



Week of Women 2024: Opening Conference

Lead with Inclusion: Intersecting Politics and Economics

Week of Women (WoW) is an annual nationwide event that gathers, in a multi-ethnic setting, more than 120 women and men from political parties, civil society, business, media, and academia, with the aim of expanding the capacities of local women leaders skilled to assume greater leadership positions. Over the past twelve years, WoW has become a critical venue for policy debate and intensive discussion with leading politicians and elected officials. It enables participants to hold their representatives to account while simultaneously advancing, and shining a spotlight on women's leadership.

“Lead with Inclusion: Intersecting Politics and Economics” will focus on the critical intersection between inclusive leadership, politics, and economics, and its impact in shaping more resilient societies. Inclusive leadership is key to ensuring social cohesion, enhancing economic growth and strengthening democratic governance. Through different sessions, the overarching theme of Week of Women 2024 aims to bring an open dialogue which emphasizes practices and benefits of leading with inclusion as a fundamental governing principle which takes into account the needs of different groups of society including the perspectives of women, non majority communities, youth, people with disabilities, LGBTQI+ individuals and other underrepresented groups.

Week of Women is organized by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). NDI is also thankful to the Embassy of Canada in Croatia and Kosovo for supporting the Week of Women 2024.

Day 1

10:00 - 10:05 Welcoming Remarks

- Ambassador Nancy Soderberg, Resident Senior Director, NDI Kosovo

10.05-10.15 Opening remarks

- Kerry Monaghan-Hogler, Acting Mission Director, USAID Kosovo
- Beate Katja Elsässer, Head of Cooperation, Embassy of Switzerland

10:15 - 10:25 Keynote Address: Advancing inclusive leadership as a strategic imperative to address 21st century challenges

- H.E. Vjosa Osmani, President, Republic of Kosovo
- Dr. Geeta Rao Gupta, Ambassador-at-Large, U.S. Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues (video message)

10:25-10:55 “Power of Action” Talk: How to fight gender inequality through inclusive leadership



Inequality globally, including in Kosovo, manifests in various forms, spanning across economic, political and social dimensions. Underrepresented communities, especially women, often bear the brunt of social inequality in society, facing economic discrimination and exclusion from decision making processes. Inclusion as a fundamental guiding principle in leadership ensures the representation of individuals and different groups of society, addressing their needs and priorities under the ultimate goal of reaching social equality.

- Gresa Caka-Nimani, President, Constitutional Court of the Republic of Kosovo

11:00-12:30 Panel discussion: Disrupting the cycle of violence through economic empowerment

Gender based violence (GBV) and violence against women remains a pressing global issue, standing as one of the main roadblocks towards achieving gender parity. Although as a phenomenon it affects all women with no exception, women of lower socioeconomic backgrounds are more prone to be trapped longer in the cycle of violence. This panel discussion aims to highlight how policy-making based on intersecting identities positively impacts women's economic empowerment, and offer sustainable solutions to end the cycle of gender based violence and violence against women.

- Jeta Statovci, Member of Parliament, Deputy Chair of the Committee on Economy, Industry, Entrepreneurship and Trade, Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo
- Blerta Deliu-Kodra, Member of Parliament, Member of the Committee on Legislation, Mandates, Immunities, RoP and Oversight of the Anti-Corruption Agency, Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo
- Hykmete Bajrami, Member of Parliament, Chair of the Committee for Oversight of Public Finances, Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo
- Arbërie Nagavci, Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Government of the Republic of Kosovo
- Saxhide Mustafa, Coordinator, Women's Economic Forum

Moderator: Isak Skenderi, Executive Director, Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (VORAE)

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch

13:30 - 14:15 Diversifying representation: Gender, politics and economy

Open discussion with Lumir Abdixhiku, Leader of Lidhja Demokratike e Kosovës (LDK)

An inclusive leadership in political parties takes into account the perspectives and experiences of different categories of the society. Ensuring that the party structures and political platform reflect social diversity, enables a more inclusive political landscape and the designing of policies that respond directly to the needs of individuals and groups despite their differences in gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and other dimensions of identities. In this session, the participants will have the opportunity to discuss strategies and key policies that political parties can undertake in order to offer equal opportunities for all.

Moderator: Lirika Haliti, Editor, KlanKosova



14:15 - 14:30 Coffee break

14:30-15:30 Breakout sessions: Enhancing meaningful participation in public life

Group A: Adopting a practical approach towards economic independence

- Laura Nichols, Political Parties and Women Empowerment Expert

Group B: Utilizing artificial intelligence for professional growth

- Teresa Crawford, Chair of the Board, IPKO Foundation

15:30 Departure

Day 2

10:00 - 10:05 Welcoming remarks

- Pranvera Lipovica, Program Director, NDI Kosovo

10:05 - 10:10 Opening remarks

- Nathalie Niedoba, Deputy Head of Mission and Consul, Embassy of Canada to Croatia and Kosovo

10:10 - 10:15 Keynote Address: Advocating for Economic Equality through Intersecting Identities

- Katrin Langensiepen, Member of Parliament, Parliament of Europe (video message)

10:15-11:00 Lead with Inclusion: Why should the government care

Open discussion with Emilija Redžepi, Third Deputy Prime Minister for Minority Issues and Human Rights, Republic of Kosovo

Inclusive leadership ensures political and economic stability as well as a sustainable democracy. Despite efforts to date, many societal groups and individuals, especially women, people with disabilities, LGBTQI+ individuals, and non majority communities face continuous systemic barriers that hinder their equal access to economic and political opportunities. During this session, participants will have the opportunity to discuss how inclusive governance can guide designing and implementing of strategies and policies which will dismantle the discriminatory practices and barriers, ultimately leading to an equitable and representative governance.

Moderator: Bujar Kadriu, Executive Director, Kosovo Disability Forum

11:00 - 12:30 Panel discussion: Gender Intentional Cities: Inclusive Alternatives for Communal Development



A gender intentional city recognizes and incorporates the unique needs of individuals and communities to provide a safe and inclusive living space for all, shaping the collective wellbeing of the society. The active citizen engagement in policy making processes at the local level, is a starting point to promote positive change and improve the quality of their lives. This panel discussion aims to highlight the significance of representation by incorporating the gender perspective in local governance, as a way to create a more inclusive and empowering environment where all citizens can engage in public life without prejudice, fear and barriers.

Keynote Address: Ambassador Nina Hichigian, U.S. Special Representative for City and State Diplomacy (video message)

- Eliza Hoxha, Member of Parliament, Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo
- Kadri Rahimaj, Mayor, Municipality of Kamenica
- Arjeta Skeraj, Speaker of the Assembly, Municipality of Dragash
- Burbuqe Bakija Deva, Member of Presidency, Aleanca për Ardhmërinë e Kosovës
- Sazan Ibrahim, Executive Director, Association of Kosovo Municipalities

Moderator: Alexandra Jovanović, Journalist, RTK2

12:30 - 13:00 “Power of Action” talk: Sparking Change through Political Activism

Political activism is one of the most powerful tools of promoting changes that bring about social equality and ensure basic human rights. LGBTQI+ individuals and activists have historically been at the epicenter of broader movements for social justice and human rights, recognizing the intersectionality of struggles against discrimination, ultimately positioning themselves at the forefront of advocating for policy changes that have crucial importance in creating open, just and equal societies.

- Blert Morina, Executive Director, CEL Kosova

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 15:00 Breakout sessions: Enhancing meaningful participation in public life

Group A: Utilizing artificial intelligence for professional growth

- Teresa Crawford, Chair of the Board, IPKO Foundation

Group B: Adopting a practical approach towards economic independence

- Laura Nichols, Political Parties and Women Empowerment Expert

15:00 - 15:15 Closing Remarks

- Ambassador Nancy Soderberg, Senior Resident Director, NDI Kosovo

15:15 Departure