



Week of Women

WOW Kick-Off Conference

Week of Women (WoW) is an annual nationwide event that gathers, in a multi-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 nine 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 advancing, and shining a spotlight on, women's leadership.



Pristina, Kosovo
March 15-16, 2022

Defending Democracy: Inclusion Matters

March 15, 2022

Venue: Hotel Emerald

9:15 - 10:00 Arrival of participants

10:00 - 10:40 Welcoming remarks

- Ambassador Nancy Soderberg, Senior Country Director, NDI Kosovo
- H.E. Dr. Vjosa Osmani Sadriu, President of the Republic of Kosovo
- The Honorable Jeffrey M. Hovenier, Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of Kosovo

10:40 - 12:30 New Momentum for Kosovo's Democracy: Prospects for Gender Equality in Political Parties.

Despite clear signs of progress, there is much more to be done to ensure women's full participation in public life. Women in politics face multiple barriers, political parties often lack clear formalized processes for identifying and selecting candidates in the lists, and fail to prioritize support and promote women. This panel discussion seeks to discuss challenges and opportunities of the cultures, bylaws and structures of their political parties to enable a safe and encouraging environment for women and men in politics.

- Albin Kurti, Leader of Levizja Vetevendosje (LVV)
- Memli Krasniqi, Leader of Partia Demokratike e Kosoves (PDK)
- Lumir Abdixhiku, Leader of Lidhja Demokratike e Kosoves (LDK)
- Ramush Haradinaj, Leader of Aleanca per Ardhmerine e Kosoves (AAK)
- Emilija Redzepi, Leader Nova Demokratska Stranka (NDS)

**Moderator: Ambassador Nancy Soderberg,
Senior Country Director, NDI Kosovo**

12:30 - 13:45 Lunch

**14:00 - 14:20 Safeguarding Women's Political
Inclusion**

- Jacqueline O'Neill, Canada Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security

**14:20 - 16:00 Democracy Demands Security: A
Digital Space Free From Violence Against
Women in Politics**

Online violence against women in politics is a global problem that undermines women's just and meaningful participation in public life and political processes. Unfortunately, Kosovo's media environment and online spaces are not immune to this challenge. Women and men in leadership positions are subject to verbal attacks for their political positions, however, women are also subject to biased, offensive and sexist language. This panel discussion will seek to address the impact of online violence against women in politics and the role of political parties and the media in combating this phenomenon to enable an inclusive political culture and public discourse.

- Saranda Bogujevci, Deputy Speaker, Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo
- Doarsa Kica Xhelili, Chair of the Committee on Public Administration, Local Governance, Media and Rural Development, Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo
- Eliza Hoxha, Member of the Parliament and Board Member of Women Caucus, Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo
- Ardian Gjini, Mayor, Municipality of Gjakova
- Sibel Halimi, Presidency Member of Lidhja Demokratike e Kosoves (LDK)

Moderator: Xhemajl Rexha, Chairman of the Board, Association of Journalists of Kosovo