

September 21, 2017

Session, 16 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Tolerance and non-discrimination II:

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am Tolekan Ismailova, Human Rights Movement “Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan”, member of the new Gender Women Working Group under Civic Solidarity Platform.

We join in congratulating the appointment of Ms. Amarsanaa Darisuren to the key post Gender Section OSCE.

The WG on women and gender realities in the OSCE area was founded with an initial document Dec2016 in Hamburg and had its kick-off at the Gender Assembly in Vienna June 2017. There is a coordinating team: united experts and WHRD from Germany, Georgia, Ukraine, Russia and Kyrgyzstan.

The main topics are:

Multiple discrimination - as a set of patriarchal structures. This is not meant as primarily talking on women as victims but as awareness raising for women’s empowerment as agents of change!

Contextualization of migration, women migrants and their specific vulnerability and needs, IDPs, with a focus not only on humanitarian activism but also as political intervention

Economic empowerment, beyond free market principles and service provision, re-evaluation of care work and economic independence to enable also for political participation.

The WG will invest in awareness raising and training within the OSCE, the CSP and their members and partners on Women’s rights as Human rights.

The WG will provide space for exchange and storytelling in a sensitive way and take up cases. The WG works closely with the OSCE Gender Unit as well as present and future OSCE Chairmanships and respective civil society (women) representatives. We intend to make a substantial contribution to the upcoming Vienna declaration as well as in preparation for the Italian presidency. We have joined in the implementation and promotion of the human rights approach for effective implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality with new approaches to results and innovative initiatives.

Considering that shrinking space for civil society is not gender neutral, OSCE institutions and CSO in the OSCE region should consider important results of gender research regarding the analysis of equal and just societies and a multitude of good practice examples if it comes to the specific input and the participation of women in dialogue formats, peace processes, negotiations, diplomatic and conflict related analysis and debates with innovations.

Expressing also concern about de-gendering of certain debates excluding as well women from participation in decision-making processes, especially in societies where violent extremism and populism/ nationalism are linked to always more exclusive politics.

We have to be very aware of a dangerous backlash and a policy, which at the same time is reaffirming securitization of civil spaces where women with little power loose access. Neglecting the gender impact is part of a vicious cycle putting even more in danger already fragile States

and traditional and patriarchal societies and is often a source of growing violence (GBV), new “heroisation” in nationalized contexts and the use of weapons and growing (racist) attacks on most vulnerable groups.

As civil society representatives we win if we are inclusive and express this, raising our voices against injustice (not just naming women with vulnerable and marginalized people but also engage men in the debate) and in favor of equal participation of all parts of the society. Human rights are women’s rights, men’s rights, peoples’ rights, and respect and diversity are the most important basis for sustainable peace. This common narrative should be a basic reference point for CSP.

Underlining on the one side that women are in the context of space for Civil Society most vulnerable and multi-vulnerable (specific basic needs, family and work context under specific attention to care work, victimization due to GBV and abuse, patriarchal structures causing traditional marginalization and exploitation), we express that like men, women are agents of change:

in all conflict cycles: de-radicalisation, cross-border initiatives and contacts, greater distance to weapons and therefore key actors in disarmament and demobilization issues

In negotiations on all levels of decision-making: priority to humanitarian corridors and support, gender responsive social and health services, priority to organize survival of their families and neighbors and arguing against strategic “heroes” in militarized contexts. Women are very creative and sensitive in formulating post conflict transition, trauma healing, but also transitional justice measures and political initiatives based on their experiences in doing the daily care tasks even under most conflicting situations. Women are key actors in building cross-border and cross-dimensional networks in the fields of migration, trust building, Human Security issues, but also energy efficiency, just access to food and clean water, access to media.

Women’s issues are based on International frameworks, UNSCR1325 and follow up resolutions, CEDAW, Beijing platform of action, gender action plans. Istanbul convention

Women are key actors against radicalization and violent extremism as all forms of discrimination but not necessarily as mothers but as persons, legal subjects with voice and power to act.

Working Group on Women and Gender Realities in the OSCE Region

05.04.2017, Coordinator: Heidi Meinzolt, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom,

<http://civicsolidarity.org/member/1451/working-group-women-and-gender-realities-osce-region>

Thank you.

www.birduino.kg