



## WEEK OF WOMEN 2020

**Week of Women (WoW)** is an annual nationwide event that gathers, in a cross-ethnic setting, more than 120 women and men from political parties, civil society, business, media, and academia, with the aim of expanding the capacities of local women leaders skilled to assume greater leadership positions. Over the past eight years, WoW has become a critical venue for policy debate and intensive discussion with leading politicians and elected officials. It enables participants to hold their representatives to account while simultaneously developing, and shining a spotlight on, women's leadership.

### WOW Kick-Off Conference

**Changing the Face of Politics: the time is now.**

**At the current pace, gender parity will take 95 years. Democracy cannot afford to wait that long.**

**Prishtina, Kosovo  
December 15-16, 2020**

*\*Local times:Kosovo is GMT +1 (EST - 6). \*NOTE on the record.\*  
MC: RTK Journalist, Fitore Rexhepi*

## **December 15**

### **13:10 Welcoming remarks**

- National Democratic Institute President, Derek Mitchell U.S.
- Ambassador-at-large for Global Women's Issues Kelley Currie

### **13:30 - 13:55 Politics in the Digital Era: Opportunities and Challenges for Women**

*Women's political participation on equal terms with men is essential to democracy. Panelists will discuss gender equality in the context of 'digital politics' of social media, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic, and how women politicians can benefit from social media outreach while navigating gender-based online threats.*

- Acting President and Speaker of the Assembly of Kosovo Vjosa Osmani
- U.S. Ambassador to Kosovo Philip S. Kosnett

**Moderatore: Fitore Rexhepi, Journalist at RTK**



## **14:00 - 14:45 Parliament United in Diversity**

*The Kosovo Assembly gathers diverse political constituencies to debate and adopt legislation that affects all citizens of Kosovo. Panelists will discuss the institutional, political, and social factors shaping the Assembly's leadership role, and what can the Assembly do to advance its leadership in Kosovar society, particularly from the standpoint of gender equality.*

- Vice President of Kosovo Assembly Arbërie Nagavci
- Member of Kosovo Assembly and Chair of Women Caucus Vlora Limani Hajnuni
- Member of Kosovo Assembly Veton Berisha

**Moderator: Executive Director and Co-founder of New Social Initiative Jovana Radosavljevic**

## **15:00 - 15:45 Global Crises: Their Impact on Gender Parity**

*Democracy is being tested all over the world during the pandemic as authoritarian rulers impose restrictions on the democratic functioning of government and limitations on free expression and other basic human rights, including the rights of women and girls. Panelists will discuss how women around the world are standing up for democratic rights and how they can ensure that women's rights are protected.*

- Former U.S. Secretary of State and NDI Chairman Madeleine K. Albright
- Former President of Kosovo Atifete Jahjaga

**Moderator: Journalist Fitore Rexhepi**



## **16:00 - 17:15 Gender-Sensitive Legislation: The Quest for Equal Opportunity**

*The principle of gender equality holds that human rights cannot be achieved without guaranteeing equal rights between women and men. Panelists will discuss how parliaments legislate gender equality from the standpoint of creating and sustaining public policies enshrining gender equality.*

- Member of Kosovo Assembly Shkëmb Manaj
- Member of Kosovo Assembly Mimoza Kusari-Lila
- Member of Kosovo Assembly Ariana Musliu Shoshi
- Former Governor of New Jersey Christine Todd Whitman
- Member of the U.S. House of Representatives Lois Frankel
- Member of the European Parliament Lukas Mandl

**Moderator: Director of Research, Library and Archive  
Directorate of Kosovo Assembly Arben Loshi**

## **17:30 - 18:15 Accelerating Change: Women in Peace and Security**

*International gender equality instruments, including the landmark UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, enshrine the inclusion of women in formal peacebuilding and conflict resolution frameworks. This session will focus on progress achieved and deficits remaining in the implementation of the resolution and similar instruments.*

- Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations  
Samantha Power

**Moderator: Nita Luci, Anthropologist, Lecturer at the University of Prishtina**

## **18:15 - 18:25 Closing Remarks**

- U.S. Agency for International Development Assistant Administrator Michelle Bekkering

**18:30 Adjournment**



**Wednesday, December 16**

**13:00 - 13:10 Welcoming Remarks**

- U.N. Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, Alia El-Yassir

**13:10 - 13:55 Overcoming the Socio-economic Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic**

*Covid-19 has tested Kosovo's social cohesion, political stability, economic well-being, and individual health, with women bearing disproportionate costs. How is the Government of Kosovo providing inclusive decision-making and policy development to manage the immediate shocks of pandemic, as well as near- to long-term recovery policy processes that place women at the table?*

- Prime Minister of Kosovo Avdullah Hoti

**Moderator: KDI Project Manager Jeta Krasniqi**

## **14:00 - 14:50 Kosovo's 2021 Local Elections and Women Breaking Through**

*Inclusive elections are the starting point for democratic governance. Panelists will focus on the role political parties play in election campaigning from supporting women candidates to developing gender-relevant platforms, to reducing barriers to women's political leadership—and how they can do so at a time of public health crisis.*

- Vice President of Aleanca për Ardhmerinë e Kosovës (AAK), Teuta Haxhiu
- Secretary General of Partia Demokratike e Kosovës (PDK), Uran Ismaili
- Leader of Nova Demokratska Stranka (NDS), Emilija Redžepi

**Moderator: Democracy Plus Program Director Albert Krasniqi**



## **15:00 – 16:15 Safeguarding Peace and Stability: Gender Perspectives in Conflict Resolution Processes**

*Studies show that when women are involved in formal peacebuilding efforts, better and more lasting solutions emerge. This discussion will bring an international perspective to Kosovo's challenges in reconciliation and peace building processes.*

- Minister for Foreign Affairs and Diaspora of Kosovo Meliza Haradinaj-Stublla
- Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden Ann Linde
- Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada Rob Oliphant

**Moderator: Former Kosovo Ambassador to Japan Leon Malazogu**

## **16:30-17:15 Women and Youth Climbing the “Glass Cliff”**

*The record number of women elected to parliament beyond the gender quota and the rise of young parliamentary candidates are a testament to the changing faces of Kosovo political leadership. This session will focus on political party actions to support women and youth as they climb the leadership ladder.*

- Former Prime Minister and Leader of Lëvizja Vetëvendosje (LVV), Albin Kurti

**Moderator: Journalist Fitore Rexhepi**

## ***17:20-17:40 Reflection on Women of Kosovo: What has been Achieved***

- Former Deputy Prime Minister and Chief Negotiator of Kosovo Edita Tahiri

**Moderator: Journalist Fitore Rexhepi**

## ***17:40-18:00 Closing Remarks and Adjournment***

- Ambassador of Canada to Croatia and Kosovo, Alan Bowman
- NDI Senior Resident Director for Kosovo, Nancy Soderberg



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