



Conference Women in Caucasus: Politics of war, peace and violence

*Second Regional Conference
“Caucasus Our Common Home”*

Yerevan, Armenia, March 2014

“Democracy Today” NGO

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ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The Second Regional Conference held under general title “Caucasus Our Common Home” will focus on the women’s role in war and peace in the Caucasus. The conference will specifically examine methods of pressure: political, religious, societal used against women during military activities and after and will seek to find solutions. The conference is seen as a forum for bringing concrete experiences women have in the field and developing joint platform for cooperation for peace and protection of women peace-makers.

Both NGOs and individuals are eligible to apply for participation. One organization from each region of Caucasus is invited. The organizations and individuals with long standing experience in peace and human rights in their respective region are privileged. The two days’ meeting provides creative environment to each participating organization to choose the method of presentation they are interested in: panel discussion, master class demonstration of methodologies, discussion in groups.

Interested applicants have to fill in the application form (see below and on www.democracytoday.am) and send it to organizers. For presenting papers at the Conference, please, submit abstracts of 300-500 words.

The selected participants’ participation cost, including airfare, roundtrip transportation, lodging and food will be covered. Others may be supported in arranging logistics for their trip.

Invited are women’s organizations from North and South Caucasus: Abkhazia, Adjara, Adygeya, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Chechnya, Dagestan, Georgia, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachay-Cherkessia, Krasnodar Krai, Stavropol Krai, and North Ossetia, Nagorno Karabakh and South Ossetia.

Organized by “Democracy Today”, an Armenian NGO, (in cooperation with partner organizations from Azerbaijan and Georgia, founding members of initiative “Women of South Caucasus for Peace and Security in the Region: Peace Starts from Your Home”), the Conference aims at developing new platforms of cooperation and bringing women’s groups from entire Caucasus to collaboration.

The first regional conference in 2013 (Yerevan) demonstrated large interest of Caucasus women for networking and exchanging first-hand information about their own experiences. With new cooperative platforms, women learn about each other’s’ work, methodologies and achievements in promoting peace and human rights and create network for further promotion.

BACKGROUND

Modern history of Caucasus, ethnically extremely diverse region, that makes home for more than 50 ethnicities, has been marked with search for identity in the new social and economic environment and political tensions and conflicts.

The conflicts and wars that embarked in the region during the last two decades created numerous obstacles, ceasefire zones, brought to reshaping the concept of unity that was called earlier Caucasus, limiting opportunities for interrelation between the states and people and possibilities of integrated common regional vision for joint development.

Women in the Caucasus, who have historically played important role in peace making and society building and reconciliation, seem to be invisible in these processes. There has been common interest raised at the civil society level for the need of innovative approaches to rethink the situation and need for common endeavor to work together to build and integrated common home. It is necessary to have larger vision for the region to provide hope, inclusive progress and development. It is important to increase opportunities for direct contacts and better knowing and understanding each other to develop wider vision and sustainable peace. Women had and have important role in building peace and education of their societies, their important activities have to be supported and joined programs supporting, empowering women have to be developed. The aim of the first meeting organized by NGO from Armenia “Democracy Today” (in cooperation with partner organizations from Azerbaijan and Georgia, founding members of initiative “Women of South Caucasus for Peace and Security in the region”) is to develop new platform of cooperation, will bring to collaboration women’s groups from entire Caucasus and create network of women peace makers, the network they will learn from each other , the network they will support and get empowerment.

Deadline: December 1, 2013.

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APPLICATION FORM

“CONFERENCE WOMEN IN CAUCASUS : POLITICAL OF WAR PEACE AND VIOLENCE”

SECOND REGIONAL CONFERENCE

YEREVAN, ARMENIA, MARCH 2014

*1. Name of organization/individual:

*2. Contacts

*Address:

*Telephone number:

Fax number:

*E-mail:

*3. Goals of organization/activities:

*4. Developed in the last five years projects/activities:

*5. Interest in participation:

*6. Mode of presentation:

*7. Required equipment:

*8. Name and position of person who will participate: