

Newsletter

**“Progressive Men and Women on the Move for
Gender Equality”**

3st Quarter 2018

Dear Readers,

The third CEE Network Newsletter in 2018 is posted in English and regional languages, reflecting the contributions of our constituencies. Due to financial constraints the Network is unable to provide translation of all the texts. We count on your cooperation and understanding.

Dragi čitatelji,

Ovo treće izdanje Newslettera koji priprema CEE Network je dostupan na engleskom i jezicima regije odražavajući priloge koje smo dobili. Iz financijskih razloga nismo u mogućnosti osigurati prijevode tekstova, pa ćemo ih objavljivati na izvornom jeziku. Računamo na vašu suradnju i razumijevanje.

Redakcija

2018 Think Tank Korčula School

Korčula, 24 – 26 August 2018

– Transforming Politics through a gender lens–

Conservative Counter-Revolution – Case in Point: Reproductive Rights and Demographics

FORWARD

2018 Korčula School dealt with the current, heated, politically and ideologically charged topic prevalent in Central and Eastern Europe "Conservative Counter-Revolution – Case in Point: Reproductive Rights and Demographics".

Unattended issues of declining birthrates, increased mortality age as people live longer and overstretched social welfare systems have for decades been harbingers of a demographic crisis. Today, the solutions to this crisis have been hijacked by an ideological aggressiveness conducted by the conservative right and a clerical deep state. This is a concerted attempt to dismantle the gains made on women's human rights and the concept itself of gender equality.

This political reality evolves as Europe faces increasing challenges to its identity, values, vision, negotiations on Brexit, new EU accessions, the upcoming EP elections. It is cloaked in the current political moment of rising nationalism, populism, xenophobia, racism, clericalism, social exclusion and rising poverty. A reality that urges reflection, responses, vision and courage. Complacency has historically been a risky and unsuccessful business.

In this framework gender equality as a concept and an achievement is under siege with examples ranging from Poland, to Hungary and Croatia. Gender equality has proven to be a litmus test for the state of democracy and respect for human rights. Gender equality is a volatile societal "acquis",

politically challenging for those entrenched in a patriarchal, conservative vision of the world, values and societal relations.

The think tank addressed from a holistic perspective the above issues as they unfold in South Eastern Europe **the key underpinning position being the woman's right to choose and make decisions on her own reproduction and sexuality**. Denying these is a precarious attack on the foundations of our democracies and human rights with far reaching consequences in all walks of life.

More than sixty Korčula School participants – representatives of socialdemocratic and progressive parties and their women's forums, expert, academics and civil society representatives - focused on low birth rates, attrition of the population due to the migration of youth and skilled labour force, social welfare systems which are being curtailed to the detriment especially of the young and those most in need. The participants offered progressive solutions drawing on best practices and lessons learnt in addressing the said issues.

Women's reproductive rights—a basic human right—permeate this political, economic and social reality. Respect for the current, positive, legislation on human rights in the region is being jeopardized daily as conservative, and often very right wing, clerical and patriarchal solutions that are offered violate the human rights of women. Church and clerical forces have assumed the position of dominant arbiters infringing on the basic constitutional postulates of all the states in the region, i.e. the proclaimed division between the Church and the State.

The 2018 Korčula School was preceded by a joint discussion on 24 August 2018 on the theme “Making the EU enlargement process deliver for Western Balkan women” organized by the Global Progressive Forum and the CEE Network for Gender Issues.

Marina Šaino Šibonić

**Chair, CEE Network for Gender Issues
International Board**

The 2018 Korčula School Report and accompanying texts presented by participants can be found at www.ceegendernetwork.eu



Konferencija: Organizirane žene na ljevici između dva rata

Datum: 23.10.2018

<http://zenstud.hr/2018/10/09/konferencija-organizirane-zene-na-ljevici-između-dva-rata/>



U jeku rastućeg historijskog revizionizma vezanog prvenstveno uz nasljeđe antifašizma i značaja narodnooslobodilačke borbe na prostorima bivše Jugoslavije, kao i nedovoljno istražene i valorizirane uloge žena u građenju socijalističkog društva, istraživačice iz Zagreba, Sarajeva, Novog Sada i Beograda okupile su se kako bi analizirale i reinterpretirale razdoblje koje je prethodilo ovim ključnim historijskim događanjima – razdoblje međuraća kada su se oblikovale ideje i formirale organizacije iz kojih će kasnije nastati jedan od najznačajnijih antifašističkih otpora u svijetu.

Na jednodnevnoj konferenciji istražiti ćemo razdoblje između dva svjetska rata iz antifašističkog i feminističkog rakursa, prateći predratnu povijest ženskih pokreta, ali i sindikalnog, omladinskog i studentskog organiziranja. Razgovarat ćemo o prvoj generaciji žena na ovim prostorima koja je masovno sudjelovala u javnom i političkom životu, što je neizbrisivo oblikovalo društvo i generacije nakon njih, sve do danas.

Nakon konferencije, pozivamo vas na otvorenje dokumentarne izložbe „Ženski antifašistički Zagreb“ autorica Barbare Blasin i Ane Lovreković koja se bavi međuratnim razdobljem i razdobljem II. svjetskog rata (1939 -1945) iz antifašističkog i feminističkog diskursa. Plod višegodišnjeg istraživanja, izložba kroz bogat vizualni arhivski materijal tematizira razdoblje između dva svjetska rata kada se žene u Jugoslaviji uključuju u političke pokrete i stranke, u sindikate i strukovne udruge gdje se osnivaju ženski ogranci. S ciljem izjednačavanja političkih prava, izložba prati osnivanje ženskih i feministička udruženja i časopisa, te donosi biografije članica tih udruženja uključene u narodnooslobodilačku borbu i oružani fašizmu.

Izložba je do sada izlagana u Zagrebu, Rijeci, Splitu i Dubrovniku. Izložba je otvorena do 23.10.2018. Konferenciju i izložbu organizira Centar za ženske studije Zagreb u suradnji s Udruženjem za kulturu i umjetnost CRVENA u sklopu projekta “Organizirane žene na ljevici u periodu između dva rata, tijekom Drugog svjetskog rata i nakon rata.“ Projekt financira Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung South East Europe, a podršku za realizaciju konferencije ostvaruje Fond otvoreno društvo BiH i Međunarodni centar Olof Palme.

Ženske organizacije: Nećemo da radamo za državu

<https://www.danas.rs/drustvo/zenske-organizacije-necemo-da-radamo-za-drzavu/>

Žene u crnom i još devet nevladinih organizacija koje se bore za prava žena danas je najoštrije osudilo izjavu predsednika Srbije u kojoj je „zamolio“ žene da razumeju potrebu Srbije i rađaju više dece, ocenjujući je ponižavajućom, jer degradira žene i svodi ih na mašine za rađanje radi reprodukcije nacije i jeftine radne snage.

Nećemo da radamo za državu, naciju, crkvu, armiju ni partiju, piše u saopštenju 10 NVO, povodom obraćanja Aleksandra Vučića u subotu u kojem je naveo da bez veće stope nataliteta, kako je rekao: „ne možemo da opstanemo kao Srbija“.

Osim toga, iz Vučićeve izjave, ali i izjava koje su prethodile, kao i sramotne kampanje, može se videti da je poziv na rađanje upućen ženama srpske nacionalnosti, koje su heteroseksualne, dok su ostale isključene, a zabrinutost zbog demografskog pada je povezana sa depopulacijom samo unutar srpskog naroda, ocenjuju NVO.

To postaje jasno, dodaju, kad Vučić poredi Smederevo i Uroševac, Zaječar i Srbicu, Gornji Milanovac i Dečane, ističući značajan priraštaj na Kosovu, misleći na Albanke i gubitak stanovništva u Srbiji.

On ponavlja da se državna pomoć zaustavlja na četvrtom detetu, što isključuje podršku mnogim romskim porodicama, ukazuje se u saopštenju.

Osim nacionalizma i rasizma, iz izjave je vidljiva i mizoginija, jer predsednik predlaže društvu i posebno medijima da stvore klimu u kojoj će žene koje rode troje i četvoro dece „biti poštovane i omiljene, a ne izbacivane iz društva, zato što nemaju dovoljno vremena za skupe provode, tašnice i cipele“.

Ženske organizacije ukazuju da mere štednje Vlade Srbije najviše pogađaju žene, a i predviđena zabrana zapošljavanja se odnosi upravo na one sektore u kojima žene čine najveći deo radne snage, kao što su zdravstvo i obrazovanje.

Ovde se radi o trgovini ljudskim pravima, koja nisu na prodaju. Predsednik nudi državnu novčanu pomoć u zamenu za restrikcije prava na abortus, piše u saopštenju.

SIGURNOSNI RIZICI BRANITELJICA LJUDSKIH PRAVA I AKTIVISTICA PROTIV RODNO ZASNOVANOG NASILJA U BiH

<http://zenskamreza.ba/sigurnosni-rizici-braniteljica-ljudskih-prava-i-aktivistica-protiv-rodno-zasnovanog-nasilja-u-bih/>

Zakoni BiH ne prepoznaju poseban status braniteljica ljudskih prava (skraćeno BLJP), te im ne daju posebnu zaštitu od napada na lični ili profesionalni integritet, na njih primjenjujući iste zakone kao i na sve druge osobe u BiH. Određene grupe, prije svega novinari/ke, predstavnici/e LGBT organizacija, kao i zaštitnice ženskih prava izložene su posebnom riziku po vlastitu sigurnost, ograničena im je sloboda kretanja, a u odnosu na svoje muške kolege, BLJP su izložene i specifičnim prijetnjama koje uključuju: seksualizirane klevetničke kampanje, prijetnje (direktne ili indirektne) članovima/icama porodice, prijetnje seksualnim napadom ili objavljivanjem eksplicitnih poruka ili slika, javno propitivanje ženstvenosti, izgleda ili seksualnosti, te javno izražavanje rodnih stereotipa kojima se preispituju njihovi javni angažmani nasuprot njihovoj porodičnoj ulozi.

Većina prijetnji koje su u BiH upućene BLJP-u imale su rodnu konotaciju i najčešće se odnose na djelovanje braniteljica u zaštiti ženskih prava (rad sa žrtvama nasilja, rad sa ženama žrtvama rata, svjedočenja protiv ratnih zločinaca i sl.). Na posebno nerazumijevanje nailaze aktivistice koje rade u sigurnim kućama, centrima za socijalni rad i nevladinim organizacijama koje se bave zaštitom žena od rodno zasnovanog nasilja, međutim, napad na njihovo tijelo, imovinu ili radno mjesto ne smatra se napadom na službeno lice, bez obzira na to što je napad u vezi sa prirodom i opisom njihovog posla. U sklopu projekta “Ostati sigurne – Mreža sigurnosti za braniteljice ljudskih prava i aktivistice protiv rodno zasnovanog nasilja u Bosni i Hercegovini” objavljena je studija naziva Analiza sigurnosnih rizika u radu braniteljica ljudskih prava i aktivistica protiv rodno zasnovanog nasilja u BiH.

Rezultati ovog projekta kojeg implementira Fondacija lokalne demokratije u partnerstvu sa Udruženjem “Mreža žena policajaca” BiH, predstavljeni su u Sarajevu na dvodnevnom zajedničkom sastanku organizacija civilnog društva/braniteljica ljudskih prava 3.-4.jula., prilikom kojega je koncipiran i nacrt strateškog dokumenta za zaštitu braniteljica ljudskih prava, u cilju stvaranja njihovog sigurnijeg radnog okruženja te uspostavljanja mehanizama zaštite ljudskih prava. Rad i djelovanje BLJP-a se nerijetko smatra prijetnjom za održivost tradicije, porodice u tradicionalnom smislu, te religije i kulture, a ponekad se one karakterišu i kao neprijatelji države, pri čemu ih neprijateljima i stranim elementima počinje smatrati veći dio populacije (slučaj Nataša Kandić i Sonja Biserko u Srbiji, slučaj Štefice Galić u BiH itd.). Samo opredjeljenje žena da se bave zaštitom ljudskih prava je često neshvaćeno od strane porodice, s obzirom na tradicionalnu percepciju uloge žene u porodici i društvu, a rizik kojem je braniteljica ljudskih prava izložena prije svega je vezan za njen porodični život, gdje nerijetko izostaje podrška roditelja, bračnog ili vanbračnog partnera ili djece.

Dok su u pojedinim državama (Rusija, Turska, Pakistan, Indija) napadi na BLJP prije svega usmjereni na povredu tjelesnog integriteta, napadi na BLJP u BiH se uglavnom odnose na: prijetnje, klevetničke kampanje i uvrede koje su lične prirode. Najveći broj prijetnji je upućen preko interneta – putem internetskog portala (ispod članaka) i na Facebooku, međutim, zbog nemogućnosti praćenja nasilnih pojedinaca koji svoje identitete kriju iza lažnih imena i lozinki, te nedovoljne obučenosti policije za rukovođenje modernim tehnologijama kako bi se ušlo u trag cyber kriminalu, ovaj problem se usložnjava. BiH je ratificirala sve značajnije međunarodne i regionalne sporazume u oblasti ljudskih prava i sloboda i najznačajniji sporazumi su sastavni dio Ustava BiH, dok poseban značaj ima Evropska konvencija o ljudskim pravima i njeni protokoli. Na taj način prava i slobode koji su zagaranirani ovim sporazumima dopunjavaju član II.3 Ustava BiH, međutim, provođenje zakona u BiH predstavlja kariku koja nedostaje kada je u pitanju zaštita sigurnosti i digniteta BLJP-a. Nepodizanje optužnica i neprocesuiranje krivičnih djela, slaba veza među nadležnim institucijama poput policije i tužilaštva ili općenito nereagovanje, neizvještavanje ili pogrešno predstavljanje napada na braniteljice ljudskih prava u javnosti od strane

medija ili nadležnih institucija kao što su Ombudsmeni, otežavaju položaj braniteljicama ljudskih prava ili nerijetko odvrćaju od istrajnosti u toj borbi.

Braniteljice ljudskih prava nerijetko se opredjeljuju da promijene profesiju, radno mjesto ili mjesto stanovanja i prebivališta zbog prijetnji i uznemiravanja koje doživljavaju, te nemogućnosti da zbog takvih pritisaka vode normalan život. Podaci o zabilježenim prijetnjama na BLJP ukazuju da je najveći broj prijetnji upućen novinarkama. Novinarke poput Arijane Saračević Helač i Dženane Karup-Druško decenijama su izložene napadima, uvredama, i na njihov račun su iznošene brojne insinuacije, kojima se trebao obezvrijediti njihov rad i potkopati profesionalni autoritet. Teme ratnih zločina o kojima je novinarka i univerzitetska profesorica Edina Bećirević pisala uvijek su pratile prijetnje upućivane uglavnom u vidu “dobronamjernog savjeta” da bi se trebala paziti, razmisliti o tome šta piše i tome slično, objavljivanja lažnih članaka o njenom životu i radu, prijetećih pisama da će u javnost biti izneseni detalji o njenom privatnom životu, do direktnih prijetnji smrću. Javni linč na Lejlu Čolak je primjer da prijetnje mogu dobiti i elemente krivičnih djela, ali da mogu izazvati i poziv na masovni linč te imati i fatalne posljedice po osobu kojoj se prijeti. Naročito ozbiljne prijetnje, koje su uključivale napade na ličnost i imovinu, trpe žene koje jasno i otvoreno istupaju protiv ratnih zločinaca i nacionalističkih narativa poput aktivistica Saje Ćorić i Bakire Hasečić, a sa svakodnevnim prijetnjama suočava se i mostarska novinarka Štefica Galić.

U slučaju napada na braniteljice ljudskih prava koje se bave ratnim zločinima evidentno je da na rad policije bitno utječu ratna prošlost i nacionalna opredijeljenost. Napadi na grupu BLJP-a koje su svoj fokus stavile na promociju i zaštitu prava LGBT osoba, nerijetko su i fizičke prirode (napad na festivalu “Merlinka”, napad u kinu “Kriterion”). Prijetnje se dešavaju u svakodnevnom životu, pri čemu izostaje adekvatna zaštita policije. Ono što predstavlja poseban problem je sporo djelovanje tužilaštava koja nikada nisu podigla niti jednu optužnicu za napade koji su se desili na aktivistice za prava LGBT osoba. Zbog prirode posla kojeg obavljaju, žene policajke su u odnosu na npr. socijalne radnice i uposlenice sigurnih kuća, zaštićene samim statusom i posebnom regulativom, tako da su i napadi od strane počinitelja krivičnih djela rjeđi. S druge strane, činjenica da se ženama rijetko povjeravaju rukovodeći policijski poslovi, otežava i njihovu poziciju kada je u pitanju diskriminacija na radnom mjestu i prijava uznemiravanja od strane njihovih kolega. Mali broj prijava slučajeva seksualnog uznemiravanja ne ukazuje neminovno na slabu učestalost uznemiravanja, koliko na nespремnost policajki da traže službenu zaštitu. U policijskim strukturama u BiH nije dovoljno integrirana rodna perspektiva, policijski službenici nisu prošli odgovarajuće obuke iz oblasti rodne ravnopravnosti, rodno zasnovanog nasilja i diskriminacije, te se ne koristi rodno osjetljivi jezik.

U BiH nijedna žena ne obnaša najvišu poziciju unutar policijskog organa, što znači da u 16 policijskih agencija, koliko ih ima u BiH, nijedna žena ne obavlja dužnost direktora, odnosno komesara ili ministra, ili njihovih zamjenika. Diskriminacija žena u policiji je dvostruka, kako od kolega muškaraca koji policiju nikada nisu prestali posmatrati kao “muški posao”, tako i od građana/ki koji misle da je žene policajke lakše zastrašiti i da će im pružiti slabiju zaštitu. Žene policajke moraju raditi i truditi se više od svojih muških kolega kako bi se dokazale i pokazale da uspješno i kvalitetno obavljaju svoj posao. Direktna diskriminacija prema policajkama kada je u pitanju napredovanje (uslovljavanje da se za napredovanje u sljedeći čin mora ispuniti uslov ne dužeg izostanka sa posla od šest mjeseci u periodu od protekle dvije godine) direktno utječe na žene i njihovu mogućnost napredovanja. Mediji svojom pristranošću i neobjektivnošću ponekad doprinose napadima i zaoštavanju situacije što BLJP dovodi u težak položaj. Tome svjedoče izvještaji nakon haških presuda, neistinita pisanja o organizaciji gay parade u Sarajevu, te necenzuriranje komentara koji nerijetko u sebi imaju elemente prijetnje i zastrašivanja. Uloga policije se uglavnom svodi na zaprimanje prijava, nakon čega više ne reaguje. Deklaracija o ljudskim pravima branitelja ljudskih prava prepoznala je žene braniteljice ljudskih prava i naglasila je relevantna prava i obaveze svih država kada je u pitanju njihova zaštita. Stoga je obaveza BiH kao države da preduzme sve neophodne mjere da zaštiti BLJP i omogući njihovo slobodno djelovanje i rad.

Tužilaštva trebaju pokretati postupke za napade na BLjP, s obzirom na to da nekažnjivost napada ostavlja dojam da država ne štiti braniteljice što dovodi do još veće vulnerabilnosti BLjP-a. Unapređenje pravnog okvira u smislu usvajanja zakona koji direktno prepoznaju i sankcioniraju napade na BLjP je ključ za efektivnu i efikasnu zaštitu. Napadi na BLjP trebali bi zvanično biti evidentirani kao takvi, a ne kao “ometanja javnog reda ili mira”, “oštećenje imovine” i sl. Saradnja policije i tužilaštva trebala bi se unaprijediti u smislu vođenja detaljne istrage u slučajevima napada na BLjP, jer je nedopustivo da se slučajevi napada na BLjP tretiraju kao bilo koji drugi napad, te da se identitet napadača nikada ne razotkrije. Nevladine organizacije koje se bave zaštitom ljudskih prava trebale bi formirati mrežu koja bi se isključivo bavila zaštitom BLjP-a. Gender mehanizmi bi trebali razviti protokole za djelovanje i zaštitu BLjP-a u slučajevima kada su napadi na njih rodno utemeljeni, te imaju za cilj društvenu i javnu degradaciju BLjP-a.

**REGIONAL WOMEN'S LOBBY IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE (RWLSEE) AND
OTHER PARTICIPANTS OF THE CONFERENCE IN DURRES, ALBANIA, ON 15
SEPTEMBER 2018**

DECLARATION

- Concerned with recent regional development, which directly endanger peace processes and security not only of the region but also Europe itself.
- Concerned with destabilizing trends in the Balkan region which surfaced the dangerous ideas of potential change of borders after so many years of pursuing one set of values of EU integration of all 6 WB countries.
- Concerned with the lack of support of EU, US for the human and minority rights as a framework for guarantee of multiethnic societies and states and their focus on stability and security as a priority.
- Having in mind that European Integration of the Western Balkan countries and the principles imbedded in the democratization process such as rule of law, multiethnic concept, human rights, tolerance, pluralism and reconciliation that leads to the EU membership.
- Guided by these principles, RWLSEE and other participants of the Durres meeting took very strong position against the change of borders in the region because it leads to instability and unforeseen consequences to the region and beyond. Its negative impact lead to broader radicalization which would hinder democratization process and European perspective, for which we invested for more than 20 years.
- Considering that the region is currently exposed to conflicting geo-strategic interests, we, consider that speeding up the EU integration of Balkan countries would prevent opening other agendas which would undermine ongoing processes and achievements.
- We strongly support the continuation of Brussels dialogue on normalization of relations between Pristina and Belgrade and facilitated by EU which would lead to final agreement ensuring lasting peace and stability in the region. We strongly urge women to be included into the dialogue process in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and EU policies on gender equality.

Participants of the meeting included: Edita Tahiri, RWLSEE Chair/ Former Minister for Dialogue and Chief Negotiator, Kosovo; Gordana Sobol, RWL SEE Steering Committee Member/ Former MP and Chairwoman of the Mandate and Immunity Committee, Croatia; Sonja Biserko, RWLSEE Steering Committee Member/Director of Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Serbia; Eglantina Gjermeni, RWL SEE Steering Committee Member /Member of Parliament (MP), former Minister of Urban Development, Albania; Irina Pockova, RWL SEE Steering Committee Member/ Chairperson of Women's Chapter of SDA political party, Macedonia; Memnuna Zvizdić, RWLSEE Steering Committee Member, Executive Director "Žene Ženama", Bosnia and Herzegovina ; Members of Parliament from Serbia: Gordana Čomić (DP); Nataša Mičić, MP and leader of LDP, RWLSEE Member, Serbia; Members of Parliament from Kosovo: Xhevahire Izmaqu (PDK), Mexhide Mjaku-Topalli (PDK); Hykmete Bajrami (LDK); Time

Kadrijaj (AAK), Vlora Nushi, Office in Charge, UN Women Kosovo office, Diana Çekaj-Berisha, RWLSEE Coordinator/UN Women; Arbresha Dedinja, RWLSEE Project Assistant /UN Women.

RWLSEE is a unique regional women peacebuilding organization founded in 2006. Its mission is to empower women in peace processes and decision making in efforts of promoting peace, stability and European and Euro-Atlantic integration of the all six countries of Western Balkans. It holds that more women represented in the relevant peace and political processes brings better and more sustainable results. Its membership are high level women from politics, parliaments, governments and civil society from seven-member countries Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia.

<http://www.zenezenama.org/zene/>

Iceland - Prime Minister Joins Women's Equal Pay Walk-Out

Published in Independent, October 24, 2018 - Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir was among scores of Icelandic women who walked out of their workplaces on Wednesday to protest against wage inequality and sexual harassment.

The demonstration, organized by various unions and rights' groups, saw women leave office desks and factory floors at precisely 2:55 p.m. The time was chosen because it's equivalent to them working for 74 percent of a standard 9-5 day, reflecting the fact that women earn on average 26 percent less than men.

Iceland is a trailblazer when it comes to gender equality. It was the first country in the world to democratically elect a female head of state, and in January introduced a landmark law forcing companies to demonstrate that they do not pay women less than men for doing the same job.

Yet women on the north Atlantic island still earn significantly less than men on average, according to Statistics Iceland data. Moreover, the implementation of the equal pay legislation has proven more complex than initially anticipated, with the [deadline](#) for large companies to comply slipping by a year. Organizers also referenced the #MeToo movement, calling on businesses and on Jakobsdottir's government to "change how they deal with misogyny, harassment and violence in the workplace."

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/iceland-women-protest-strike-gender-pay-gap-leave-work-early-a7378801.html>

https://www.bloomberg.com/amp/news/articles/2018-10-24/iceland-s-prime-minister-joins-women-s-equal-pay-walk-out?_twitter_impression=true

Western Balkans Officials Pledge to Improve Economic Opportunities for Women and Girls

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2018/05/14/western-balkans-officials-pledge-to-improve-economic-opportunities-for-women-and-girls>

VIENNA, May 14, 2018 – Senior officials and representatives from the Western Balkans have committed to improving gender equality by endorsing a communiqué on improving access to economic opportunities for women and girls during a World Bank workshop, held today in Vienna. The communiqué focuses on improving gender equality by promoting better access to jobs and assets and the ability of institutions to monitor progress on gender equality.

“The importance of increasing access to opportunities for women in the Western Balkans is critical for growth, development, and EU accession,” says Linda Van Gelder, World Bank Regional Director for the Western Balkans. “This agenda received a big boost today by Western Balkans officials pledging to ensure more women find paid employment in higher skilled and better paying jobs.”

Estimates show that up to 18 percent of regional GDP is lost due to gender gaps in the labor market. Girls and women in the Western Balkans, although better educated than before, still do not participate equally in the labor market and, when they do, are more likely to be employed in low-skilled and low-paying jobs. During the workshop, *Unleashing Economic Growth Potential in the Western Balkans By Improving Equity and Gender Equality in Access to Economic Opportunities*, government officials from the six Western Balkan countries joined the World Bank experts and representatives from international organizations to discuss the economic and social costs of excluding women. Also discussed were the benefits of promoting equality in entrepreneurship and access to the labor market, as well as monitoring and evaluation of progress on gender issues.

The communiqué that was endorsed today confirms a commitment to gender and equity that is aligned with ongoing efforts to strengthen regional cooperation in the Western Balkans and address common challenges. These efforts will include peer-to-peer exchanges and a mutually-agreed monitoring of progress.

Unleashing Economic Growth Potential in the Western Balkans by Improving Gender Equality in Access to Economic Opportunities

Meeting of Western Balkans Regional Partners Communiqué

Vienna, Austria, May 14, 2018

We, the Regional Partners of the Western Balkans, affirm that the ambitious goal of inclusive and sustainable economic development must include a firm commitment to gender equality in access to economic opportunities. While the Western Balkans region has made progress in promoting inclusion in economic opportunities, gaps persist. Estimates suggest that we lose on average about 18 percent of GDP every year due to gender gaps in the labor market. Approximately, one-third of this loss is due to distortions in the choice of occupations between men and women, and two-thirds to the costs associated with gaps in labor force participation. Girls and women in the Western Balkans, although better educated than ever before, still do not participate equally in the labor market, and when they are employed they are more likely to be employed in low-skilled and low-paying jobs. Women also tend to undertake most of the responsibility of unpaid care and domestic work, have less access to credit, and are less likely than men to have fair career prospects and hold leadership positions in private and public life.

Understanding that moving this agenda forward requires a shift from projects to policy reform and the alignment of several actors, we commit to support reforms that foster cross-sectoral coordination on gender equality in three priority areas: (i) Access to assets, particularly land and property, (ii) Access to jobs and decent work, and (iii) Strengthening institutions to monitor progress on gender equality.

We commit to promoting equity in assets, particularly through the recognition of ownership of immovable property. We acknowledge that the current legislative framework can be improved to reduce barriers that hinder women's access to immovable property, and that the uneven implementation and enforcement of laws impedes women's ability to own, manage, control, and in some instances, inherit property and enjoy the economic and financial benefits of that ownership. This further curtails women's opportunities to access finance and engage in entrepreneurship. We, therefore, commit to promoting reforms that: (i) increase uptake, transparency, and accountability in the procedures for immovable property registration, and (ii) enhance the ability of service providers involved in the process of registration of immovable property to implement the provisions and procedures to recognize ownership of immovable property. Measures supported by the reforms will contribute to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 5.8, and are in line with the objectives set forth in Chapter 23 of the European Union's Acquis Communautaire (Fundamental Rights and Access to Justice).

We commit to removing legal and institutional barriers to promote labor market participation. We acknowledge that women's employment decisions result from interactions between prevailing gender and social norms. Various factors constrain women's labor force participation, including occupational sex segregation, lack of care services for dependents (children, sick, and the elderly), and legal, regulatory and social restrictions. We, therefore, commit to: (i) improving labor regulation, particularly around provisions on equality between men and women in employment and social policy, and (ii) promoting reforms to remove barriers to labor force participation for women and vulnerable groups. These measures are in line with European Union requirements on equal employment opportunities for all.

We commit to strengthening institutional arrangements, at the country and regional levels, to support social inclusion. We acknowledge that it is necessary to have a strong institutional mechanism to regulate

and oversee the planning and reporting on equity and gender equality commitments. We, therefore, commit to implementing policy reforms that (i) enhance the ability and accountability of the gender equality mechanisms, and (ii) improve the regional coordination and monitoring around gender equality and inclusion commitments. With respect to the latter, we commit to enhance regional coordination to facilitate sustained regional coordination and monitoring and evaluation of equity and gender equality in access to economic opportunities.

We confirm that taking a regional approach to the gender and equity agenda aligns with ongoing efforts towards strengthening regional cooperation in the Western Balkans. Under this approach, we will aim to address common challenges collectively, while facilitating specific individual reforms through peer-to-peer exchanges and accountability to mutually-agreed monitoring of and commitment to the reform agenda.

Civil Society Forum of the Western Balkans Series, Policy Brief no.4. April 2018

<http://wb-csf.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/CSF-PB-04-Gender-Issues-in-the-Western-Balkans.pdf>

This policy brief was prepared for the Western Balkans Summit in London 2018

Executive summary

The importance of gender equality in the enlargement process has been emphasised in various EU documents, while the European Commission's Country Reports have repeatedly recognised a number of challenges that Western Balkan (WB) countries face in achieving gender equality. The gender (in)equality picture portrayed by the EC comes increasingly close to the illustration of the greatest gender equality issues as defined by the civil society organisations (CSOs) from the WB: gender-based violence, political participation and decision-making, lack of gender mainstreaming, gender stereotyping and discrimination in the labour market.

Gender based violence has been recognised as one of the most pressing gender equality issues, while domestic violence is, according to the available reports and research, the most common type of gender-based violence. All WB countries have ratified the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (known as the Istanbul Convention), nevertheless the relevant changes in legislative and policy frameworks aimed to improve institutional response and support are yet to be harmonised with its requirements. As a result, the CSOs programmes and mechanisms are frequently the only available support to the victims.

Further, gender stereotypes are perceived as an underlying cause for almost all other forms of discrimination and a reason for the persistently subordinated position of women in the region's societies. Research shows the prevalence of deeply embedded conservative values in societies, which are promoted and further reinforced through media and education. Next, particularly widespread across the six countries is gender discrimination in the labour market, manifested either in low female participation in the labour market or in discrimination at the workplace. The difficulties in balancing private and professional life have been particularly recognised as a reason contributing to the high level of female inactivity in the labour market, but also as an impediment for women in climbing the career ladder. Women still face numerous obstacles to participation in politics and decision-making. Despite the fact that all WB countries have introduced female quota for their parliaments, partisan politics has remained a male-dominated field, due to the scarce presence of women in decision-making positions in political parties. Similarly, managerial positions in public administrations are dominated by men, even though in some countries, women comprise a majority in the total civil service. Last, but equally important, gender mainstreaming has been recognised as a necessary tool to improve gender equality, and yet it has not been widely applied in the Western Balkan region, nor has it been properly prioritised by the relevant national authorities. The only area where some progress is noted is gender responsible budgeting, but there is still a lot of room for improvement and full application of this tool.

In their efforts to achieve equality, all WB countries' independent bodies are public institutions with a mandate to deal with gender (in)equality. Nevertheless, the institutions overall are under-resourced and characterised as weak and inefficient in ensuring gender equality and protection of rights. On the other hand, the CSOs across the region have been the main driver for development of national gender policies enhancing and promoting gender equality through various activities and programmes. The mutual relations of CSOs with the institutions have always been complex with a fluctuating level of impact on

policymaking of the former. Thus, even though public institutions have to some extent accepted cooperation with CSOs as needed, the institutionalised practice is missing, along with well-defined mechanisms for cooperation.

Whereas national authorities are still largely characterised by poor monitoring and evaluation practices and capacities, CSOs have stepped in and provided monitoring and reporting on specific indicators and gender equality policy documents. However, a systematic approach is lacking and no regionally comparable monitoring has been put in place.

Harnessing the Power of the 16 Days Campaign

Demand an ILO Convention to End Gender-Based Violence in the World of Work

16 Days in Context

When the Center for Women’s Global Leadership first launched the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in 1991, along with the participants of its Global Institute, we had no idea that over 25 years later it would be the most widely recognized and longest-running campaign for women’s rights in the world. Its reach and power has been made possible by the thousands of grassroots activists and organizations that give it life as a truly global movement. We are honored to be in partnership in this work.

The 16 Days campaign was born during a formative moment for the international women’s movement. Since the 1970s, international women’s rights networks had been growing and expanding, facilitated in part by the UN World Conferences on Women. While today we take for granted that “women’s rights are human rights,” the reality is that it took feminists decades to secure the mere recognition that violations of women’s rights — and particularly violence against women — were not simply private acts outside the purview of the state, but constituted violations of human rights under international law.

The First Breakthrough

CWGL launched the first 16 Days Campaign in 1991 in collaboration with feminists from the Global North and the Global South who agreed on the pressing need to address violence against women as a key human rights issue. Their efforts began with a worldwide petition drive aimed at the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights that was held in Vienna in 1993, calling upon the Conference to comprehensively address women’s human rights and to recognize gender-based violence as a human rights issue. Prior to the widespread use of email or the Internet, the petition was circulated to 124 countries and translated into 23 languages. Thanks to the efforts of countless feminists around the world, violence against women was finally formally recognized as a human rights violation at Vienna, and one year later the UN appointed the first Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women.

16 Days Evaluated

As a campaign celebrating 27 years, we knew there were many best practices and insights to discover, among grassroots organizations leading the 16 Days campaign in communities around the world. In the fall of 2015, CWGL invested in an in-depth evaluation of the campaign where dozens of participating organizations shared their thoughts, experiences, critiques, and recommendations.

A common thread emerged from those conversations: all the years spent fighting to raise awareness about gender-based violence has not brought about lasting, fundamental change. It has not brought about the radical cultural shift we hoped it would, and it has not made gender-based violence a universally unacceptable act.

16 Days Re-Imagined

While the strength of the 16 Days campaign lies in its flexibility as a tool that anyone can adapt to their local context, it became clear to us that there was a strong desire for collective, global action. This

feedback has led CWGL to articulate a new vision for the 16 Days campaign. While a historic accomplishment for the international women's movement, we still find ourselves struggling against the same things, fighting the same fight, and continuing to demand dignity, autonomy, and justice. There has been a shift in consciousness — gender-based violence is now broadly recognized as an injustice against women — but no corresponding shift in action.

CWGL will continue to lead the coordination of the 16 Days campaign, as well as support and amplify the work of women all over the world, by evolving our focus in three ways:

1- Making the shift from Awareness to Accountability

Since its inception, the 16 Days Campaign has focused with great success on raising awareness on gender-based violence against women. This is an important part of the struggle, but alone it is not enough. Now is the time for action, the time to demand and ensure full accountability for violence, and for the failure of governments to live up to their commitments to the human rights of women, and to prevent any rollbacks.

2- 16 to 365

The 16 Days campaign evaluation underscored one thing: All of you who have built this movement want to be more involved, more often. We are committed to continuing to build on the success of the 16 Days campaign from November 25 to December 10 every year. We also firmly believe that the fight to end gender-based violence needs to continue with the same vigor throughout the year. We will hope to hear from you frequently, and you'll hear more from us, over the coming months, including through our new platform launching November 21.

3- A Global Call to Action

The 16 Days campaign has always been bold, unapologetic, and clear about our demands. **This year, we are introducing a call to action for all campaigns around the world to join.** With a new orientation expanding the focus of the campaign from a short two-week burst of energy to a sustained engagement throughout the year, **CWGL is harnessing the power of the 16 Days towards a targeted global advocacy goal over the next two years: ensuring that the International Labor Organization (ILO) adopts a legally binding convention to end gender-based violence in the world of work in June 2019.** We will continue to work beyond June to ensure that governments ratify the convention, and that its implementation is thorough, comprehensive, and effective.

These efforts are meant to complement the local and national actions and campaigns that are held every year between November 25 and December 10 at a more global, systemic level, and to contribute to a global feminist solidarity around a shared goal.

Another Breakthrough: A Global Campaign for a convention on GBV in the World of Work

Feminists in the 1990s achieved a truly monumental breakthrough when they secured the formal recognition of women's rights as human rights, and of violence against women as a human rights violation. This work continues, in new ways, as gender-based violence continues unabated. With an expanded and updated 16 Days campaign, we are gearing up for another breakthrough: adopting new, legally-binding international standards to eliminate gender-based violence in the world of work.

In 2015, the ILO — the only tripartite UN agency with government, employer, and worker representatives — decided to launch a standard-setting process on harassment and violence against women and men in the world of work, followed by a Meeting of Experts on violence against women and men.

In June 2018, the ILO began a series of discussions on a potential new ILO instrument on violence and harassment in the world of work at the International Labour Conference, in a committee composed of representatives from governments, employers, and worker unions.

In June 2019, the ILO committee will meet again to decide on what form the instrument will take: a legally binding convention, a non-legally binding recommendation, or a convention supplemented by a recommendation. We believe that the ILO should adopt the strongest possible instrument — a legally-binding convention supplemented by a recommendation. We demand an explicit and clear focus on gender-based violence. The convention should also include specific guidance for governments, employers, and trade unions to identify and address the discriminatory behaviors and unequal power relations that lie at the root of gender-based violence.

To date the [largest global advocacy campaign](#) for the adoption of a strong convention on gender-based violence in the world of work has been led by unions and labor organizations. The feminist movement has largely been absent from these advocacy efforts, which is a gap we aim to address. As feminists we will bolster and strengthen the global demand for a convention, including through ongoing local and grassroots participation through the 16 Days campaign, and by mobilizing to demand that governments support the ILO’s adoption of a convention supplemented by a recommendation in June 2019. Once it is officially adopted by the ILO, the momentum will be harnessed over the coming years towards demanding government ratification of the convention and implementation in accordance with women’s human rights.

16 Days: A New Digital Platform

In our 2016 assessment of the 16 Days campaign, we heard loud and clear: this community wanted a way to stay connected, and to share stories, press, and policy wins in your community.

On November 21, we will be re-launching the online presence of the 16 Days campaign through a new digital platform that will serve as an interactive hub, where organizations can share their campaigns, events, and resources. The new platform will act as an information clearinghouse for gender-based violence related news, reports, and analysis.

What we launch in November will be a “beta” version to better understand what will be most useful, to support the active 16 Days campaign as well as provide year-round resources, especially critical as we shift to a global call to action.

This platform is grounded in the campaign’s global ask, and provides tools, content, and analysis geared towards feminist and women’s rights organizations to better understand the ILO process, the draft convention itself, its gaps and strengths, and suggestions for advocacy activities targeted at governments.

We also hope that the platform evolves in ways we can’t predict, based on how it can serve you! As it is possible, and in service to this community, we will evolve the content and features of the platform in the coming years.

International technical guidance on sexuality education

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0026/002608/260840e.pdf>

The International technical guidance on sexuality education is a technical tool that presents the evidence base and rationale for delivering comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) to young people in order to achieve the global Sustainable Development Goals. The Guidance identifies the characteristics of effective comprehensive sexuality education programmes; recommends essential topics and learning objectives that should be covered in CSE curricula for all learners; and, outlines approaches for planning, delivering and monitoring CSE programmes.

Its purpose is to support curriculum developers and programme managers to create and adapt CSE curricula that is appropriate to their context, along with effective implementation and monitoring measures. It is also a resource for advocacy in favour of young people's health and well-being. The Guidance was developed through a consultative process aimed at ensuring quality, acceptability and ownership, with inputs from practitioners and experts, including young people, from different regions around the world. The Guidance is voluntary and non-mandatory, based on current evidence and international best practice, and recognizes the diversity of national contexts in which sexuality education is taking place.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AND YOUNG PEOPLE

http://arrow.org.my/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/SDGs_Young-People.pdf

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by world leaders at a historic United Nations summit in 2015, carries forward and improves on the Millennium Development Goals. The ambitious set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to be achieved by 2030,¹ is based on the principle of “leaving no one behind.” Thus, the Agenda calls for the recognition of the complexity and diversity of the world and its people. People between the ages of 15 and 24 years comprise 1.2 billion of the world’s population of 7.5 billion.² This unprecedented proportion of youth,³ promising the potential for new areas of social progress and innovation, is concentrated in 48 of the world’s poorest countries.

The Asia-Pacific region is home to 717 million people aged 15 to 24 making up 60% of the world’s youth.⁵ Despite proclamations that youth are at the heart of the SDGs, their unique issues are not adequately reflected in the Agenda. Poverty, discrimination, lack of social mobility, and limited access to information are the main obstacles that stand in the way of youth and their right to progress. Girls who are poor are particularly affected, as they experience multiple forms and layers of inequity and oppression, which limit their choices and opportunities.

For example, young girls are deprived of their sexual and reproductive health and rights,⁶ which shape virtually every aspect of their lives.⁷ This series of briefs aims to consolidate the outcomes of the 2017 Pre-Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) Youth Forum⁸ and the evidence base related to the SDGs and young people, with a focus on ensuring their sexual and reproductive health. It also recommends action to address the challenges faced by young people within the context of the issues raised in each goal in order to achieve them.

This publication was developed through a secondary literature review. It includes a brief for each of the 17 SDGs.

Clare Hutchinson, speech UN SC on WPS October 2018

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/opinions_159803.htm

In her address to the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women Peace and Security, Ms Hutchinson has emphasized that “there is a strong correlation between gender equality and a country’s stability. Women’s empowerment leads to more peaceful and inclusive communities and is vital for conflict prevention. The treatment of women in any society is a barometer where we can detect other forms of oppression, and a rise in violence can be measured through the decrease of human rights and shrinking spaces for women’s voices.”

She went further on to say that “today’s global threats are complex and multifaceted, and complicate the security landscape in unprecedented ways. Therefore, we need to respond adequately through a holistic approach to security. The link between security and economic stability has been well proven. Women’s economic fragility is reinforced by political instability. We must do better to support women to be agents of their own future.”

She mentioned that the NATO Civil Society Panel on Women, Peace and Security, where the CEE Network for Gender Issues is member of its Steering Committee, “urges us (NATO) to make gender more visible within security responses and provide a clear vision for the future...”

The CEE Network for Gender Issues is member of the CSAP Steering Committee. **Direct Link to Full 34-Page 2018 Report to the UN Security Council:**
<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/N1831325.pdf>

THE COMMITMENT TO REDUCING INEQUALITY INDEX 2018 A global ranking of governments based on what they are doing to tackle the gap between rich and poor

<https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/620553/rr-commitment-reducing-inequality-index-2018-091018-en.pdf?sequence=30>

In 2015, the leaders of 193 governments promised to reduce inequality under Goal 10 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Without reducing inequality, meeting SDG 1 to eliminate poverty will be impossible. In 2017, Development Finance International (DFI) and Oxfam produced the first index to measure the commitment of governments to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor.

The index is based on a new database of indicators, now covering 157 countries, which measures government action on social spending, tax and labour rights – three areas found to be critical to reducing the gap. This second edition of the Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index finds that countries such as South Korea, Namibia and Uruguay are taking strong steps to reduce inequality. Sadly, countries such as India and Nigeria do very badly overall, as does the USA among rich countries, showing a lack of commitment to closing the inequality gap.

Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index 2018 The report recommends that all countries should develop national inequality action plans to achieve SDG 10 on reducing inequality. These plans should include delivery of universal, public and free health and education and universal social protection floors.

ANTI-TRAFFICKING REVIEW: ISSUE ON IRREGULAR MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, TRAFFICKED PERSONS

<http://www.antitraffickingreview.org/index.php/atrjournal>

International migration has become a ‘mega trend’ of our times, with more than 260 million migrants living outside their country of origin in 2017. Some move in search of better livelihood opportunities, others flee conflict, environmental degradation or natural disasters, and yet others are deceived or coerced into exploitative work.

At the same time, the categories developed by the international community for people on the move—such as smuggled migrants, refugees, or trafficked persons—are increasingly inadequate to capture today’s complex migration flows. Yet the label that a person is given by authorities can mean the difference between assistance and protection, or arrest and deportation.

Direct Link to Full 144-Page 2018 Publication: http://gaatw.org/ATR/AntiTraffickingReview_issue11.pdf

IMPRESSUM

“PROGRESSIVE MEN AND WOMEN ON THE MOVE FOR GENDER EQUALITY”

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