



REGIONAL WOMEN's LOBBY for PEACE SECURITY and JUSTICE in SEE (<http://rwlsee.org/>)

JOINT REGIONAL STATEMENT of RWLSEE and INTEGRA

International Day of Peace 2026: Voices of Peace from Western Balkans

September 21, 2026

Invest in Peace – For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day

On the occasion of the International Day of Peace, RWLSEE and INTEGRA reaffirm their commitment to advancing inclusive, sustainable peace in the Western Balkans and beyond, to ensuring that women are recognized not only as participants in peacebuilding, but as leaders and decision-makers shaping peace, security and justice.

The theme of this year's International Day of Peace, "Invest in Peace – For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day," reminds us that peace is not achieved through agreements alone. It must be built, implemented, sustained and owned by the people and communities whose lives it affects. Women are among the everyday architects of this peace, working across communities, institutions and generations to build dialogue, trust and social cohesion.

We are everyday peacebuilders, and as a peacebuilding organization, we have been working hard to advance the goals of lasting peace, the WPS Agenda and gender-inclusive peacemaking and peacebuilding.

The remarkable legacy of this year's joint project of the WPHF, RWLSEE and INTEGRA is marked by significant achievements.

The Project contained two conferences:

Regional Dialogue Conference, "Translating Peace Agreements into Reality: Women Drive Sustainable Peace in the Western Balkans," on 22 May 2026, and 2. "From Inclusive Processes to Inclusive Peace: Local Women Promoting Peace Agreements, Ownership and Inclusive Participation," on 23 May 2026, organized by RWLSEE and INTEGRA with the support of the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) Rapid Response Window. Both held in Skopje, North Macedonia, on 22–23 May 2026, the conferences provided regional and local peacebuilding dialogue platforms for women parliamentarians, political leaders, civil society representatives,

experts, local women peacebuilders, and international partners to exchange experiences, strengthen regional cooperation, and advance women's meaningful participation in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements.

As we commemorate this important day, we celebrate our achievements and commitments to be unstoppable in the journey of peacebuilding.

The achievements:

The project achieved in influencing High-Level Peace Talks, the Brussels Dialogue on normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia, pushing for equal inclusion of women in formal peace processes and gender perspectives in peace agreements, critical for moving the region from fragile peace to lasting peace.

It succeeded in Advancing Transitional Justice and powerfully advocated for conflict-related victims of sexual violence in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia, calling on the UN and international bodies for legal recognition, support services, and international justice.

The project made history by formally Connecting the Track 1 and Track 2 peace processes, namely RWLSEE's women's peacebuilding platform and the Brussels Dialogue, resulting in the establishment of the Women's Advisory Board by the European Union Special Representative to the Brussels Dialogue, launched at our Conference (1). It represents an important step in recognizing the value of linking informal and formal peace processes and creating avenues through which women and civil society can contribute to peace implementation.

The conferences also reinforced the call for **women's equal, full and meaningful participation in decision-making, formal peace negotiations and peacebuilding processes**. Women cannot remain underrepresented at formal decision-making tables, despite their longstanding contributions to peacebuilding and the recognition by the Women, Peace and Security agenda, UNSCR1325.

While emphasizing that women are essential to sustaining peace and that regional cooperation among women is itself a strategic resource for peace, stability and reconciliation.

On this International Day of Peace, we call on partners across the region and internationally to invest in the women who are already building peace every day.

Peace must not remain an aspiration. It must become a lived reality — for everyone, everywhere, every day.

Regional Women's Lobby for Peace, Security and Justice in Southeast Europe (RWLSEE)

INTEGRA