

Regional Conference

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT FOR A PEACEFUL BALKANS AND EUROPEAN FUTURE

- *Fostering regional dialogue and cooperation between women in the Western Balkans -*

Convened by:

THE REGIONAL WOMEN'S LOBBY FOR

PEACE, SECURITY AND JUSTICE IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE (RWLSEE) AND UN WOMEN, SUPPORTED BY

SWEDISH GOVERNMENT

October 26th, 2019, Grand Hotel & Spa, Tirana, Albania

AGENDA

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09:30 – 10:00 Registration of Participants

10:00 – 10:30 Greetings & remarks:

- **Edita Tahiri**, Former Deputy Prime Minister & Peace Negotiator; Chair of Regional Women's Lobby (RWLSEE), Kosovo
- **Eglantina Gjermeni**, Member of Parliament, Head of the Parliamentary Sub-Commission for Gender Equality & RWL SEE Steering Committee Member, Albania
- **Karin Hernmarck Ahliny**, Ambassador, Embassy of Sweden in Kosovo
- **Ulrika Richardson**, UN Development Coordinator, Kosovo
- **Michele Ribotta** / Country Representative, UN Women, Albania
- **Elda Kalaja**, Head of Office of the Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), BiH

10:30 – 11:45 Panel 1 / STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN PEACE PROCESSES INCLUDING THE SPECIFIC CASE OF BRUSSELS DIALOGUE

Panel moderator:

Edita Tahiri, Former Deputy Prime Minister & Peace Negotiator; RWLSEE Chair, Kosovo

Focus themes:

- ✓ *Women's role in peace processes and outcomes: what a difference women can make?*
- ✓ *Why are women almost missing from peace negotiation tables: how to change realities?*
- ✓ *Brussels Dialogue for peace and stability in the region and EU integration: challenges, prospects, durable and gender inclusive outcome?*
- ✓ *Regional dialogue among women fosters peace in Western Balkans: Ideas and strategies to boost?*

Panelists:

- RWLSEE Perspective
Sonja Biserko, Director of Helsinki Committee for Human Rights & RWL SEE Steering Committee Member; Serbia
- MPs Perspectives:
 - Hykmete Bajrami, Member of Parliament, LDK, Kosovo
 - Snežana Paunović, Member of Parliament, Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS), Serbia
 - Xhevahire Izmaku, Member of Parliament, PDK, Kosovo
 - Nataša Mihajlović, Member of Parliament, Social Democratic Party of Serbia (SDPS), Serbia
 - Time Kadrijaj, Member of Parliament, AAK, Kosovo
 - Gordana Čomić, Member of Parliament, National Assembly Deputy Speaker, Democratic Party (DS), Serbia
 - Mexhide Mjaku-Topalli, Member of Parliament, Chair of Women's Caucus, Kosovo
 - Olena Papuga, Member of Parliament, Social Democratic League of Vojvodina (LSV), Serbia
 - Lirije Kajtazi, Member of Parliament, LDK, Kosovo

Open Discussion

11:45 – 12:00 Coffee break

12:00 – 13:00 Panel 2 / ENHANCING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR A JUST AND PEACEFUL SOCIETY

Panel moderator:
Memnuna Zvizdić, RWLSEE Steering Committee Member, BiH

Focus themes:

- ✓ *How to create effective, accountable and gender-responsive justice institutions*
- ✓ *Transitional justice and international justice: how to redress women victims and victims of conflict related sexual violence?*
- ✓ *Empowering women and girls with the tools to know, claim and exercise their rights: what does it take?*
- ✓ *Role of mediation in increasing women's access to justice?*
- ✓ *How to inspire a regional multi-stakeholder movement for peace, justice and inclusion*

Panelists:

1. Vlora Nushi, Programm Specialist/Head, UN Women, Kosovo
2. Eni Çobani, Journalist, Moderator; RWLSEE Member, Albania
3. Nada Drobnjak, Member of Parliament, Head of the Parliamentary Commission for Gender Equality & RWL SEE Steering Committee Member, Montenegro
4. Gordana Sobol, RWLSEE Steering Committee Member, Croatia
5. Arjeta Rexha, Executive Directress, Gender Training and Research Center (GTRC), Kosovo

Open Discussions

13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH

14:00 – 15:00 Panel 3 / EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR WOMEN AND WITH WOMEN

Panel moderator:
Sonja Biserko, RWLSEE Steering
Committee Member, Serbia

Focus themes:

- ✓ *How can regional cooperation help sustainable peace, women's empowerment and speed up European integration*
- ✓ *Why stability over democracy is delaying building sustainable peace and stability in the region?*
- ✓ *What can women do for a sound democratic statebuilding and EU reforms in their countries*
- ✓ *EU enlargement policy and gender equality: how to make it more effective?*
- ✓ *EU Aspirant countries: does they respond adequately to EU reforms for accession and standards for gender equality. How to increase participation of women in peace processes and negotiating tables?*

Panelists:

1. Irina Pockova, Member (Former President), Women's Chapter of SDA political party of Sv. Nikola; RWL SEE Steering Committee Member; Macedonia
2. Edith Harxhi, Director of Albanian Policy Center/ Former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
3. Reyes Charles, Gender Adviser, EU Kosovo
4. Eni Vasili, Journalist, Moderator "Open"
5. Lule Vuniqi, Former Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo in Budapest, RWLSEE Member, Kosovo

 **Open discussion**

15:00 – 16:00 Panel 4 / WOMEN'S EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING AND PEACEBUILDING

Moderator:
Eglantina Gjermeni, RWLSEE Steering
Committee Member, Albania

Focus themes:

- ✓ *Why the women's empowerment in decision making and government is not sustainable?*
- ✓ *Women in political parties: what does it take to have more women in leadership?*
- ✓ *Capacity building and budgeting: what a difference they can make?*
- ✓ *Commitments and implementation are in huge discrepancy at national and international level: How to close this gap?*

Panelists:

1. Mesila Doda, Member of Parliament, General Secretary, Party of Justice Integration Unity, Albania

2. Natalia Peral, Negotiation, Conflict Resolution & Policy Expert; Independent Consultant for RWLSEE
3. Memnuna Zvizdić, Former Executive Director of Žene Ženama & RWL SEE Steering Committee Member, BiH
4. JoAnne Bishop, Gender Advisor, UN Kosovo
5. Mirela Arqimandriti, Executive Director, Gender Alliance for Development Center, Albania

 **Open Discussion**

16:00 – 16:15 Coffee break

16:15 – 17:00 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS / Adoption of the Joint Declaration

- *Edita Tahiri, RWLSEE Chair*
- *Sonja Biserko, RWLSEE SC Member, Serbia*
- *Eglantina Germeni, RWLSEE SC Member, Albania*

20:00 DINNER

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