



## Regional Women's Lobby for Peace, Security and Justice in Southeast Europe

<http://www.rwlsee.org>

### H.E. Ambassador Ivan Barbalic

Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the UN  
420 Lexington Avenue, Suites 607 & 608  
New York, NY 10170  
Tel. (212) 751 90 15  
Fax. (212) 751 90 19

**October 10, 2010**

Dear Ambassador,

The Regional Women's Lobby (RWL) of Southeast Europe expresses its strong congratulations to Bosnia and Herzegovina for being the first country in our region to pass in July of this year a National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. We strongly hope that full funds will be committed to the implementation of the NAP and call on the government to use the 1325 Open Debate in the Security Council as an opportunity to announce the concrete financial commitment planned for NAP activities.

RWL is composed of prominent women politicians, experts and advocates from the region of Southeast Europe who are committed to promoting women in decision-making. More information about our network is available on our website <http://www.rwlsee.org>. In June 2010 the RWL organized an open day on 1325 with the UN country team in Bosnia and representatives of the Ministry of Security to discuss the importance of 1325. In this meeting the importance of continuing political will for the NAP's successful implementation was stressed.

RWL would like to encourage the permanent mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to consider including the following salient points in its address this month to the Security Council during the Open Debate on 1325.

- Promote a threshold of 30% women's participation as negotiators, mediators and delegates in global peace processes. As UNIFEM research has shown, during the peace processes in Southeast Europe, on average only **four**

**percent** of the delegates at the negotiating table were women, **no women** were appointed chief mediators, and **none** of the six agreements under negotiation between 1994 and 2006 specifically spoke of redress for gender-based violence despite the pervasiveness of such crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

- Increase funding for women's post-conflict needs - UNIFEM research has shown that global post-conflict reconciliation and reconstruction projects have allocated less than 8% of funds towards women's needs;
- Increase the participation and role of women in the current Bosnian constitutional negotiations - the role of women in reconciliation and reconstruction is a significant untapped resource in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Support strong operational presence of UN Women in the Southeast Europe region as a follow-on of the strong work by UNIFEM and its civil society partners on Women, Peace and Security;
- Promote the idea of a 1325 Regional Roadmap once Croatia and Serbia adopt their 1325 NAP's this year.

The region of Southeast Europe has experienced all too well the effects of conflict and war and the burden of destruction and violence placed on women's shoulders. Despite this, women in the region have remained committed to reaching across borders to connect with each other and serve as peace builders. The Regional Women's Lobby is only one example of such a group of women in Southeast Europe.

RWL congratulates and welcomes the first NAP for 1325 in our region and is confident that the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina will announce a commitment of funds to its implementation.

Sincerely,

***Regional Women's Lobby for Peace, Security and Justice in Southeast Europe***

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## Annex 1: RWL Recommendations for Implementation of 1325



The *Regional Women's Lobby for Peace, Security and Justice in Southeast Europe* calls for the **European Union** and the **United Nations** to re-affirm their commitment to the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security as well as the European Parliament's Resolution 2000/2025 on the Participation of Women in Peaceful Conflict Resolution. Below are 10 concrete recommendations for the EU and the UN how they can **ACT NOW**.

### United Nations:

- 1.**  
Establish a *Department for Empowerment of Women in Politics and Decision Making* within the new UN Gender Composite Entity, **UN Women**. Ensure that the new entity has a strong presence in the post-conflict region of Southeast Europe and that it is a strong supporter (both financially and otherwise) of local women's civil society that is advocating for 1325 implementation and peace and security issues.
- 2.**  
In commemoration of 1325 +10, the Security Council should establish an **official monitoring and reporting structure on 1325** for conflict and post-conflict countries, in a manner similar to CEDAW reporting, which would also allow civil society to prepare **official 1325 monitoring/Shadow Reports** that reflect women's experiences at local levels.
- 3.**  
Strengthen the position of women within the UN structure: adopt a quota of 30% women in **country delegations** to the UN, ensure that each peacekeeping operation has a **senior gender advisor** who is on the same level as the political advisor to Head of Mission, create a UN Secretary General **Special Representative on Promoting Men's Engagement on Gender Equality**, and start a campaign to pressure for the **next Secretary General to be a woman**.
- 4.**  
Adopt a quota of **30% women's participation in all peace processes** facilitated by the UN to assure that a gender perspective is included in all peace negotiations, constitutions and end results.

### European Union:

- 1.**

Support the development of an **EU 1325 Roadmap for Southeast Europe** candidate and potential candidate countries. Candidate countries, some of them recently having faced conflict, should be required to develop National Action Plans for the implementation of the resolution as a precondition to EU accession and should submit a **mandatory annual report** in October of each year on the concrete steps they have taken to implement 1325, which could make use of the UN indicators prepared by the Secretary-General. The report should be prepared according to a **template developed for reporting on 1325**.

**2.**

The EU must provide full financial support for the implementation of Resolution 1325, as well as adequate and sustainable funding for women's equal participation in peace building, conflict prevention and conflict resolution processes by **investing in civil society and 1325 advocacy networks** in Southeast Europe. The EU should support women in building communities and **invest in women's NGOs in EU external development policies and in the EU role as a donor organization** to areas of conflict and post-conflict.

**3.**

Appoint an **EU Special Representative on Women, Peace and Security** who will have a mandate to coordinate, advise and monitor the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on implementation of 1325 in EU foreign policy. The number of dedicated **senior** gender officers within EU police and security missions must increase and they must have financial and human resources available to fulfill their mandate.

**4.**

Make it mandatory for all **EU Progress Reports** that are regularly submitted to the Council by candidate and potential candidate countries on implementation and enforcement of EU standards to have **gender issues mainstreamed in each section** throughout the report.

**5.**

**Organized crime, trafficking and corruption** also threaten the security situation in Southeast Europe. These are all areas that have a specific impact on women, who are more often victims of trafficking and more often have to deal with high corruption sectors such as health and education. Fighting these problems is an integral part of building peace and security for women in the region and the EU must increase attention to these matters.

**6.**

Adopt a **quota of 30% women's participation in national, regional and constitutional negotiations facilitated by the EU** in and between Southeast European countries to assure that a gender perspective is included in peace processes, constitutions and other end results.

## **Annex 1: Members of RWL**

### **Albania**

- Majlinda Bregu, Minister of EU Integration
- Eglantina Gjermeni, Member of Parliament
- Marieta Zace, former Deputy Minister of Social Welfare and Equal Opportunities

### **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

- Meliha Alic, Minister of Education and Science
- Nada Tesanovic, Vice-President of National Assembly of Republika Srpska
- Lidija Zivanovic, Director Helsinki Citizen's Parliament
- Memnuna Zvizdic, Director Zene Zenama

### **Croatia**

- Morana Palikovic Gruden, Deputy Speaker of Zagreb City Assembly
- Biljana Kasic, Coordinator of Women's Studies Center
- Gordana Sobol, Head of the Parliamentary Commission for Gender Equality

### **Kosovo**

- Nekibe Kelmendi, Minister of Justice
- Igballe Rogova, Executive Director of Kosova Women's Network, Member of the Kosova Women's Lobby, Member of the Women's Peace Coalition.
- Teuta Sahatqija, President of the ORA political party
- Edita Tahiri, President of the ADK political party
- Luljeta Vuniqi, Executive Director of Kosovar Gender Studies Center

### **Macedonia**

- Teuta Arifi, Member of Parliament
- Irina Pockova, President of Women's Chapter of Social Democratic party of Sv. Nikola
- Savka Todorovska, President of the National Council of Women of the Republic of Macedonia

### **Montenegro**

- Ljubomirka Mira Asovic, President of League of Women Voters of Montenegro
- Nada Drobnjak, Head of the Parliamentary Commission for Gender Equality
- Slavica Strikovic, Board Member of Women's Action

## **Serbia**

- Sonja Biserko, Director of Helsinki Committee for Human Rights
- Vera Markovic, Vice-President of the Social Democrat Union
- Natasa Micic, Member of Parliament and Vice president of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)
- Stasa Zajovic, Coordinator of Women in Black Network, Member of Women's Peace Coalition
- Ljiljana Radovanovic, Member of Women in Black Network, Member of Women's Peace Coalition

## **RWL Advisory Board**

- Dr. Ursula Plassnik, former Austrian Foreign Minister
- Ms. Elisabeth Rehn, Finnish Minister of State, former UN Under-Secretary General, former Minister of Defense
- Ms. Mirjana Feric-Vac, Vice-President of Socialist International and Vice-President of SI Women in CEE and SEE
- Ms. Ana Maria Gomes, Member of European Parliament and Vice-Chairwoman of Subcommittee on Security and Defense
- Ms. Osnat Lubrani, UN Kosovo Resident Coordinator
- Ms. Luisa Morgantini, Former Vice President of the European Parliament
- Ms. Doris Pack, Member of the European Parliament; Chairwoman of the Delegation for Relations with the Countries of Southeast Europe
- Ms. Franziska Brantner, Member of the European Parliament