



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE HEAD OF THE OSCE OFFICE IN
TAJIKISTAN**

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 5 June 2014

Mr Chairman,

I aligned myself with the statement made by Greece on behalf of the European Union, but would in my national capacity like to add a point on a project which is very dear to us, namely the Women Resource Centres.

Mr Chairman,

Taking into account the time constraints we may face today, I will circulate the full version of my statement in writing. I will now therefore limit myself to the following: We believe that these Women Resource Centres play an important role in empowering women and girls, in small towns and villages, to claim their rights and to access state services and institutions.

We furthermore regard these centres as a valuable assistance to Tajik authorities in their efforts to promote gender equality and to provide education to women and girls.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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Full version:

Mr Chairman,

I aligned myself with the statement made by Greece on behalf of the European Union, but would in my national capacity like to make an additional comment on a specific project in Tajikistan which was not highlighted in Ambassador Muellers report. That is the good work conducted by the Office for the Women's Resource Centres, a project which is very dear to us.

The idea behind this project is to work with a network of women's organizations in small towns and villages in order to promote empowerment of women and girls to claim their rights and to access state services and institutions.

Another important objective of the project is to augment and expand the reach and impact of community-based education and counselling on practical issues in housing, family law, employment, property and registration rights of special concern to women and families. It also strengthens cooperation between civil society and authorities at local level, a relationship that fosters confidence-building, mutual learning and sustainability. The project addresses issues of gender, human rights, rule of law and local level governance. By working at grassroots level and focusing on communities outside the Capital the project aims to contribute to the democratisation process in Tajikistan and to address aspects of inequality in access to rights that have been identified and documented in strategic documents of the Government of Tajikistan.

These Resource Centres have since 2011 gained a lot of experience. They provide very useful contact points for women and girls in the regions. Supporting these Centres is one of the most valuable ways to assist the government of Tajikistan in promoting gender equality, the role of women in society as well as education.

Mr Chairman,

I encourage the OSCE Office in Tajikistan to continue to give priority to the Women's Resource Centres also in the years to come.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.