainable peace and security in countries and region through the process of European and Euro-Atlantic integration of the region.

Our work started under a very specific post-conflict conditions when women were put in sidelines of political and peacebuilding processes, despite their vital role and sacrifices in the movements for freedom, independence and democracy of countries in the region.

In over 13 years of our work, we succeeded to:

- influence significant changes in favor of women political empowerment in decision making and peacebuilding

- inclusion of women in democratic governance as well as in gender responsive policies and actions in our focus countries
- we supported peace and reconciliation through our ideas and actions, through providing platforms for inter-ethnic dialogues on reconciliation and ways of breaking the war legacy of inter-ethnic mistrust
- significantly contributed to the long-term development of peace-oriented societies by introducing legitimate process and institutions for effective conflict management.
- supported peace processes in the region and lobbied for meaningful participation of women including Vienna status talks and Brussels Dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia, Prespa Agreement on name dispute between Macedonia and Greece
- with our bottom-up approach supported by regional cooperation, we worked for localization of peacebuilding including mediation, as a foundation for sustainable and inclusive peacebuilding
- promote gender responsive rule of law, justice, security and economy as relevant pillars of democratic state building
- foster transitional justice and, seek international justice for conflict related victims of sexual violence in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.
- Promoting RWLSEE as a model of regional networking and cooperation in peacebuilding
- Working together with UNDP on Knowledge Product about RWLSEE titled “The Power of Women Organizing Across Borders: RWLSEE”

Today, RWLSEE is recognized as an effective model of regional cooperation among women in post-conflict time, which strives for women’s role and vision to be integrated in addressing gaps in state building and peacebuilding in the region, including gender inequality, unfinished peace, fragile democratic governance, fragile security and justice, incomplete transitional justice, incomplete normalization of neighborly relations, corruption, unemployment and other socio economic issues and slow pace of EU reforms.

It is inspired and works for WPS agenda and accelerated implementation of UNSCR 1325 and other relevant UN instruments for women’s empowerment. Its serves as a model of inspiration to be followed by women in pre-conflict, conflict and post-conflict in other regions in the world.

Our joint goal is to advance the WPS agenda as a global struggle for having women and men equal in decision making, governance and peacebuilding, guided by international platforms for empowerment of women, gender equality and women’s rights, including the UNSRC Resolution 1325 and other deriving resolutions, the Beijing Platform (1995), other relevant UN instruments such as CEDAW, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, European Policies on Gender Equality, National Action Plans.

A key strategic partnership between RWLSEE and the UN Women and precious support from other international partners and donors, including governments of Sweden, Finland and Norway and their respective embassies in Kosovo and lately UN Agencies in Kosovo, have been vital for our successful journey in past 13 years.

We will continue our work towards implementing our vision and, this is why the RWLSEE has developed this four years Strategic Plan 2019-2022, to ensure meaningful participation of women in political decision-making, peacebuilding, peace negotiating tables and, gender responsive processes where women's vision and needs are integrated.

Towards this overarching aspiration, the RWLSEE have set three strategic goals to work towards:

- 1) Fostering peace through women's empowerment in decision making and peacebuilding**
- 2) Building women capacities to become leaders, mediators and agents of peace**
- 3) RWLSEE becoming leading regional women voice in peacebuilding**

The RWLSEE's Strategic Plan for next four years has been formulated considering the context of changing global and regional trends. The process consultations were extensive inside the organization and with various stakeholders of the RWLSEE, including the UN Women, international experts, politicians/parliamentarians, international partners/donors, other UN Agencies operating in Kosovo. On this purpose, two strategic meetings were held, the Steering Committee and members of RWLSEE (17 November 2018 in Istanbul) and RWLSEE Strategic meeting (10-11 March 2019 in Prishtina). Important inputs came from the 2018 Istanbul Declaration adopted in the International Conference on Peacebuilding (16 November 2018 in Istanbul) organized by RWLSEE and UN Women with participation of the RWLSEE members, politicians and parliamentarians from the region, international representatives and experts, UN Women Kosovo, UN Women ECA, head of UN Team Coordinator Kosovo and Ambassador of Sweden in Kosovo.

VISION

RWLSEE's vision is to build a just, peaceful, prosperous and Euro-Atlantic future for our countries, region and beyond, with women at the heart of leadership equal with men.

MISSION

The mission of the RWLSEE is to empower women in decision making and peacebuilding for achieving sustainable and gender inclusive peace, security, justice, reconciliation, prosperity and European and Euro-Atlantic integration for all focus countries, in the complex and challenging post-conflict setting of the region.

CORE VALUES

- Believing in peace and dedicated to work for peace
- Respecting diversity and capacities of individuals and groups for peacemaking
- Building trust between people ensures reconciliation and lasting peace.
- Integrity is core value ensuring sincere cooperation and tangible results

2. CONTEXT

RWLSEE considers there is a real threat that growing insecurity, fragile peace and stability, weak democracy, governance, rule of law and weak economy in the region threatens to further increase vulnerability of communities and particularly women empowerment agenda on peace, security and justice. Recent years have also seen an increasingly complex interplay between some new security challenges such as geopolitical, extremist violence, increasing nationalism and migration, dangerous ideas of border change and land swap and serious delays in European and Euro-Atlantic integration of all six countries Western Balkan countries. It threatens setting back any developmental progress achieved in peace and stability in the region, with a disproportionate impact on people who are marginalized and suffer economic poverty and freedom of movement.

The unfinished peace in Balkans is a controversy between conflict drivers and peace drivers that make a current paradigm in the region. While the conflict drivers come from fragility of states in democratic, rule of law, economic terms run by corrupted and autocratic political elites, the peace drivers include human capital that are prone to integrity, idealism and good governance, however nowadays marginalized due to autocratic systems. This controversy makes it even more difficult for women to take up its deserved role in society and public life, despite the fact that women have shown to be peace drivers and their inclusion in public decision making is proved to help more peace and more effective governance.

The European and Euro-Atlantic integration of all six Western Balkan states is seen as peace project, while the reforms towards this goal as a transformational factor that will make states accepted to the Western family of Euro-Atlantic community. However, delays in integration and enlargement fatigue of EU have weakened peace and stability prospects while allowing space for nationalisms and extremisms to revisit in the region.

Some good developments include the Peace agreement between Macedonia and Greece on the name dispute, which is a significant step forward for peace and stability in the region and the European future.

After seven years of progress in the EU facilitated Dialogue on normalization between Kosovo and Serbia (2011-2017), we note with concern that this process has been stalled in last two years due to the fact that its concept of normalization of neighborly relations based on European principles has been challenged by ideas of border change and land swap harmful to peace and stability in the region, sponsored by presidents of two countries but categorically refused by Kosovo people and institutions and, Serbia's open minded forces from politics and civil society. Strangely enough, the EU facilitator has opened space for such discussions, thus violating the EU principles of good neighborly relations and regional cooperation. RWLSEE and women parliamentarians from Kosovo and Serbia in the Durres Regional Roundtable (September 2018) discussed and opposed such dangerous ideas through a joint public statement, whereas it supports the finalizing of the Peace Agreement between Kosovo and

Serbia under the EU facilitation and US support, in a way that it must contribute for peace and stability in Balkans and Europe.

On women issue, RWLSEE is concerned with situation of women which remain largely underrepresented in peacebuilding and governance, due to the lack of sufficient democratization of political parties or a different set of values between men and women which stands in a way of women political empowerment and keeps women far from decision-making. This because the general landscape is that men dominate politics and decision making and run the countries, whereas the women remain marginalized from man fight the war but also make the peace negotiations, we call for increased inclusion of women in political parties and call for more ethics in governance and visa-vie the gender balance.

Under such context, RWLSEE considers there are serious barriers for meaningful empowerment of women in decision making and participation in peace and political negotiating tables in the region, although women have been affected by wars in most brutal ways, gave their contribution for conflict resolution and peacemaking and, and in aftermath of wars continue to invest their capacities on peacebuilding and reconciliation. Instead of having progressive empowerment of women, serious drawbacks particularly in decision making and governance have been recorded in all countries in the region, while women representation in parliament of local assemblies have been kept intact due to the mechanism of quota. It indicates that women empowerment have undergone unstable development, including the fact that in five peace processes to end wars in the region women were dramatically marginalized where only one women was part of peace negotiating tables, that is the Chair of the RWLSEE. This despite the fact that women have played substantial and courageous role in the process of liberation and independence of new countries born out of bloody disintegration of former Yugoslavia.

The 20th anniversaries of the Resolutions 1325 and the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform are special opportunity to accelerate WPS agenda and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding and democratic state building in Western Balkan countries. Motivation and readiness of governments should be demonstrated while their political will should be put in action for significant advancement of gender equality and comprehensive empowerment of women. International and regional organizations should respond more effectively towards these goals, as words and commitments are not enough.

3. RWLSEE's STRATEGIC GOALS

To advance our mission to empower women in political and peace processes for more sustainable and inclusive peace in region and world, RWLSEE will seek to achieve three main strategic goals over the next three years.

3.1. Fostering peace through women's empowerment in decision making and peacebuilding

We consider that more women in decision-making, peacebuilding and negotiating tables can result in more peace, stability and prosperity. Our engagement in this mission integrates the 'multiple paths to peace and democracy.' We foster and mediate inclusive political and peacebuilding processes by ensuring the meaningful participation of women and other relevant stakeholders in inter-ethnic

dialogues, roundtables and international conferences. Our specific characteristic is that mediation we offer is of regional character, thus providing regional experience sharing (from our membership) in searching for solutions.

We believe that peacebuilding is a complex and long term engagement, thus we invest in long-term relationships of trust between individuals and communities with bottom –up approach, namely, through local peacebuilding and community building projects focused on municipalities of multiethnic composition, in Kosovo and other focus countries. (Localization of 1325)

We support peace processes and lobby for women inclusion in peace negotiating tables such as the Brussels Dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia facilitated by EU and supporting by US, by serving as track two process for bringing parties in dialogue, including the ongoing Dialogue between women parliamentarians from Kosovo and Serbia in support of Brussels Dialogue, which is taking place for many years.

We attach relevance to implementation of peace agreements. In this regard, strategic dialogues will continue between women representatives of different communities in the Serb majority municipalities in Kosovo, to build the confidence and increase the understanding and women's role in the EU facilitated dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia (Brussels Dialogue) with participation of Ms. Edita Tahiri, RWLSEE Chair, Former Minister for Dialogue for Kosovo and Chief Negotiator.

In efforts of political empowerment of women, we provide different platforms of discussion on various topics / problems in our countries and regional common problems. This include high level regional roundtables and international conferences to address problems in good governance, security, justice, economy and social aspects, corruption and organized crime that stand in the way of progress and European integration of countries in the region. These platforms are specifically designed to address issues affecting women and aims at enhancing women's role in peacebuilding and political leadership. Likewise, we mobilize women to be active in helping overcome certain crisis in the region, by bringing to the table women politicians from both position and opposition, such were the cases in Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, etc.

Results and recommendations produced through inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue meetings and international conferences, are disseminated to relevant institutions of national, local and international levels for influencing more effective laws, policies and other peacebuilding and state building initiatives at the national and regional levels. Our efforts in partnership with national and regional peacebuilding institutions have contributed significantly to the long-term development of peace-oriented societies by introducing legitimate process and institutions for effective conflict management.

3. 2. Building women capacities to become leaders, mediators and agents of peace

In the next phase, we will promote peace by providing capacity building education and trainings to young women in order to have them be agents of peace. Our strategic goals is to transform women potential into an important force for peacebuilding in the implementation of the WPS agenda through investment in inter-generational partnerships in young people's communities.

Through capacitating them to be able to propose and implement adequate and inclusive solutions for sustainable peace, we will enhance the women participation in peacebuilding and political leadership. This because we believe that women possesses comparative advantage in peace promotion compare to men, particularly in terms of being more dialogue oriented, less confrontational and less corrupted. The relevant research and data from practice informs that more women in peace processes and governance more likely is the sustainability of outcomes. The specificity of capacity building program of the RWLSEE rests in the fact that trainings and lectures

will be provided by prominent women politicians and experts from various relevant areas from the region and internationally, which will be enriching in terms of regional experience sharing.

The RWLSEE program on capacity building will be implemented through the Regional Academy for Women in Leadership and Mediation (RAWLM) for which conceptual preparations has been taking place in past two years. The idea and Concept document of the Academy has been presented to various international donors and its under their review, hopefully gaining support given its mission to prepare women peace-builders of tomorrow and leaders for changes we need for the better future.

In our efforts of providing capacity building, the RWLSEE has this year launched the program on training local women in mediation and peacebuilding in Kosovo (in March 2019), in cooperation with UN agencies and UN experts. The program will be initially covering Kosovo with one year timeline, with plans of expanding geographically in other focus countries as per needs assessment and, be a long term program dependent on resources.

RWLSEE with its high profile women membership, who have experienced wars and were affected by wars and plays significant role in peacebuilding in the region, present worthwhile experience in peacebuilding programming and training. We must gather expertise and lessons from their experiences and share it with young generation of women leaders so to prepare them to be leaders of change. It is particularly vital to ensure that promising generations of women peace-builders from Western Balkans build their expertise on existing knowledge and practice.

RWLSEE also plans to share this knowledge in publications as well as provide database of peacebuilding efforts that have been taking place in the Western Balkans with special focus on women's participation.

3.3. RWLSEE becoming a leading regional women voice in peacebuilding

RWLSEE will aim at becoming a leading regional women voice in peacebuilding. To have the greatest possible impact, RWLSEE will focus in the following directions:

- Strengthening performance and credibility
- Consolidating further the structure, expanding membership, strengthening secretariat,
- Increasing visibility,
- Exporting know how on regional women networking importance in peacebuilding and conflict management
- Increasing lobbying and advocating and partnerships with governments in region and international and regional organizations
- Increasing the coverage of the RWL SEE Secretariat and in each RWLSEE participating country - pilot countries: Bosnia & Herzegovina, Albania & Macedonia

4. RWLSEE's PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

4.1. Priority Objectives related to the Strategic goal # 1

Towards reaching the first strategic goal, which aims at fostering peace through women's empowerment in decision-making and peacebuilding, the RWLSEE key priority objectives will be:

1. Peacebuilding, trust-building, reconciliation and Euro-Atlantic integration of countries in the region through women empowerment

2. Women political empowerment ensuring leadership in governance and peacebuilding for consolidating state building and democratic governance.
 - Supporting women in decision making, peacebuilding and peace negotiations
 - Supporting women's meaningful in participation political parties and government
 - Women inclusion in negotiation process, women's inclusion in formal talks, implementation process and, other levels of track 2 diplomacy activities - as a key contribution for peace and stability in the region
 - Support for the EU mediated Brussels Dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia and ensuring meaningful participation of women in negotiating table
 - Economic empowerment of women - including gender responsive employment
3. Access to justice and transitional justice for women and from women in shaping lasting peace and contributing to justice and reconciliation
 - Lobbying and advocacy for international justice and conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) survivors and punishment of perpetrators, cases in Bosnia Herzegovina, Kosovo and Croatia
 - Combating domestic violence
4. Security reform through enhanced inclusion of women
5. Local peacebuilding and community building
6. Speeding up European and Euro-Atlantic integration of all countries for lasting peace and stability in the region
 - Women's engagement in accelerating EU reforms in countries
 - Women's enhanced role in addressing the challenges in politics and security - fragility of governance, corruption, unemployment, migration, geopolitical challenges and other negative phenomena
7. Lobbying and advocacy for WPS agenda and empowerment of women in Western Balkans
 - Meeting with high ranking officials in UN, EU, OSCE, national governments

4.2 Priority Objectives related to the Strategic goal # 2

Towards reaching the second strategic goal, which aims at Building women capacities to become leaders, mediators and agents of change, the RWLSEE key priority objectives will be:

1. Regional Academy for Women in Leadership and Mediation (RAWLM)
 - Establish the mobile Regional Academy for young women in leadership and mediation – as an important tool
 - Using innovative ways of supporting young girls' empowerment and participation, that have the potential for catalytic effects and peacebuilding outcome
 - Education and trainings to young women in order to have them be agents of peace.
 - Capacitating women as a potential important force for peacebuilding and state building within the implementation of the WPS agenda.
2. Local mediation training for local peacebuilders
 - especially women- and youth-led groups: both formal or informal civil society, community-based and grassroots organizations and networks, in particular those representing marginalized groups
 - Local mediation with regional support from RWLSEE and UN, capacity building trainings of women at community level
3. Training of trainer's program targeting young women and youth led groups

4.3 Priority Objectives related to the Strategic goal # 3

Towards reaching the third strategic goal, which aims at having the RWLSEE become a leading regional women voice in peacebuilding, the RWLSEE key priority objectives will be:

1. Strengthening performance and credibility
2. Consolidating the structure, expanding membership, strengthening secretariat and increase country coverage in each RWLSEE participating country to guarantee the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2019-2022.
3. Increase RWL visibility and public awareness through different local and regional initiatives and campaigns, , participation in media, providing regular editorials through the RWL website and other media products and strengthen the branding of RWLSEE
4. Exporting know how on regional women networking importance in peacebuilding and conflict management through engagement with universities and schools in the region and through participation in different international and regional events
5. Increasing lobbying and advocating and partnerships governments and international organizations for supporting RWLSEE and WPS agenda

5. HOW WE WILL ACHIEVE OUR GOALS

5.1. Presence in communities

RWLSEE maintains its operation in seven focus countries namely It operates in seven focus countries, Kosovo, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania and North Macedonia, from where its membership comes from. Through our membership in seven countries and established respective branches with highly prominent women from politics and civil society we have direct access and regular contact with the people who are dedicated and works for peace on daily bases as well as communities who are in need for reconciliation and interested to build social cohesion. Our outreach goes beyond our membership given the numerous civil society organizations are led by our members and belong to different NGO networks or national or regional levels. Most of our engagements are with communities in post conflict social reconstruction, in efforts of helping reconciliation and peace, while we also work and mediate in political crisis of countries which are not rare given the ongoing incomplete democratic, statebuilding and neighborly relation processes in the region. With particular focus we work to support the peace efforts between Kosovo and Serbia facilitated by EU aiming at normalizing peaceful neighborly relations processes. In this regard we facilitate for many years a second track peace dialogue between women politicians and parliamentarians from both countries, with regional approach, and with aim at helping final agreement be reached in a way that will contribute to lasting peace and stability in the region and allow for both countries become members of EU. Our projects depend on availability of resources and desire by those communities to continue working on the project.

5.2. RWSLEE responsiveness to its mission

The RWLSEE Chair and Steering Committee Members are primarily responsible for carrying out the mission of our organization, who are prominent leaders and passionate peace-builders. The entire membership of our organization is engaged in implementation of the projects and in particular to those project specific to their countries. The RWLSEE Coordinator is responsible in managing the projects and supporting the work of RWLSEE Chair, helped by an assistant with part time job. UN Women Office in Kosovo, since the establishment of RWL ,continues to provide core support for the

function of the RWL such as providing free of charge office space and covering the costs of RWL staff, even in absence of sustainable funds. The expertise of RWLSEE members for conflict resolution and peacebuilding is based on their practical work in the field as well as academic grounds and beyond that the vision and courage for forward looking changes needed for the Western Balkans countries be anchored in peace and prosperity where all people will live in democracy and equality without difference. Hence, the RWLSEE is well prepared for its responsibilities. We have a good understanding of the projects we undertake on women leadership in peace and governance, on mainstreaming gender in peacebuilding and public policies.

5.3. Networking and Partnership

Towards achieving its mission, the RWL seeks to mobilize support and engage in partnership nationally, regionally and globally with diverse strategic actors, including:

- UN Women remains the strategic partner on our path towards achieving the goals of the strategy.
- Strengthened partnership with key supporters, the Government of Sweden and embassy in Kosovo and other supports Finland, Norway and respective their embassies in Kosovo
- Women and men leaders, politicians and parliamentarians dedicated to the RWL cause
- Women's peace networks as well as youth networks
- National governments, local governments and regional actors
- Partnerships with local, regional and international media to enhance journalism skills and media train media professionals on gender sensitive reporting on WPS activities.
- International and regional organizations such as UN Women, other UN agencies, EU, OSCE, etc.
- Foreign countries and their embassies in Kosovo, where the RWLSEE headquarters are based
- Security actors, including national police and army, as well as regional actors such as NATO, EU, and UN peace keeping forces
- Justice actors, including national justice institutions as well as international actors, UN, EU
- Mainstream think tanks, experts groups focused on human rights, peace and security and inter-ethnic dialogue
- RWLSEE accomplishes its mission in cooperation with networks of partners at all levels, community level for implementation of projects and at national and international level for support on resource mobilization.

6. FUNDRAISING - CRITICAL FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR MISSION

Even after the 2015 Global Study on Women, Peace and Security identifying the lack of dedicated funding as the principle impediment to the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda, limited funding for WPS agenda remains the same.

Resource mobilization and increase on funding remains a critical issue and one that the RWLSEE faces. To sustain the goals and effective work of the RWLSEE the crucial factor remains the strategic partnership with UN Women as well as with our supporting partners Sweden, Finland, Norway and UN agencies. In next period, we will also carry out fundraising with other potential International Donors. RWLSEE deserve support because its role and mission in the Western Balkans has been effective in amplifying women voices for changes we need for ensuring peace, security, justice,

prosperity and Euro-Atlantic future for all seven countries. Women's empowerment and gender equality is a driver of peace and democratic governance. It can help overcoming the complex and fragile situation in the Balkans. Many problems are still pending over here, this including fragile political and security context in region related to unfinished peace, incomplete normalization of neighborly relations and insufficient progress in democracy, rule of law, economy, security, justice, respect for human rights, women rights and ethnic minority rights and other socio-economic issues and slow pace of EU reforms.

7. REFLECTION ON RWLSEE IMPACTS

RWLSEE has achieved many broad impacts, beginning with the simple fact that it could exist and develop despite national, ethnic and philosophical differences on women rights and gender equality issues. RWLSEE all time made sure to focus on developing trust among it's diverse members to sustain the alliance and build consensus on key issues. Later, RWLSEE work gained traction and begun to impact policy making in the region and made women politicians more sensitive to women's issues.

Key impacts:

- Developed solidarity, unity and trust among women from different national and ethnic groups
- Cultivated greater attention to gender equality issues among politicians
- Fostered the collaboration between civil society and politicians and contributed to more inclusive democratic, responsive and accountable governance and stability in the region
- Increased international profile of women's issues in Southeast Europe (SEE)
- Advanced women, peace and security agenda

8. RWLSEE ACTION PLAN / List of Projects - with focus on 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 and 25th anniversary of Beijing Platform, 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the RWLSEE Istanbul Declaration

The RWLSEE Action Plan is presented in an annexed document to this Strategic Plan.

The list of projects include:

- Inter-ethnic community trust building dialogues/roundtables with the aim of contributing to the peacebuilding, community building and development
- Continuation of Local Community Dialogues on women in decision-making at local level to encourage a dialogue between women in politics and representatives of CSOs to address women and community issues at local level / Enhancing the role of women mayors as potential agents of change
- Implementation of a local mediation training project
- Regional Academy for Women Leadership and Mediation
- Lobbying at the EU level in view of newly elected leadership and euro parliamentarians – on women's empowerment and support for RWLSEE
- Lobbying at the UN level – A roundtable at the UN headquarters in NY on women's empowerment in the Balkans
- Preparation of regional recommendations to CSW64, based on the model of the South America and Caribbean conference
- Organization of an event/international conference on Beijing + 25 and Res. 1325's 20th anniversary

- Support the Brussels dialogue on normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia/continuation of dialogue between women politicians/parliamentarians from Kosovo and Serbia/lobbying to involve women in the dialogue process and implementation /shaping the gender inclusive outcome of the Brussels dialogue
- Building Bridges among communities through cultural activities - “Mostar Bridge” and “Mitrovica Bridge” projects involving artists/cultural approach
- Promotion of women role models as key actors in peacebuilding (e.g. documentary, publication, pictures etc)
- Ensuring exchanges with women networks outside the region to exchange lessons learned and good practices linked to women’s contribution to peace-building processes; and participation on behalf of the RWL SEE in global forums to contribute to peace-building processes internationally

Annex 1. RWLSEE Chair, Steering Committee (SC) and Members list:

Kosovo:

1. **EDITA TAHIRI, RWLSEE Chair**, Former Deputy Prime-minister and Peace Negotiator, Former Minister for Dialogue and Chief Negotiator at the Brussels Dialogue
2. **Teuta Sahatqija**, RWLSEE Member, Consul General at Consulate General of the Republic of Kosovo, New York
3. **Luljeta Vuniqi**, RWLSEE Member, Former Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo in Budapest

Serbia:

4. **Sonja Biserko, RWLSEE SC Member**; Director of Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Serbia
5. **Nataša Mičić**, RWLSEE Member, MP in the Serbian parliament; Vice-president of the Liberal Democratic Party; Former president of the National Assembly of Serbia
6. **Staša Zajović**, RWLSEE Member, Co-founder and Coordinator of Women in Black, Belgrade; Member of Women's Peace Coalition
7. **Ljiljana Radovanović**, RWLSEE Member; Member of Women in Black Network, Member of Women's Peace Coalition

Albania:

8. **Eglantina Gjermeni, RWLSEE SC Member**; Member of Parliament; Former Minister of Urban Development
9. **Marieta Zaçe**, RWLSEE Member; Speaker of the Albanian Committee of Adoption, former Deputy Minister for Social Welfare and Equal Opportunities
10. **Majlinda Bregu**, RWL SEE Member, Former Minister of European Integration
11. **Mesila Doda**, RWLSEE Member, Member of Parliament; General Secretary, Party of Justice, Intégration Unity
12. **Eni Çobani**, RWLSEE Member; Lawyer; Mediator; Professor
13. **Eni Vasili**, RWLSEE Member; Journalist, Moderator
14. **Mirela Arqimandriti**, RWLSEE Member; Executive Director, Gender Alliance for Development Center
15. **Mira Kazhani**, RWLSEE Member; Journalist, Moderator at "A1 Report"

North Macedonia:

16. **Irina Pockova, RWLSEE SC Member**; Member (Former President) of Women's Chapter of SDA political party of Sv. Nikola
17. **Teuta Arifi**, RWLSEE Member; Mayor, Municipality of Tetovo
18. **Savka Todorovska**, RWLSEE Member; President "National Council of Women"

Croatia:

19. **Gordana Sobol, RWLSEE SC Member**; Former MP / Chairwoman of the Mandate and Immunity Committee, Parliament of Croatia & RWL SEE Steering Committee Member
20. **Morana Paliković-Gruden**, RWLSEE Member; Vice President of the Croatian Olympic Committee and President of the Scatting Federation; Chairwoman in Women in Sport Commission
21. **Lovorka Marinović – RWL SEE Member**; President of Center for New Initiatives, International Independent Consultant

Bosnia and Herzegovina:

22. **Memnuna Zvizdić**, **RWLSEE SC Member**; Executive Director “žene ženama“
23. **Nada Tešanović**, **RWLSEE Member**; Former Minister of Family, Youth and Sports, Gov of Republika Srpska
24. **Lidija Živanović**, **RWLSEE Member**; Former Director, Helsinki Citizen’s Parliament
25. **Ismeta Dervoz**, **RWLSEE Member**, Former MP, Vice-President of the Commission for Gender Equality of BiH Parliamentary Assembly

Montenegro:

26. **Nada Drobnjak**, **RWLSEE SC Member**; MP, Head of the Parliamentary Commission for Gender Equality
27. **Ljubomirka Mira Asović**, **RWLSEE Member**; President of “League of Women Voters”
28. **Slavica Strinković**, **RWLSEE Member**; Managing Board Member “Women Action”

RWLSEE Photo Gallery of Events:



Istanbul, Turkey



Zagreb, Croatia



Saranda, Albania



Group Photo



Budva, Montenegro



Tirana, Albania



Prishtina, Kosovo



Group Photo



Tirana, Albania



Klllokot, Partesh,
Graçanica, Novo Brdo,
Kosovo



Skopje, North Macedonia



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REGIONAL WOMEN'S LOBBY
IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE