



INCEST TRAUMA CENTER – BELGRADE
Support Group for Child Sexual Abuse Survivors
and War Survivors of Sexual Violence

Address: Macvanska 8
11000 Belgrade, Republic of Serbia
Tel./fax + 381 11 386 13 32
e-mail: itcentar@eunet.rs
website: www.incesttraumacentar.org.rs

ANNOUNCEMENT

Organized by the Incest Trauma Center-Belgrade and supported by the Canadian International Development Agency and Reconstruction Women's Fund, WOMEN'S HR DEFENDERS' SUMMIT was held on July 04 - 07, 2007 on Iriski venac. The Summit gathered 39 women coming from 23 women's non-governmental organizations, with one of the criteria for participating being the **position of decision-makers** within their group. Guided by exchanges that took place in an excellent atmosphere, we agreed that as the women's groups during '90s we were united in resisting the ex regime' repression by clear anti-war politics, and that since 2000 different and changeable politics of women's groups have been at work, fragmenting the movement more and more.

Therefore **we decided** that our priority in the forthcoming period was revitalization and strengthening of the woman's movement by drafting a joint document that would define the politics and working ethics and establish a recognizable identity, philosophy and influence authentically attributed to women's groups. As feminist activists, we have social responsibility concerning both the issue of facing the past and our actual politics towards the state and actual local political government.

We intend to establish a clear structure in our self-organizing, which will allow for effective work and at the same time integrate and promote new models of organizing - especially the ones containing wise strategies against negative focusing of the power. One of the goals during the future process concerns mutual reaction to questions and trends regarding women's groups' politics, but also mutual relationships within the movement as well (mutual support in celebrating diversities and critical view on our differences). **We agree** on the fact that every reaction, as well as the tackling of constructive discussions among us, strengthens the visibility of women's movement in principle - which we define as an important goal.

We, participants of the Summit, will regularly keep informing other members of the women's movement on our work in pursuing the goals listed - and we openly invite them to join us if they recognize the values defined during the Summit (to be listed soon in a joint document) as their own.

During the Summit the promotion of the book "Written Out: How Sexuality is Used to Attack Woman's Organizing" published by Reconstruction Women's Fund, also took place. The participants of the Summit were officially the first ones to sign the petition of the Incest Trauma center-Belgrade for introducing the topic of gender-based violence into the national school curriculum.

THE SECOND WOMEN'S HR DEFENDERS' SUMMIT will be held in the beginning of November 2007, also organized by the Incest Trauma Center-Belgrade and supported by Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Serbia.

The announcement by:

ASTRA, Belgrade
Women's Association "Sandglass", Kruševac
Labris, Belgrade

Association of Roma Women "Osvit", Niš
Autonomous Women's Center, Belgrade
Women in action, Velika Plana
Women at work, Belgrade
SOS telephone for women and children victims of violence, Vlasotince
Gea, Belgrade
Shelter for women and children victims of violence, Belgrade
«Hera» Women's Club, Bačka Topola
Swallow, Belgrade
Hora - Group for emancipation of women, Valjevo
...Out of circle, Belgrade
Women's Center, Užice
Women in Black, Belgrade
Zrenjanin Educational Center, Zrenjanin
Atina, Beograd
Women for Peace, Leskovac
Roma Association, Novi Bečej
Reconstruction Women's Fund, Belgrade
Alternative Circle, Kragujevac
Incest Trauma Center - Belgrade

Announcement written by: Lepojka Čarević-Mitanovski, Milica Gudović, Jovanka Brkić and Dušica Popadić.