



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

RWLSEE's ANNUAL REPORT for 2024

Progress in 2024

The RWLSEE with support of Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund Rapid Response Window and Cordaid have made relevant progress in this year 2024 working to advance gender equality and empowerment of women in peacebuilding in the region of the Western Balkans as well as on implementation of the WPS Agenda at regional, national and local level. Progress has been especially specific in areas of enhancing women's role in peacemaking and peacebuilding related to support to resuming of the Brussels Peace Dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia on normalization of neighborly relations between the two counties of hostile past which was stalled for over two years as well as to peace efforts of defrosting frozen interethnic reconciliation process in Kosovo and wider region. Both were peacebuilding projects, one at regional level and the other at local level. Progress was marked also in empowering women in politics, decision making and leadership for a better and secure world.

The RWLSEE worked hard with all-inclusive approach by bringing women in dialogue on the relevant topics that make the nexus of peacebuilding in the post-conflict Western Balkans of different political and ethnic background from all over region and other relevant stakeholders at national, regional and international levels with aim of promoting the goals of gender

equality and full meaningful participation of women in politics and decision making levels in peace, security and justice processes, in line with the commitments encompassed in the UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Activities in 2024

RWLSEE's activities gained a new momentum of this year's marking the 24th anniversary of the UNSCR 1325 and of about 30 years of the Beijing Declaration And PfA, the both UN instruments in support of WPSA Agenda and SDA Agenda.

Activity 1:

1. Regional Dialogue Conference of Women parliamentarians from Kosovo and Serbia and wider region with mediation of the RWLSEE Steering Committee members and presence of our international partners WPHF and Cordaid as well as presence of UN Women in Albania and other UN Agencies.

Activity 2:

2. Local Women Regional Interethnic Dialogue on improving interethnic relations and reconciliation

Activity 3:

3. international Conference on empowering women in politics and leadership for a better and secure world.

Outcomes in 2024

As a result of this wide range of activities, it has come up with important outcomes such as:

Conclusions and recommendations from all three events two regional conferences and the international conference and Political Declaration of women parliamentarians from Kosovo and Serbia and women leaders of politics and civil society from all seven focus countries of

the RWLSEE, which was shared publicly and send to National authorities of all countries in the region and EU authorities and other international authorities.

Specifically, It has also made important progress in promoting dialogue on peace, trust-building and reconciliation - very much needed in a post-conflict context of our region,

It is important to highlight that the RWLSEE also succeed to addressing new phenomena which has come as new challenges in our WPS agenda, specific to ongoing fragile peace in the region and rising autocracy, nationalism putting democracy at danger and geopolitical tensions.

While barriers and challenges continue, including those traditional/cultural and systemic, new challenges are coming across us women making our gender equality and peacebuilding efforts more difficult day after day. This because the support, especially financial support for our projects was diminishing, aking it impossible to move forward our agenda on gender equality and peacebuilding for which our region and women has been in a great need.

We consider that the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund Response Window has come in the stage of donors just in critical times, when our hopes of women in fragile peace vanished in lack of funds for about two years. After receiving the fund in 2024, we women revived, our hopes so. Th fragile peace contexts are complex and uncertain, rapid escalation of tensions happens, deepens divides as. legacy of past wars. On the other hand layers of nuances of potential conflict situations does not show with ordinary leneses. In other words we face rapid negative dynamics with potential of harming achieved level of fragile peace, hence we need rapid response from donor, that's why WPHF Rapid Response is a prerquiste of conflict resolution prevention for women to play its peaceful role in such dangerous rapid situations.

With this hope and prospect, the RWLSEE is organizing the Strategic Planning Meeting to cope with challenges and barriers for WPS Agenda.

Activity 4: preparing RWLSEE to cope with strategic goals and objectives

To prepare the RWLSEE to cope with its strategic goals and objectives on WPS agenda, we organized the Strategic Meeting of the Steering Committee members from seven focus countries. The meeting served the purpose of reflecting on achievements of the year 2024 and on planning activities of the next phase in line with the RWLSEE goals, vision, mission and the Strategic Plan 2023-2027

Goals for next phase

The goals for next phase are:

- to develop the Plan of the work for next phase and the Action Plan for 2025.
- To consider the conclusions and recommendations resulted from the three activities
- To review the strategic plan 2023-2027 and decide on strategic directions reflected in the strategic Plan .

The funding prospects

- to plan lobbying and advocacy for funding for our initiatives and targeting strategic stakeholders to support RWLSEE and its gender equality agenda.
- to discuss fundraising opportunities

RWLSEE is unstoppable in advancing goals of empowering women and gender equality in line with UNSCR1325 / WPS Agenda.