



The United Women Association Banja Luka

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***2002 Annual Report of the United Women Association Banja Luka,
Bosnia and Herzegovina***

I. Overall Objectives for 2002:

- Public advocacy for strengthening position of women in our society and diminishing discrimination of women in political, economic and social sphere;
- Empowering women to take an active role in social changes through their active role in creation of public policies and decision making on local, entity and state level;
- Decreasing or completely eliminating all uncertainties of our beneficiaries related to the specific legal problems, identifying problems, and starting the court procedure. We will be present during each trial and provide all legal support until reaching final court verdict. Through monitoring the process and advocating for our clients until ending the court procedure we will help them to feel legal and social security.
- Reaching legal security of women through possibilities for contacting SOS lines, social worker, and psychologist in order to provide help and support to our beneficiaries to fight against family violence, trafficking, and all other forms of violence against women.

II. Environment (Political, Social, and Economic Background) in Which We Implemented Our Activities:

Out of important political events, in this period, we emphasize the following:

- ❖ For the first time after Dayton Peace Agreement, this year elections have been organized by the local structures and on the basis of the new Election Law for Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- ❖ Constitutional amendments are adopted about all three constitutive people in the whole state;
- ❖ National parties won the elections in predominant majority at the state level;
- ❖ Bosnia and Herzegovina has become a member of the Council of Europe;
- ❖ State Border-Line Service is in complete control of border-lines of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- ❖ Big Custom Service machinations were subject of investigations in Republika Srpska and Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although investigation is completed, no public reports are available.
- ❖ SFOR has discovered illegal warehouses of explosives and weapons in the town of Mostar, and SFOR was bugged by the Military Service of Republika Srpska;
- ❖ Aircraft Base "ORAO" Bijeljina had been trading weapons with the countries that are under the United Nations embargo,

- ❖ All the attempts for arrest of Radovan Karadzic, the first on the list of suspects of the Hague Tribunal, are so far unsuccessful,
- ❖ Biljana Plavsic, former President of Republika Srpska has pleaded guilty and the Prosecutor suggested 15 years of prison in the ICTY in the Hague. Defenders of Biljana Plavsic appealed on duration of sentence, because they consider it life sentence since Biljana Plavsic is in her 80s. The decision will be made in upcoming period.
- ❖ English Diplomat Paddy Ashdown has succeeded the position of the High Representative Wolfgang Petrisch

The first impression is that there are positive changes going on in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Of course, this is only speaking in formal terms. Unfortunately, the real situation is still difficult and basically all crucial processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina (economic, political, democratic etc) do not have a progressive character, due to following reasons:

- The Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina enforced the decision of the B&H Constitutional Court related to the constitutive people in the whole territory of B&H. However, in the practice the decision is far from being implemented since state and governmental institutions in both B&H entities are obstructing implementation process.
- Constitutions of entities, as well as Election Law still carry elements of discrimination, especially to the representatives of B&H minorities, who do not have equal opportunities with three constitutive nations;
- Bosnia and Herzegovina has been accepted into the Council of Europe, but still has not met the most important conditions, such are extradition of war criminals, adopting of the gender equality law, and other important conditions.
- Speaking in economic terms, Bosnia and Herzegovina is just about to bankrupt, and the privatisation and transition is very slow processes, futile with rapid increasing of poverty and low social status among citizens in both B&H entities.
- The taxation on additional values has been introduced and will be applied from year 2004.

According to various public surveys, three issues mostly burden citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina:

1. Bad economic situation,
2. Unemployment,
3. Crime and corruption.

In comparison with the previous year all economic parameters are in decrease (except foreign – exchange that is in growth due to exchange of the currency in EU). The number of the recently employed people is hardly visible, and the growth of the unemployed is growing so fast that is coming close to the number of the employed. According to the public sources, almost 50% of the unemployed are women. Women do not register in the public employment services because it is not very likely they would get jobs through these services. Men have the advantage because they fought in the war (health insurance, advantage when seeking for a job, temporary social care...). In our opinion women, even when they have jobs, work in positions that pay minimal salaries, and they are mostly engaged in so called grey economy and black market, without social and pension insurance, and with very low income.

On the state and entity level, governments have not made enough effort to sanction crime and corruption. Anyhow, under the influence of the international community these offences are being

sanctioned. For example, CAFAO controls the work of the Custom Service of Republika Srpska and when this organization founded some irregularities, it resulted in removing the Director of Custom Service from the office. The criminal charges were brought against the Director and another 39 custom employees were fired. The results of the CAFAO control of the Custom Service exposed many other irregularities of other economic subjects, in RS as well as international relations. Again, Finance Minister of RS and Federation B&H were forced to resign from the Office. That is just the top of the iceberg that will probably lead to exposing of other criminal offences and prove the involvement in corruption of the former and current government. Due to above explained case; the citizens do not have any trust for the state institutions and political structures that are supposed to bring positive changes in society.

Speaking about the number of returnees we can say that there are poor results. The truth is that there is progress in the work of the public institutions dealing with property claims, but on the other hand the returnees are not very likely to get jobs, and in some places there is still ethnical and religious non-tolerance and different educational systems. All of these reasons are obstacles for returnees. Of course, on the other hand, this situation opens another possibility: leaving. Displaced people and refugees are potential voters for government and opposition. In this year pre-electoral period, political parties used the displaced people and refugees for manipulation. There are two kinds of manipulation. For example, politicians support these groups to stay in another entity or just declaratively offer various incentives when they return home.

The political scene, in our opinion, shows that authentically national parties - Serbian Democratic Party (SDS), Party of Democratic Action (SDA) and Croatian Democratic Community (HDZ) grow in power. Potential democratic changes of the social-democratic orientation have been discredited in some unnatural coalitions (e.g. Alliance for Changes in Federation of B&H that did not function at all and, in our opinion, was very similar to national parties). Some other social-democratic parties had very similar political ideas with national parties (SNSD), and some were damaged with conflicts within parties (Socialists). This situation is very confusing for the voters. Some of the voters used to believe that if they vote for social democrats that would lead to changes, this year some of these voters did not vote because they did not believe something would change anyway. Due to all of this, elections brought nationalists on power again, and many voters did not even bother to vote. Keeping in mind that the political mandate is 4 years, we can say that Bosnia and Herzegovina is facing very difficult situation in the future.

There is a huge issue of human trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina, like in some other transitional democracies. The law does not provide adequate legal measures against this criminal offence. Trafficking became more visible problem, due to the influence of the international community and activities of nongovernmental organizations. Here we would like to emphasize that our police is working together with the international police forces on human trafficking prevention. Unfortunately, we must say that some officers working in police forces are directly involved in human trafficking, especially trafficking of women. Those policemen who were caught helping the trafficking process were suspended and the international policemen were sent home. Unfortunately, they will not be prosecuted in their countries for having been involved in trafficking of women. According to the report Human Rights Watch, in the period from 25th July 2001 until October 2002, the STOP Team executed 720 raids and interviewed 2120 women and girls working in the nightclubs in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Out of this number, 230 women, victims of trafficking, asked for help. Seven non-governmental organizations, among which there were United Women, have signed the Protocol of Co-operation with the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees in B&H, where they obliged to participate in the action "Mirage" that took place in B&H from 9th until 17th September

2002. In this period we organized our activities according to the Protocol that we had signed. However, we were not included in the action, and we are doubtful that action was conducted at all, due to official reports of international community and local governmental institutions.

September 2002 was the month in which media covered pre-electoral campaigns for the elections in October. The whole political life in B&H was subordinated to the elections. Those activities had blocked the parliamentary activities at all levels, because of the lack of political culture of our politicians who used their speeches in the Parliament to make pre-electoral promotion. All of that caused postponing of the Parliament sessions, postponing the laws and not solving the burning issues of the utmost importance for this region. This led to the fact that the High Representative has been bringing the laws from the beginning of this year, the laws that had supposed to be adopted in the regular legislative procedures.

Due to pre-electoral campaigns, the Government of Republika Srpska was giving short dead-lines for analysis of the laws, therefore citizens or the delegates did not have time to conduct public discussions about the laws that had been adopted in that period of time (for example the Family Law). In the pre-electoral campaign, only men were visible, women did not have space in media to represent their political parties.

October 2002 was the month in which the elections were for the first time organized by the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance to the new Electoral Law of BiH. The elections were conducted without irregularities, however, there were small number of voters that came on election pools. This was due to bad social and economic situation, disappointment in unchanged political structures and politicians that are on the political scene of BiH since 1991. We are disappointed that the right oriented nationalistic parties, HDZ, SDA, and SDS won the elections in the whole territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In our report for the project "Woman Today VI" and "Women and Elections", you can find more detailed description of electoral results.

After announcing of the 2002 electoral results, the most important topic of the whole B&H public was how to form the majority in the Assembly. In accordance with the B&H Constitutive People Decision, this year we have another issue that the people of "minorities" directly gain top positions in the Parliament at all levels, as well as in the Executive power. Therefore we have situation where people who did not get votes practically won the elections.

In the Republika Srpska, Vice-Presidents were elected from the side of Croat or Bosniak, even if they do not have enough votes at the elections. In the Federation of B&H, the representatives of the Serbian and Croatian people occupy the same positions in the same terms. The same principle applies for establishing of all bodies in the legislative, executive and judicial government. This principle could be an obstacle in the work of parliamentary sessions. For example, if parliamentary representatives of one of the constitutive people leave the session the work of the Parliament cannot continue.

Another example is work of the coalitions formed on the nationality basis; it can happen that two of the constitutive people can over vote other constitutive people. Similar situation already took place in 1991 in B&H, and new parliamentary policy reminds people of the civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, therefore they are afraid that it could happen again. The representatives of the Bosniaks in B&H, especially those from SDA, have been emphasizing that their mission is to annul the other entity in B&H. On the other hand, some politicians and the international community representatives are promoting creation of the third entity, in order to correct the mistake of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

Since Mr. Paddy Ashdown has become the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, we can feel the influence of this institution more than in the former times. The former High Representative has finished his mandate by bringing the set of 40 laws that had not been adopted by the Parliaments in B&H. From the above mentioned reasons: pre-electoral campaign, angry voting body, newly formed parliaments based on the system “let my worries be solved by somebody else”, the parliamentary delegates will address the High Representative to bring the law. On the other hand, in media, it is said that his authorization should be reduced.

Social and economic situation of people in B&H is directly connected to the privatisation. In this moment, some people are deliberately trying to destroy economy so that they could buy buildings and premises at low prices. After the privatization process has been implemented, many private business owners are laying off their working labor without giving them right to object, and they do not maintain the economy that we used to have. A larger number of people are unemployed, without possibility to find another job. Social program does not exist, so these people are left without any support. There are no benefits or money support to the laid off working labour, whether they are female or male. In the process of privatisation, most of the investors are people who gained their money in a very suspicious ways in the war and after the war. Ordinary citizens are on the verge of survival and they are selling their old bank savings for the less of the real price. The “new rich people” are buying their savings, and invest into old factories that used to employ thousands of workers. For the time being, nobody knows the purpose of these factories and buildings. Majority of the population is jobless. Even if they work, they usually work at the black market, without health insurance, and working benefits.

In the year 2002 the investments of the international community as well as the resources in B&H have been reduced in comparison with the previous period. All of that has just added to the extremely complicated and hard social and economic situation and political environment, which makes it harder for the newly elected government.

This has been environment in which we implemented our activities.

III. Implemented Activities:

a). Project Woman and Law –Office for Free Legal and Psycho Social Help for Women

This was sixth year of implementation of this project in cooperation with the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka.

Implemented activities were following: free legal assistance, free representation in court, free social assistance, free assistance of clinical psychologist, SOS telephone lines, supervision of staff involved in the project implementation, 2 workshops for the students of Police Academy in Banja Luka, 12 discussion groups organized for victims of domestic violence, 6 meetings with women politicians, representatives in the National Assembly of Republika Srpska, 12 radio programs on actual theme, 2 TV presentations/discussions, and reprinting of "Women's Notebook".

Improvements and Accomplishments: This year we introduced discussion groups for women victims of violence. These discussion groups have supportive role, and they include psychosocial aspects of help for the victims. The discussion groups were organized and guided by support of psychologist and social worker. In the beginning, the attendees felt uncomfortable and were not ready to talk openly about their problems but there was always somebody who would “break the

ice”, which encouraged the others to speak about their own problems. Some of the participants are still not ready to talk openly but one can see that they feel relief because they have learned that they are not the only ones with such problems and that it is not their fault. This way of dealing with such problems is new for the United Women staff so that we had to work hard after the first workshops in order to establish the real needs of the participants and adjust our work to those needs.

This year we provided legal assistance for 475 women. Similar to periods before, most clients had problems, indirectly or directly, related to the domestic violence (396 of them). During the period from January 1st 2002 until December 31st 2002 SOS phone had 920 calls. In most cases (741) the callers were women and girls, victims of violence. Some calls (65) came from relatives or neighbours of women who suffered abuse.

b.) Project Woman Today

This was sixth year of implementation of this project in cooperation with the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka.

Implemented activities were following: Six public sessions on current situation. Target group: women and men citizens of Banjaluka, politically engaged and members of various NGOs. One regional round table was organized with target group of women from Bosnia and Herzegovina and former Yugoslavia. Three workshops for women candidates at the elections, eight meetings with the Advisory Board in the United Women and hCa premises, three press conferences, six TV sessions, one TV round table for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina of both sexes. The main objective of this project was to put women's problems into focus and make them visible; make women more powerful in the public life and politics; link women at the Bosnia and Herzegovina and former Yugoslavia countries as a factor of stability of the region. Educate women candidates at the elections on how to make themselves visible, how to lobby, fight for their ideas and present themselves in the media for people to vote for them. Form an advisory board and give more importance to that body, that is, to women from various political options; recognize the problems women are facing in our society.

Improvements and Accomplishments:

In our opinion, our project activities have given a great contribution in making women problems more visible. Parliamentary elections have shown that the number of women in decision-making bodies of the Government has increased while it has not been the case in the Republic of Srpska. Of course, we are far from being satisfied because the number of women in above-mentioned bodies is still unsatisfying and insufficient. The percentage was higher in 1998 when we had closed lists at the elections.

c). One Time Action –Activities on Fighting Against Trafficking of People in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In September 2002, we received donation from the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe to join the activities of onetime action of nongovernmental organizations, police forces, judiciary, and health services directed to fighting against trafficking of people in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Police raids were planned simultaneously throughout B&H, and our role was to provide legal and social assistance and temporary shelter for victims of trafficking. From unknown reasons, action did not happened as planned, and we have got permission from our sponsors to allocate funds for other

activities directed on fighting against trafficking of people in our country. Since financial support came in late December 2002, we developed plan to implement project in the timeframe of December 20th 2002 until March 30th 2003, and organize following activities: four lecturers about trafficking of people that will be held in primary schools of Banja Luka and Gradiska, three radio programs and two TV programs with guests from official institutions and nongovernmental organizations that are active on this issue. As the part of this activity, we will also organize restricted poster campaign.

d). Education of women voters in 2002 pre-election campaign. This project has been implemented in the timeframe from July 1st until October 5th 2002, together with NGO Buducnost Modrica and Lara Bijeljina, with support of Kvinna till Kvinna Sweden.

Before the elections held on 5th October 2002 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, United Women Banja Luka together with Lara from Bijeljina and Buducnost from Modrica organized the campaign: "Women at elections – women and men vote for women". Each of our three organizations created three training temas with two moderators each (in total 9 teams with 18 moderators). Teams organized the workshops in the field in order to educate women voters and the youth of both sexes in the region of RS and Federation BiH. Each organization held 45 workshops. We organized 135 workshops where we educated the following number of people:

-Udružene žene	725 persons
-Lara	900 persons
-Budućnost	900 persons

Besides the education in the field we organized the poster campaign. We printed and distributed 1000 posters in total in the regions where we held the workshops. We held a two day seminar in Banja Luka for our moderators in order to issue information and make sure that all moderators have the same approach. At the seminar we created the poster with joint efforts and agreed upon the message: "If you ask me, vote for women ". Project objectives were: iincreasing awareness about the importance of women's participation in decision making, raising awareness of how electoral system works and importance of voting, increasing the number of women and young people voting in the election, increase the number of women in governmental structures. The United Women held workshops in following villages and cities: Mrkonjić Grad, village Orahovljani, village Sitnica, Glamoč, Slatina, Kotor Varoš, Banjaluka, village Drinic, Bihac, Vrbanja, Verici, Celinac, Siprage, village Kralje, village Izaici, village Bukovaca, Bosanski Petrovac, village Dobrenica, village Boskovici, Ljubija, Prijedor, village Dabovci, and Maslovar.

IV. Additional Activities:

1. **Law on the Gender Equality** - Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka and the United Women Banja Luka participated in the work of B&H Coalition involved in drafting a Law on the Gender Equality. The Law passed the procedure in the B&H Council of Ministers, (BiH Government) and now is waiting approval in the procedure of the BiH Assembly. The significance of this law is the fact that nongovernmental organizations participated in its preparation, and this Law introduces protection mechanisms of the rights it guaranties. The representative of the project Woman and Law, attorney Natalija Petric was one of the presenters of this Law to the representatives of the BiH Council of Ministries and the BiH State Assembly.

2. **Visit from the Representatives of SIDA Sweden.** During April 2002 Mrs. Veronica Perzamowska, First Secretary of the Swedish Embassy, and SIDA Field Representative, and Mrs. Slavenka Perkovic from the Swedish Embassy visited hCa and the United Women. She was interested to learn about our work because she was recently appointed to the duty, and we used this opportunity to present our activities to her. Since the strategy of the development of SIDA finishes this year and the new strategy for B&H is being developed, Mrs. Veronica was interested in hearing our opinion on what should be the priorities.
3. **Transparency of Work of the Legislative Bodies in BiH** – the coordinator of the project Woman and Law, Lana Jajcevic, took part in the analysis of the Law on the Work of the RS People’s Assembly in the cooperation with the International Law Group that analyzed the Law on the Work of the B&H Parliament and presented the conclusions in the BiH Council of Ministers and the representatives in the B&H Legislative Assembly.
4. **SNSD’s Public Session about Domestic Violence.** On the invitation from the Party of Independent Social Democrats (SNSD), attorney in the project “Woman and Law” Natalija Petric gave an introductory speech at the public session organized by this political party. The topic of the session was domestic violence.
5. **Establishing Cooperation with the Gender Center of Republika Srpska.** The Gender Center of Republika Srpska started with its work at the beginning of March 2002. The Government of Finland finances this Center. The president of the United Women Banja Luka, Nada Golubovic, the president of the Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly Banja Luka, Lidija Zivanovic, co-coordinator of the project “Woman Today”, and Natalija Petric, the attorney involved in the project “Woman and Law” participated in the working meeting with the representatives of the Gender Center of Republika Srpska and the representatives of the RS Government. We made joint decision on the necessity of establishing the Working Group that will work on legislative changes. We also established the priorities, and focused on the necessity of working on bringing the new Family Law in Republika Srpska.
6. **Establishing Universal SOS Phone Line at the B&H Level.** In the cooperation with the SOS phone in Sarajevo and Mrs. Jagoda Savic, and with the approval from the High Representative for BiH, we got the permission to work in the territory of the whole BiH, having a unique phone number (1029). We have assistance from PTT in redirecting the calls to our Center or Sarajevo Center, depending on the location of the incoming call. At the moment we are in the process of establishing these activities. The significance of this activity is that, having received the permission from the High Representative for B&H, we have been given the right to conduct a part of activities usually performed by institutions, which will now have to consult us before deciding on giving custody over children to either of the parents when divorcing, or before issuing any certificates related to our scope of work, etc. We have still not started conducting these activities, right now we are in the phase of establishing mutual relationships, commitments and responsibilities, but also work methods and future funding (it should be funded from the state budget but it is very uncertain).
7. **Producing the shadow report about national implementation of the 1979 Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) - for the part of violence against women and trafficking of women.** The United Women became part of

B&H Coalition for producing shadow report for the part regarding family violence and trafficking of people. This activity will be implemented in the beginning of 2003.

8. **Working meetings in Swedish Embassy in Sarajevo for developing five years strategy of SIDA work in Bosnia and Herzegovina.**
9. **Press Conference -November 25th 2002 the International Day of Fighting Against Violence Against Women.** We organized press conference in Banja Luka. We talked about issues of domestic violence in our community, and absence of mechanisms to protect women victims in the court procedure, because our legal regulations do not recognize protection measures of restraining order and obligatory detention of perpetrator, despite the fact that our Criminal Law regulates violence in the family as specific criminal act. We also emphasized statistical information about number of victims of domestic violence who contacted our Woman and Law Center and asked for help, and talked about specifics and common forms of violence.

10. Activities of the Lobbying for the Safe House in Banja Luka:

UNMIBH On several occasions we had meetings in our office with the representatives of UNMIBH with whom we talked about the possibility of building the safe house for women victims of violence. Namely, they showed a great interest for the building of the safe house and not only in Banja Luka but also in Sarajevo, Modrica, and Mostar. They set several conditions; firstly we had to get a free land from the City of Banja Luka on which the safe house would be built (this condition has been fulfilled). Once the safe house would be built the City of Banja Luka (or the entity Government) must take over the financing of its work (this condition has also been fulfilled). Essentially, the City of Banja Luka agreed to finance the work of the safe house. Next condition was the signing of the agreement on the cooperation between the police, the Center for Social Work, and us. This condition has been only partly fulfilled. Namely, the police and the Center for Social Work promised cooperation, however they did not sign any written agreements. At this point we have information that UNMIBH lost interest to participate in this project. Reasons were that UNMIBH asked from City of Banja Luka to donate devastated object for reconstruction by the Mission, and City did not fulfill this condition. In the meantime UNMIBH ceased to exist in our country, and European Commission took over their mandate.

City Government of Banja Luka. The United Women Association has been awarded a free building lot from the City of Banja Luka Assembly – the land intended for building a safe house (shelter) for women and children, victims of domestic violence. This is a joint success and the result of the cooperation between our association and women politicians – representatives in the City Assembly who lobbied for our request, and whose efforts resulted in this awarded land. We are now in the phase of finding funds intended for building this house. We are looking at a hard and uncertain work because the funds needed for building are enormous (400.000 EURO) but we hope we will succeed in it because in that way we would provide the women, victims of violence, with a place where they can get all the help and protection they need and which would be there for a long time.

SFOR. Since the building of the safe house requires a large sum of money (around 400.000 Euro) we are in the process of negotiation with the representatives of SFOR in BiH the possibility of getting a part of the required amount from them. As the SFOR British Battalion is

located in Banja Luka, we have maintained contact with them during this whole period (among others, the contact person was Mr. Mike Hasbrig-Hartley from the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, G5, company number two).

10. Seminars and Workshops:

During this year we took part in several workshops and seminars:

- From 22nd until 25th May 2002, we participated in the regional seminar on the topic of domestic violence, organized by the Open Society Foundation in Ulcinj. Participants on this seminar were representatives of nongovernmental organizations from all republics and autonomous provinces of former Yugoslavia, and representatives of nongovernmental organizations from Turkey and Albania. Lecturers and facilitators were activists of NGO Dulith, Pennsylvania, the United States of America. Our attorney Natalija Petrić participated as the representative of our two organizations.
- Lecture on the topic of feminism, held on May 25th and 26th 2002 was organized by Kvinna till Kvinna in Sarajevo for all members of KtK network in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mod Edvards Professor of political sciences held lectures. It was very interesting to learn new things about necessity of cooperation between women from nongovernmental organizations and political parties, women's fight back to other women, system that functions keeping women separated, power of women, feminism as a concept and "ugliness of word feminism", and its rejection in completely different way and from different view then it is usual in our country. We spent two wonderful days full of energy, positive experiences, and as usual, possibility to gather and exchange experiences.
- Seminar on the topic of Corruption and Trafficking of Human Beings, organized by the Council of Europe from 19th until 22nd June 2002 in Portorož, Slovenia. Our volunteer on SOS phone, Olivera Simić took part in this seminar and represented our office. Delegations consisted of representatives of nongovernmental sector and 2-3 representatives from governmental sector - ministry of justice, ministry of interior affairs, police officers were present. These delegations came from the Central and Eastern Europe and former Soviet Union. Representatives of nongovernmental organizations were invited to talk about cases of corruption they see in their daily work on preventing trafficking human beings. As the final outcome of the seminar, we prepared common recommendations for combating the corruption and trafficking.
- NGO Fair in Belgrade, Yugoslavia organized from 14th until 16th June 2002, with participation and presentations of nongovernmental organizations from the area of Central and Eastern Europe, former Soviet Union, and Turkey. The main theme was possibility of World Bank to finance projects in mentioned regions. Our volunteer on SOS phone, Olivera Simić represented our organization.
- Seminar in Đakovica, Kosovo, organized by BHWI (BiH Women Initiative) in cooperation with the Women's Network "Ćelija" from Đakovica from 5th until 10th July 2002. Project coordinator of our project and member of the Managing Board of BHWI Lana Jajcevic, represented our association. The main topic of the seminar was: "Cooperation Between Nongovernmental Organizations and Governmental Organizations and Institutions." The objective was to present our experience to women in Kosovo, and therefore point on opportunities, importance, and necessity to cooperate with governmental institutions.

- The workshop in Banja Luka, on 19th and 20th July 2002 for women field trainers of women voters, within our joint project with the Lara from Bijeljina and Buducnost from Modrica. Our field trainers worked with approx. 2700 women and young girls, and educated them about importance of voting, and importance of voting for women-candidates. We reported about this activity in the report about this project in details.
- Olivera Simic, volunteer on SOS phone, participated in regional seminar “Corruption and Trafficking Human Beings”, held in Portorož, Slovenia at the end of June 2002.
- Conference of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Women's Initiative (BHWI) was held in Sarajevo from 8th to 10th December 2002. Representative of the project, Natalija Petric was an introductory speaker on the topic of domestic violence.
- Workshop "How to make CEDAW shadow report", organized by the International Human Rights Law Group in December 2002 Sarajevo. We took over the responsibility for producing shadow report with recommendations for the part of Convention concerning state responsibility in fighting violence against women and trafficking of women.

V. Evaluation of Organizational Activities:

Our Association successfully reached media attention and made significant influence on making women’s issues visible through various public sessions, radio and TV programs. We established very good cooperation with women from various political parties. We consider our good strategy in developing educational activities for voters in pre-election period this year. Our cooperation with Women’s Association Lara from Bijeljina and Buducnost from Modrica was fruitful in this direction, and in the upcoming period we will focus on developing more joint activities with other women’s association in Bosnia and Herzegovina and abroad. Our cooperation with the Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly Banja Luka on implementation two women’s projects Woman Today and Woman and Law successfully continued with improving our joint activities.

In our opinion, our organizational activities have given a great contribution in making women problems more visible. Parliamentary elections have shown that the number of women in decision-making bodies of the Government has increased while it has not been the case in the Republic of Srpska. Of course, we are far from being satisfied because the number of women in above-mentioned bodies is still unsatisfying and insufficient. The percentage was higher in 1998 when we had closed lists at the elections.

Nowadays, there are more women problems that are presented in media but still as much as it should be. We noticed that there is a good cooperation between women politicians and women working in NGOs.

VI. Accomplished Results in Building of the Organizational Capacity:

During the past period, we were strengthening our skills in order to support other non-governmental organizations and our staff facilitated numerous workshops, and provided trainings in the areas of women’s human rights, gender equality, fundraising and writing project proposals, conflict and anger management, advocacy and lobbying for social changes, team building, collaboration, responsible parenting, and leadership. Our staff and members attended numerous trainings and workshops and increased our organizational capacity with additional expertise and knowledge necessary for further building of our organizational capacities.

VII. Obstacles in Our Work:

The Gender centres within official governmental structures are established in both entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as commissions in the legal governmental bodies. The work of these centres and commissions is not good enough so far, because the employees are not gender sensible and educated about problems of women in our region.

The international community and many of international organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, such as OSCE BiH, Office of the High Representative, and UN structures do not have clear strategies of assistance to the nongovernmental organizations. Their priorities are constantly changing, and we have difficulties to implement our activities if they approach us for cooperation. Our experience of unsuccessful cooperation with UN Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina and SFOR that we presented within other sections of this report speaks for it.

We have not faced major problems in realization of our activities. Sometimes we had a problem with forming groups for workshops and work with political parties. Some political parties were not ready to send participants to the workshops for women politicians. We solved this problem by contacting directly women politicians. We believe that women are subordinated in their political parties and that they are not involved in decision-making when it comes to the work of their political party. They perform their work within women actives that are not equal partners in political parties. Difficult economic status of women makes them feel indifferent, and they are hardly animated. Another problem is their patriarchal background that is why women believe that they cannot participate in problem solving and making positive changes in society.

VIII. Estimation of the strategic development in year 2003:

During the upcoming period the United Women Association will direct its activities on advocating for strengthening position of women in our society, her family, and public life. In a long term perspective we wish to give our contribution to the diminishing all forms of gender discrimination and reaching full equality among sexes.

Activities through which we will implement these objectives are:

- Continuous monitoring of changes in positive legal regulations, and working procedures of the public and state institutions
- Making influence and advocating for changes in discriminative laws, policies and procedures in our society
- Making influence on positive changes in public opinion about position and role of woman in private and public life in our society through various media activities
- Increasing knowledge about family violence as criminal act, and presenting ways in which victims and her supporters can oppose to violence
- Developing skills and techniques for specific ways to present our message to the public.

IX. Financial Overview for the year 2002:

Year	Activity/project	Donor	Amount
2002	Woman and Law Project VI	SIDA-KtK	49540 Euro
2002	Woman Today VI –through implementing partner hCa Banja Luka	SIDA-KtK	51595 Euro
2002	Women at Elections 2002 –together with Lara Bijeljina, Buducnost Modrica	SIDA-KtK	19850 Euro

Here is the list of projects for which we applied for funding but still did not get positive response, or we get negative response:

2002	"Conflict Resolution for Reconciliation"	Dutch Embassy, Amicae Germany, EEZ Germany, we are waiting for positive response, for now we got response that they will consider project for next year funding	75.765,05 EURO
2002	"Women's Rights in the Light of Beijing Declaration"	Westminster Foundation for Democratization (they expressed regret for not being able to sponsor or project), BHWI – we are waiting for response, Amicae Germany, we are waiting for response	37.618 EURO
2002	"Safe House Project"	UNMIBIH –refused to fund project because City of Banja Luka did not find devastated object to donate for Safe House	We did not ask for money, but either reconstruction/building of the house, or donation in material necessary for building the house, and construction workers sponsored by UNMIBIH
2002	"Media Presentation of Women Candidates for Elections 2002"	Association for Endangered Peoples – we are waiting for response. Since this project has time limit (elections will be held on October 5 th 2002) we assume that project will not get necessary funding	9.256,57 EURO
2002	"Support for Women in Village – Women's Combine"	Currently, we are writing project proposal and gathering information. We are intending to apply for BHWI Fund	aprox. 25.000 EURO