

CSP WORKING GROUP ON WOMEN AND GENDER REALITIES IN THE OSCE REGION

Short report from the coordination meeting in Hamburg from 21 – 23 September 2018

Participants: Anna Osypova, Heidi Meinzolt, Tolesan Ismailova, Gulnara Shahinian, Anki Wetterhall, Luisa del Turco, Annalisa Milani, Eliko Bendeliani, Dunja Khalil, Olena Uvarova, Maria Yasenovska, Irmgard Hofer, Eleonore Broitzmann

The meeting was embedded in two very nice **public events**:

An **award ceremony** in Verden/ Aller where Gulnara Shahinian/ Armenia got the "Anita-Augspurg-Price for a rebel against war" from WILPF Germany: *"With this award we want to honour and encourage women who are committed to combating militarism and war and strive for women's rights and Peace.... Anita Augspurg and Gulnara Shahinian are both dedicated fighters for women's rights, which draw a bow from the social situation of girls and women to democratic participation and finally as actors in peaceful changes. Gulnara Shahinian and her team are worthy winners to continue this important work!"* (part of the laudatory speech).



As all participants of the WG were present in Verden, the public could learn a lot about CSP commitment and the political situations in all our countries and actual discussions in the OSCE region from a gender lens.



A public event in the women's library in Hamburg on Sunday with journalists and students, was very interesting and opened up a discussion on dramatic changes and challenges in the OSCE area such as shrinking space, corruption, decline of human/ women rights, populism and authoritarian regimes, migration and the situation of IDPs – and provided the opportunity to share stories of courageous women as agents of change in difficult situations (Ukraine, Caucasus, but also in the former "stable democracies" in the West - as also discussed in the CSP Annual Meeting in Warsaw.

The coordination meeting started with a lively and open exchange on the respective situation in each country and legal and creative strategies of women to cope with it. Heidi, Tolesan and Anna reported about their experiences, their views and contributions in and from the CSP Annual Meeting in Warsaw concerning



constitutional changes, political focal points discussed in various forms, the agenda and the preparation for the Parallel Conference in Milano. Tolekan and Heidi told about their participation in HDIM side-events and plenaries and contacts to OSCE stakeholders.

We discussed the changing patterns for NGO activities, growing bureaucratic obstacles in the whole “donor business”, and emphasized the importance of strengthening horizontal cooperation, new networks and autonomy of CSO activities.

We decided to re-formulate our aims and principles and actualize gendered recommendations for the CSP and the OSCE institutions, which will be discussed via electronic communication and decided in a pre-meeting in Milano.

Our main approach is cross-dimensional, linking horizontally the three OSCE dimensions: the Human dimension, the Security & Cooperation and the Economic and Environmental dimension with vertically the priorities of the Women/ Peace and Security Agenda/ WPS: Prevention, Protection, Participation and Prosecution. A respective paper will be presented to CSP and OSCE institutions/Gender Unit soon.

Olena and Maria reported about their rich fact finding mission and numerous and important activities in Ukraine. Examples: search for gender-disaggregated data, contribution to curricula of law universities, accompany court decisions, work on the IDP situation, poverty and survival strategies, trafficking, corruption and more. Their stories were complemented by Eliko from Georgia, Gulnara, Anna and Tolekan.

Further Agenda proposals:

Migration with a gender lens in the whole cycle of migration, including specificities of IDPs will be top priorities.

Developing analysis of the longer-term efforts that will be needed, including by foreshadowing situations that could heighten vulnerability such as women-headed households in militarised zones

Highlighting the importance of ensuring women’s participation and women human rights defenders in follow-up and implementation of the recommendations, including where relevant in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 1325

Contacts to Slovakian women NGOs are on the way in order to cooperate already in Milano.

Next meetings:

26 October 2018 in Rome on the invitation of the university on UNSCR1325 – linked probably to a debate on Migration/ IDPs from a gender lens

27 October 2018 Participation of three women in the Bishkek Film Festival with contributions in different debates (Dunja, Luisa, Gulnara),



2 – 3 December 2018 Meeting in Milano to finalize recommendations and contributions to the CSP Parallel Conference and OSCE stakeholders, institutions.

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