

"Reaching out to make a change" Conference

Thursday, 13 May 2010

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mso-generic-font-family:roman;
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div.Section1
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From May 6 to 8, 2010, our donor - the Swedish Foundation Kvinna till Kvinna organized the conference "Reaching out to make a change" in Montenegro for 150 representatives from women's organizations from all over the Western Balkans. Women from the Middle East, Southern Caucasus and Liberia were also invited to take part in the meeting.

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The main aim of the meeting was to discuss the challenges facing the woman's movement in the Balkans and the rest of the world, share and spread energy for raising concerning issues considered as common, to make contacts and exchange knowledge and experience. How can we be better at reaching out with our message without exposing ourselves to security risks? How do we include the young women as human rights activists? The programme was tailored by offering lots of different options with workshops, seminars and film screenings. Lectures were sandwiched between workshops and small group discussions. One programme item that made an impression was Ambassador Lois Brutus's speech on her experiences from the woman's movement in Liberia.

The film Pray the Devil Back to Hell, about the Liberian women's movement, was shown along with the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation's own film Women's War, about sexual violence in DR Congo.

How can social media and theatre be used as an instrument in advocacy work was two different workshop themes.

Since the foundation is in its phase out from the Balkans, and by that from our country as well, the possibilities of future cooperation were discussed. Our organization, along with the representatives from Balkan grantee organizations, showed their opinions how the foundation can cooperate with us, even though there will be no financial support available. The common conclusion was that Kvinna Till Kvinna will remain our political partner and by that will give support by lobbying for advancing and improving the legal framework in relation to woman's rights. The references from the foundation will be highly appreciable as well, by giving the organizations credit for their lasting work and capacities which will be certainly use for increasing the grant opportunities. Seminar , training , conferences invitations from the foundation will be useful for networking and starting collaboration with new organizations. These tools are very important, because that is the way to keep the woman movement alive and to develop it further with making efforts to be made in practical use for all of us.