



In the MAINSTREAM

SP GTF Newsletter 03/2005

Dear Readers,

the GTF is preparing for its summer break from August 1st until August 17th and are pleased to provide you with some new information on our activities and developments in the field of gender equality in SEE in the meantime.

During that time you can read our newsletter!

Ongoing Cooperation with the ICFTU Women's Trade Union Network

An SPGTF Regional Delegation will participate in the next ICFTU CEE & CIS Women's Network 6th International Trade Union Women's School «International and European Social and Gender Standards» from **28. September -1. October 2005**. The GTF will present its experience in implementing gender programs for social dialogue in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.

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Social Dialogue and Empowerment of Trade Union Women in Serbia

The next step in the GTF's successful work with SEE Trade Unions is being launched in Serbia this summer! Namely, in 2005 the GTF is implementing 8 seminars for social dialogue and women's empowerment in two major Trade Unions in Serbia and Vojvodina, to be followed in 2006 by strategic planning and concrete negotiations with authorities for improving conditions for women workers. This project is funded by the Italian Government and implemented by our long term GTF partner organization Vojvodjanka, headed by GTF NGO Focal Point Marija Gajicki.

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Election results

Parliamentary Elections were held recently in two Stability Pact Participating States, Albania and Bulgaria, and although official results are not yet confirmed, it is apparent that women's participation has remained stable, with a small rise in Albania and a small drop in Bulgaria. This confirms the trend of stability in women's representation in recent parliamentary elections

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elsewhere in SEE, with the exception of countries which changed their election laws in favor of affirmative action. We will keep you updated as more specific information becomes available.

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Ongoing work with SEE Roma Women

The GTF will continue its work with Roma Women activists in the Fall, pending arrival of funds from the Norwegian Foreign Ministry. This new GTF Project was developed largely through the joint efforts of prominent Roma women together with SEE Government and Parliamentary officials responsible for Roma and Minority Rights and the GTF Network of Focal Points. Expect more information in our next newsletter.

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Parliamentary Project update

GTF Chair Sonja Lokar and her Associate Mary Ann Rukavina Cipetic have undertaken introductory consultative visits to seven SEE parliaments in the past three months. In the course of their visits they met with Parliamentary Speakers and MPs working on gender issues and foreign affairs to introduce the new GTF Parliamentary Project. These meetings served to provide input into the assessment of parliamentary priorities. Parliamentary Officials and MPs gave feedback which will help tailor the project's activities related to harmonizing legislation including a gender equality perspective. The GTF will visit the two remaining Parliaments participating in the project (Albanian and Bulgarian) in September 2005 to complete this introductory phase. The date of the first of two Regional Women MP Seminars is tentatively set for **October 28-30** in Zagreb, Croatia

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