



Date: November 12, 2018

## **RWL SEE 2018 end year Report and 2019 Action Plan**

In twelve years of its operation, at the forefront of the RWLSEE Agenda remains the empowerment of women in decision-making and peacebuilding processes, in line with UNSC Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. Today, the RWLSEE can be considered as a most reliable regional actor in promoting and implementing the WPS agenda at regional, national and local level and, perhaps the only regional peacebuilding mediator of the kind in Europe and beyond. It is strongly committed in helping sustain peace and conflict prevention in the region as a prerequisite for achieving sustainable development goals and European and Euro-Atlantic integration of all countries of the region. Its unique experience as a regional women's network for peacebuilding can inspire and inform women living beyond Western Balkans in opening pathways for the meaningful participation of women in building peace worldwide.

As a platform for increasing women's participation and influence over political decision-making, thus contributing to the implementation of UNSCR 1325, during 2018 RWLSEE have been focused in accomplishing its goal to strengthen the position of women in decision-making, peace and security process in the post-conflict settings advance peace building, democratization, justice and reconciliation.

In partnership with UN Women, the RWLSEE has strengthened the crucial role that women play and emphasized the importance of women being engaged as active agents of change to achieve durable peace.

This report presents RWLSEE Accomplishments for the period of Jan-Dec 2018 - progress and challenges as well as RWLSEE role in advancing WPS Agenda in the region of South-east Europe.

Our activities in 2018 covered:

- Brought together women politicians and civil society leaders from seven countries of Western Balkans, including Kosovo and Serbia, to work jointly for sustainable peace and stability in the region and European future for all.
- It successfully advocated and intensively lobbied on WPS Agenda with high ranking politicians and government officials at national, regional and international level for gender equality in political and economic decision making, through calling for greater participation of women in governments, parliaments, local governance, mobilization of women to participate in peace processes in the region including the Brussels Agreement



---

REGIONAL WOMEN'S LOBBY for PEACE SECURITY and JUSTICE in SOUTHEAST EUROPE -- RWLSEE (<http://rwlsee.org/>)

---

implementation between Kosovo and Serbia, Ohrid Agreement in Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and Dayton peace building process.

- Fostered the regional dialogue and collaboration between women of different ethnic communities, between women in politics and civil society, and particularly fostered dialogue between women politicians and parliamentarians from Kosovo and Serbia, as second track diplomacy in support of the Brussels dialogue on normalization of neighborly relations.
- The local peacebuilding at municipal levels was a priority in efforts of localizing the UN Women WPS agenda, considering the critical importance of bottom-up peacebuilding.
- It organized numerous international and regional conferences on topics to address the gaps in women underrepresentation, in democracy, rule of law, justice, good governance and other phenomena including corruption and crime.
- Other activities included participation in international conferences, meetings with politicians and diplomats and advocating through media communication on equality between women and men and for more support for women in national and local elections in seven-member countries of the RWLSEE.

To sustain the goals and effective work of the RWLSEE the crucial factor remains the strategic partnership with UN Women with the main priorities also to fundraise further with International Community and donors. This having in mind the complexity of organization due to its regional character and, due to fragile political and security context in region related to unfinished peace, incomplete normalization of neighborly relations and insufficient progress in democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights, women rights and ethnic minority rights and socio-economic issues and slow pace of EU reforms.

Below is an outline of the 2018 annual and financial report:

- I. **Peacebuilding Activities at regional and local level - held with new Project funded by MFA Sweden, Kosovo Dec 1st, 2017-Dec 31st, 2018**
  1. **December 2017**\_ Initial Preparatory & Coordination of Steering Committee meeting
  2. **January 2018** Three Roundtable dialogues with women MPs and Municipal decision makers in 3 Kosovo municipalities with Kosovo minority communities: Kllokot ,Ranillug, Partesh



3. **July 2018**\_High Level Dialogue /Meeting jointly with CIG / Organized roundtable between high-level representatives (MPs and Government Leaders) from Serbia and Kosovo, UN officials and designated representatives of Centre for Inclusive Government (CIG) – Budva, Montenegro
4. **September 2018**\_ Follow up High level Dialogue – Durres, Albania
5. **November 2018**\_ International Conference / Dialogue meeting on Women, Peace and Security with the participation of MPs from ruling parties and political leaders of Serbia and Kosovo
6. **November 2018**\_ Annual Member meeting of RWL SEE (A day after the International Conference)

**II. Lobbying and advocacy, specifically by RWLSEE Chair, Ms Edita Tahiri:**

- **February 16, 2018** / Expert event - The Role of National Action Plans in Promoting the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, held in Ljubljana, Slovenia within the scope of the EEA and Norway Grants
- **March 2018**\_ RWLSEE Letter sent to UNSG Guterres requesting support on international justice for women victims/survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Croatia
- **May 16-17, 2018** / Expert Group Meeting on Women's Meaningful Participation in Negotiating Peace and the Implementation of Peace Agreements held at UN Women in New York
- **September 13-14, 2018**; Women, Peace and Security Conference in Central Asia, South Caucasus, Central and Eastern Europe, Vienna, Austria
- Meetings with embassies, think tanks, analysts on women issues
- **Upcoming activity**: November 29 to 30, 2018 / Women's Meaningful Participation in Peace Processes: Modalities & Strategies Across Tracks, Geneva, Switzerland

**III. Public relations**

- Publication and dissemination of declarations and recommendations adopted in above mentioned activities



---

REGIONAL WOMEN'S LOBBY for PEACE SECURITY and JUSTICE in SOUTHEAST EUROPE -- RWLSEE (<http://rwlsee.org/>)

---

- Press releases and statements on important issues related to empowerment of women including in electoral processes in seven countries
- editorials by SC members
- Website updates

#### **IV. IV. Achievements**

The RWLSEE features solid achievements regarding peace-building during 2018, as it has already organized several inter-ethnic dialogues with women from across the region and has worked to enhance the localization of peace building efforts. The focus on local peace-building is based on the understanding that bottom-up approaches are carried by the communities and thus lead to peace that is sustainable and locally owned.

Numerous inter-ethnic dialogue meetings, stemming from RWL SEE strategic plan, between women representatives of Albanian and Serb community from the Serb majority municipalities in Kosovo with participation of RWLSEE Chairperson, Ms. Edita Tahiri Chief Negotiator of Kosovo in the Brussels Dialogue with Serbia and the the RWLSEE members from seven countries., have already been successfully implemented at the municipal level.

In 2018 as in earlier periods, the RWLSEE in close collaboration with UN Women, has not only held a series of trust- building and interethnic dialogues in Kosovo, but also achieved to bring together women Members of Parliaments from Belgrade and Pristina. The participants met to identify ways for women to play a more central role in peace-building as part of the global Women, Peace and Security agenda and, with a focus on the implementation of the Brussels Dialogue on normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia, and European Integration of the Western Balkan countries.

This year, the RWLSEE has again succeeded to organize an international conference ( as last year due to lack of funds could not held). It was followed by adoption of a conference declaration highlighting the main decision points *on advancing peacebuilding, trust-building, reconciliation and European and Euro-Atlantic integration in the region*. Strong commitments were made regarding the continuation, intensification and strengthening of the regional cooperation among all relevant stakeholders, which is crucial for the stabilization and sustainable peace in the region and its European perspective. The participants of the interethnic dialogues highlighted the importance of such fora and agreed on the need for follow up meetings, whereas extended participation to artists, journalists, peace activist and ethnic minorities upgraded the values and goals of our organization.



---

REGIONAL WOMEN'S LOBBY for PEACE SECURITY and JUSTICE in SOUTHEAST EUROPE -- RWLSEE (<http://rwlsee.org/>)

---

The regional cooperation in supporting local peacebuilding efforts was considered crucial having in mind the importance of sharing experience across region in the context of post-conflict setting. Joint regional and local cooperation in peace-building processes presents a unique model of cooperation towards building a better future for all in the Western Balkans. Through the interethnic dialogues considerable improvements in interethnic relations were made at the local level. Participants were committed to support the relevant stakeholders in addressing burning issues related to peacebuilding and sustainable development at municipal levels, but also developed concrete recommendations with regards to the enhancement of women's access to, participation and role in peace and security and other sectors of life such economy, education, employment of women in the region.

In all activities, strong emphasis has been given to the strengthening the dialogue between women politicians and parliamentarians from Kosovo and Serbia in support of the EU facilitated dialogue on normalization of relations between two parties (Brussels Dialogue), as a key contribution to peace and stability in the region, and as a way of accelerating European Integration.

The empowerment of women in democratic governance and peace building throughout the region as well as peace building at local level, both essential for inclusive and sustainable peace and security, have been addressed and emphasized in the conferences and dialogues organised. Therefore, the need for continuation of such important dialogues in such forum and their value, which will permit further and more intensive dialogue among women has been decisively requested.

#### **V. Fundraising:**

RWL SEE Chair Edita Tahiri in her capacity as Former Minister for Dialogue and Former Chief Negotiator of Kosovo in the Brussels Dialogue, jointly with the Flora Macula, former UN Women Head for Kosovo office now UN Women office Head in Cox Bazar, Bangladesh, and RWLSEE Coordinator have been lobbying with embassies in Kosovo for funds, as well as applied for funds on numerous international organizations.

The RWLSEE has established and maintained close collaboration links with numerous donors in Kosovo during 2017 and 2018, including Swedish Government, Finland Embassy, Royal Norwegian Embassy etc. UN Women has been supporting it since its inception in 2006 as well as continues to support the RWL SEE in 2018 too, through its Secretariat by providing technical assistance and professional expertise supporting independent fundraising, facilitating meetings



---

REGIONAL WOMEN'S LOBBY for PEACE SECURITY and JUSTICE in SOUTHEAST EUROPE -- RWLSEE (<http://rwlsee.org/>)

---

with United Nations and EU representatives, securing RWLSEE access to various regional and global security forums.

UN Women remains one of the main strategic partners for the future work of RWL SEE.

**Results of fundraising in 2018:**

- 1. Successful fundraising efforts for 1-year Project activities with Swedish Government and its Embassy in Kosovo. Funds have been granted to RWLSEE administered through UN Women. / Grant amount: €104,073.00 – request for funds applied in March 2016 – implementation started in December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.**
- 2. UN Women, Kosovo; continuously supporting RWL SEE Secretariat /RWLSEE Coordinator and RWLSEE Project assistant, including office space and other administrative and logistic arrangements.**

**Applied into Call for Proposals but without success:**

3. Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)\_2017-2018
4. Civil Society Support for Women's Rights 2018-2020

**Applied and awaiting results:**

1. NORAD, Norway, October 21, 2017
2. NORAD, within Norway Embassy in Kosovo
  - Local call: "Participation of Women in (Local) Peace-building in Kosovo" / amount: €288,000.00
  - Regional call: Regional Academy for Women's Leadership (RAWL) / amount: €940,000.00

**Ongoing applications:**

3. Western Balkans Fund (upcoming, deadline 14 December 2018)

**VI. Financial Report of 2018**

1. Initial Preparatory & Coordination of Steering Committee meeting: Prishtina, Kosovo: **Prishtina, Kosovo / €11,880.00**



---

REGIONAL WOMEN'S LOBBY for PEACE SECURITY and JUSTICE in SOUTHEAST EUROPE -- RWLSEE (<http://rwlsee.org/>)

---

2. Three Roundtable dialogues with women MPs and Municipal decision makers in 3 Kosovo municipalities with Kosovo minority communities: **Novo Brdo, Kllokot, Partesh / €12,700.00**
3. High Level Dialogue /Meeting jointly with CIG / Organized roundtable between high-level representatives (MPs and Government Leaders) from Serbia and Kosovo, UN officials and designated representatives of Centre for Inclusive Government (CIG) – **Budva, Montenegro / €14,630.00**
4. Follow up High Level Dialogue – **Durres, Albania / €14,240.00**
5. International Conference / Dialogue meeting on Women, Peace and Security with the participation of MPs from ruling parties and political leaders of Serbia and Kosovo: Istanbul, Turkey, **foreseen 22,500.00\_ Awaiting final payment**
6. Annual Member meeting of RWL SEE (A day after the International Conference): Istanbul, Turkey / **Foreseen 5,500.00\_ Awaiting final payment**
7. RWLSEE Secretariat Project Coordinator, Project Assistant, Administration \_ **€26,700.00**
8. UN Women for the Conference and Annual Meeting of RWLSEE Istanbul, Turkey / **Foreseen 26,000.00\_ Awaiting final payment**

**Endnote:** this report is to be completed with inputs from the RWLSEE Steering Committee Members with activities in each member countries.