



**Mitrovica Women Association for Human Rights
Women's Association "Peščanik" and Women's Network of the Rasina District**

**For the officials
07/12/2021**

WOMEN'S GROUPS FROM KOSOVO AND SERBIA CALL FOR WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN BELGRADE AND PRISTINA DIALOGUE

Women groups and activists from Rasina district, Serbia, and the region of Mitrovica, Kosovo, believe that excluding women from the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue causes damage to the relations in the area, the European integration process in the Western Balkans and reduces opportunities for dialogue and peace stability.

The initiative, launched jointly by the Mitrovica Women's Organization for Human Rights, the Pescanik Women's Association, and the Rasina District Women's Network, "Involve Women in Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue," aims to raise awareness of the importance of women's participation in peace dialogue and trust on the broader community.

This initiative and campaign, developed under the slogan # Involve women in dialogue, was created as a result of the last meeting in the series of the meetings of these associations, of women's rights activists and socially active individuals from Kosovo and Serbia, with the support of the Swedish Foundation Kvinna till Kvinna and the European Union.

The meeting appealed to national officials of Kosovo and Serbia, the European Union, and its mediator in the current round of negotiations between Belgrade and Pristina, Miroslav Lajcek, to implement UN Resolution 1325 Women, Peace, Security and ensure that **the voice of women and women's rights activist heard** .

Mitrovica Women Association for Human Rights (MWAHR), 2012, it is a multiethnic women's group that gathers women from Mitrovica Region: City of Mitrovica South and North, Vučitrn, Srbica, Laposavić, Zubin Potok, and Zvečan. The organization is working on strengthening the role of women in society and in the decision-making process to achieve peace and improve socio-economic development in the area. WMAHR cooperates with local authorities in 7 municipalities and regional and international organizations. It is a member of the Kosovo women's Network.

Udruženje žena Peščanik, (Women Association Sandglass) 2000, has been the first women group in the Rasina District territory. The organization's mission is the improvement of the status of women and advocacy for the promotion of their status and gender equality. Since 2009, WA Pescanik has provided



emotional, informative, and legal support for women who experience gender-based violence in Serbian and Roma languages. Peacenik is a Women against violence Network, Network of Women in Black, and Rasina District Women Network.

Rasina District Women Network is a coalition of women groups and individual activists of human rights. They deal with women political, economic, and empowerment to build peace and combat gender-based violence, encourage women's self-organization, and advocate for changes in public policies. The network consists of the following groups: Una, Čičevac, Kaliopa, Brus, Ž kao žena i kao Župa, Aleksandrovac, Young Heart and Teuta team, Trstenik and Romani cikna Kruševac. Sandglass is Network coordinating organization.

The Women for Peace and Security program aims to promote gender equality and the democratization of the Western Balkans, in line with the European Union's feminist foreign policy, the Gender Equality Strategy, and other relevant EU policies.

The cooperation of women in this initiative builds on the experience of other women's organizations in peace building and community democratization, especially in the Women's Network in Black and the Kosovo Women's Network and the need for women in the region to live safely and securely.

The cooperation recognizes the contribution and builds on the experience of women's organizations in peacebuilding and community democratization, above all the Women in Black Network and the Kosovo Women Network and the need for women in the region to live in safely.