



2005 Annual Report of the United Women Association, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Contact Information:

United Women Association Banja Luka

Address: Kalemegdanska 18,
78000 Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Telephone: ++387 51 458 852

Telephone/fax: ++387 51 458 851

E-mail: natasap@inecco.net

1. Introduction

The United Women Banja Luka is nongovernmental organization founded on August 16 1996 in Banja Luka. Through the activities and projects of our association, we are advocating for improving social position of woman and her right to life without violence in family and public life. We want to see more women at decision-making positions in official institutions of Republika Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Our vision is "Woman aware of her power, equal, respected, employed, and happy."

Our mission is "Strengthening and affirmation of women through advocacy and work on implementation of women's human rights."

It is our pleasure to present you 2005 annual report of United Women Banja Luka. It consist from following sections: overall strategic objectives/priorities for 2005, description of political, social and economic environment in which we implemented our activities, description of implemented activities and projects of United Women in 2005 (activities of fighting gender based violence, activities for increasing public awareness about trafficking of people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, activities of fighting for gender equality and improving position of women in public and political life and our public advocacy actions for strengthening position of women in our society and diminishing gender based discrimination), strengthening cooperation with other nongovernmental organizations and official institutions, seminars and workshops we attended during 2005, obstacles in our work, strategic priorities for 2006, and financial overview for 2005.

We hope this information would provide you the overview of our work during 2005 and our plans for 2006. Members and professional staff of the United Women Banja Luka would be happy to provide you any additional information you need to get better insight about our activities and work.

2. Overall Strategic Objectives/Priorities for 2005:

- Fighting against violence against women through offering free legal and psychosocial assistance for women and children victims of violence, work on introducing new official policies and institutional mechanisms of fighting violence against women (new legislative and institutional measures, increasing sensibility of police workers, more efficient work of centers for social work), providing shelter for victims of violence in moments of the most severe violence (opening safe house in Banja Luka), strengthening awareness of wide population about violence against women through media advocacy (organizing TV and radio programs/discussions), and strengthening and increasing cooperation with other NGOs working on issues of violence against women in the country and abroad;

- Increasing public awareness about trafficking of people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and public advocacy for more efficient work of official institutions in Republika Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina on prevention of trafficking of people. Priority target groups in 2005 were secondary school children, youngsters, school pedagogues, school psychologists, professors of democracy and human rights, school directors, parents, and wide public of B&H;

- Empowering women to participate in social changes through their active role in creation of public policies, and political decision making on local, entity, and state

level in Bosnia and Herzegovina and fighting for gender equality in public and political life in B&H;

- Gender equality in media B&H - Public advocacy for diminishing discrimination and abuse of women in electronic and printed media in B&H, and creating conditions for equal access of women and men on creation of media policies, increasing gender sensitivity of women and men journalists in B&H, and networking of women's NGO activists, journalists, and female politicians to work together on improving gender equality in media B&H

- Public advocating for strengthening position of women in our society, and diminishing discrimination of women in political, economic, and social sphere through monitoring of the positive legal regulation and initiating procedures and initiatives for changes of discriminatory laws;

- Support for sustainable return in Bosnia and Herzegovina through work with women and men in rural communities of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

- Strengthening cooperation with other nongovernmental organizations and official institutions in Banja Luka, Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina and other countries in the region (developing joint projects and initiatives, exchange of information and expertise, offering our assistance in developing skills and increasing knowledge about women's human rights and gender equality etc.);

- Developing internal capacities of the Association through engaging new staff and volunteers and working on development of organizational sustainability through long term financial, program and management planning;

3. Political, Social and Economic Environment in which we Implemented Our Activities in 2005:

A). Changes and Challenges in Institutional Framework/Actions for Improving Gender Equality in B&H

During 2005, we witnessed significant improvements in setting up of the institutional framework for gender equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Beside already existing **Gender Equality Centers in Republika Srpska and Federation of B&H** (as expert governmental services for gender equality on entity levels), **Gender Equality Agency of B&H** has been officially established in May 2005 as the part of the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of B&H. This Agency has general mandate to prepare State Action Plan for promotion of gender equality, conduct continuous monitoring and coordination of activities of relevant state subjects on gender equality issues, monitor laws, and prepare state reports on condition of women's human rights and gender equality.

The State Action Plan for Implementation of Beijing Platform for Action and Improving Gender Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina is still in the final draft phase, and it still did not enter the approval procedure in front of the Parliamentary Assembly of B&H. This action plan should address priority issues for advancement of equality of women and men in B&H through planning specific actions and measures that should be conducted by official institutions in order to improve women's access to media, participation in creation of media policies, and portrayal of women in media.

Both entity governments in Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted **Law for Protection from Family Violence**, under strong pressure of local NGOs that are active in prevention of family violence. This Law has been adopted in the Federation of B&H in February 2005 (in force since July 2005), and in Republika Srpska in December 30, 2005 (in force since January 1, 2006). The Laws have special importance for securing better protection for women and children victims of family violence, as they introduced special protection measures in cases of family violence - such are obligatory detention of the abuser, restraining order, obligatory psychosocial treatment, and rehabilitation of abuser, etc. However, we recognize the problem that the Law is not harmonized in both entities of B&H, which could provide legal insecurity, and unequal treatment of victims of violence in the whole territory of B&H. Furthermore, the Law introduces monetary fines for family violence in RS, which practically means that family violence is regulated both as criminal act (by the Criminal Code of RS) and as minor offense, which diminish social importance of this crime, and reduces possibilities for providing real protection for women and children victims of violence. By the short period of application of this Law in the practice, both official institutions and NGOs are facing numerous difficulties to secure its implementation in the practice. Lack of supporting bylaws, lack of facilities for sheltering victims of violence, lack of detention facilities for placement of abusers, and lack of enforcing mechanisms by official institutions are hampering practical implementation of this Law.

Both entity governments in B&H appointed persons as **gender focal points** in various ministries and official institutions at all levels to coordinate gender-mainstreaming activities. Gender focal points have been appointed within majority of the ministries and official institutions at state, entity, and cantonal levels of B&H, and municipal commissions for gender equality were formally established in almost all major local communities in B&H. However, work of the focal points and local commissions is not transparent to the public, and they have lack of capacities to conduct pro-active role in promotion of gender equality as integral part of the official policies.

With assistance of UNDP office in B&H, Gender Equality Agency of B&H and entity Gender Centers facilitated the work of **five Working Groups on Gender Equality** in following areas: **media, public life, employment, health and social protection, and education**. These working groups had a task to examine positive legislation and prepare recommendations for advancing gender equality in each field.

B). Changes in Political Environment and Women's Representation in Decision- Making in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Since beginning of 2005, political life in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been loaded with turbulent political crisis and increased pressure of the international community present in B&H on local official institutions at all levels to conduct political reforms.

Reforms of police and army structures in B&H, constitutional reforms, and pressure for intensifying activities aimed for finding and extradition of war crimes suspects to the Hague Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) are representing dominant political priorities that occupy local politicians and media attention. Furthermore, process of negotiations for entering into Stabilization and Association Agreement with the European Union represents the ultimate political priority of the B&H official institutions at all levels. The main negotiator was appointed (former B&H Ambassador in USA - Mr. Igor Davidović), and members of working groups for negotiations were appointed,

to work on creating common policy platform and B&H overall strategy in this process. Women are again invisible and excluded from decision making in these processes, regardless numerous public appeals and requests of women's organizations in B&H. Marginalization of women and diminishing importance of gender equality in all fields of political, social, and economic life in B&H continued to be highly visible, despite continuous pressure of local NGOs to put these issues on social and political agenda.

Results of the **local elections** held in October 2004 in Bosnia and Herzegovina show continuous under representation of women in local legislative and executive governance, despite quota "for less represented sex" in Election Law of B&H, and provisions of the Gender Equality Law in B&H that require equal representation of women and men in public and political life. Phenomena of the "glass ceiling" for women in decision - making is still very much relevant to describe situation throughout the country. For example, according to the local election results, there are only three women municipal majors, out of 150 local municipalities in B&H. Next general elections are scheduled for October 2006, and strong coalition of women's NGOs and institutional mechanisms for gender equality throughout B&H is lobbying for changes of the Election Law in B&H to enable equal representation of male and female candidates of the election lists. We are still waiting for positive decision of B&H Parliament. If approved, this change could bring significant increase in women's representation in legislative governance.

Small improvement was visible in the **entity Government of RS** appointed in February 2005, which for the first time **had 3 women ministers - Minister of Finance, Minister of Local Self-Governance, and Minister of Education and Culture**. However, this is still only 18% of total number of places in executive governance on the entity level. Each of the other two executive bodies - **Government of the Federation of B&H** and **Council of Ministers of B&H (state executive body)** has only one woman in their structures. Furthermore, during post conflict period in Bosnia and Herzegovina, only three women were elected for presidents of political parties - Serbian People's Union (SNS), Farmer's Party (SS B&H), and Liberal Party of B&H that very recently elected woman president, which speaks in favor of the argument that male elites are dominant in political decision making of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although these political parties do not have significant influence on B&H political scene, presence of women in their leadership structures is making important contribution in breaking patriarchal prejudices that women do not belong to political life.

Despite these positive steps, women continue to be invisible in political negotiations about important issues that affect lives of both women and men in B&H. The main argument of male politicians for lack of female representatives in political negotiations and decision-making is that there are no many women professionals with knowledge of politics and economy that would give creative and useful contribution to solving political and economic crisis in the country. Furthermore, male political elites are still not ready to leave more space for women in political decision-making, and majority of male politicians in B&H believe women should fight for their space in political and social life alone. All of these exemplify a lack of awareness about equal responsibility of both women and men for reaching gender equality in political and public life.

c). Changes in Media Focus on Women's Issues and Gender Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina

As regular part of our activities, United Women Banja Luka continuously monitors media and their reporting about women's issues and gender equality. During 2005, we noticed gradual increase of media reporting about women and gender equality, especially increased number of articles in printed media and TV reports in relation to the issues of violence against women, and lack of women in public and political life of B&H. However, it is important to emphasize that this quantitative change does not go together with qualitative improvements in media reporting, as media portrayal of women's issues and gender equality still heavily reflects gender stereotypes and supports discrimination of women.

As example, we would like to point on media reports in cases of rape and sexual assaults, where journalists in newspaper texts and TV stories usually reveal complete information about women that reported rape - their identity, family background, work, friends, and tend to emphasize biased assumptions about "suspicious moral" of victims. In the same time, these stories are not including similar information about suspected abusers, and usually present only their initials. Furthermore, media reports about family violence tend to be "sensational" - they typically ask women victims to go public and present their experiences, with full reveal of their identity and exposing them to even more danger, while no reports were made with abusers to present the reasons why they commit violence against spouses and partners. Such reporting supports social taboos and prejudices, and does not contribute in the process of fighting against gender-based discrimination.

Similarly, women politicians and NGO activists are, as a rule, asked for comments on so called "women's issues," such are violence against women, trafficking of women and forced prostitution, lack of women in politics and decision-making, etc. while burning political issues are commented in media exclusively by men - governmental officials and leaders of political parties.

United Women Banja Luka struggles to challenge these media stereotypes, and influence on positive changes in media policies of reporting about women's human rights and gender equality.

In such difficult political environment, our project activities are making important contribution in the implementation of the Gender Equality Law in B&H, promotion of democratic principles, and empowering women in politics and public life, in not only targeted local communities, but also whole society of B&H.

4. Implemented Activities/Projects:

Our activities in 2005, were corresponding to our strategic objectives/priorities and mission and vision of our Association.

A. Activities of Fighting Against Gender Based Violence

A.1) Woman and Law - Phase 9 - 2005 - Free Legal and Psychosocial Assistance for Women Victims of Violence

Thanks to understanding and long-term support from Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation from Sweden, United Women Banja Luka and Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka are implementing this project since 1997. The activities we implemented in 2005 were following: free legal assistance and representation of women in courts and other official institutions, free assistance of the social worker and psychologist, SOS lines and assistance of volunteers for young women, girls and children victims of violence, discussion groups for women and girls victims of family violence, third edition of "**Book of My Friend**" - Guide for Women and Girls Victims of Violence, preparation and broadcasting twelve radio programs on Radio UNO Banja Luka on the topics of women's human rights and gender equality, organizing regular coordination meetings with representatives of official institutions on local level (police, center for social work, City Administration Banja Luka, etc) two one day workshops for men and women police workers about family violence, and two one-day workshops about family violence for medical professionals.

Accomplished Results: During 2005, we provided **legal and psychosocial assistance to 751 women beneficiaries from Banja Luka and surrounding region, and successfully closed 93 cases** (some of them were cases continuing from 2003 and 2004). **The office had regular volunteers' duties on SOS line every day from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM, and during 2005, they received 1164 calls for assistance from women victims of violence.** Due the course of years of the implementation of our activities, it is visible that number of women that are seeking for legal and psychosocial support is constantly increasing. In almost all cases, women were coming to our office continuously, and were receiving assistance not only from lawyer and attorney, but also from psychologist and social worker. We had increased number of visits from women of all age groups in difficult social situation – almost all unemployed, or with very low income, without social security and health care, with one child, or several children from different fathers, divorced without alimony because father is unemployed, without proper housing, and possibilities to provide normal life for children. In these cases, social worker contacted Center for Social Work, municipal services, and some humanitarian organizations in order to try to provide assistance for them in securing housing, small financial assistance, and one-time assistance in food and clothing.

Women and girls victims of violence had support from other women who survived family violence through regular meetings of discussion groups. They had an opportunity to meet and speak openly about their problem and try to overcome it together. Our assistance and organized discussion groups also served as education for women to learn how to fight their problems in the future, as well as to help other women in their environment. We noticed that those women who attended group discussions several times became more self-confident and open, and started to talk about their lives "outside violence" and we assisted them to identify plans for future. This could help them in the process of overcoming the role of victim that sometimes becomes their life style. Through this discussion groups they have an opportunity to regain emotional strength, and improve their lives.

United Women Banja Luka continued to initiate, organize, and participate in numerous meetings with local, entity, and state official institutions such are various departments of Banja Luka City Administration, Canter for Social Work Banja Luka, police officials, commissions for gender equality in the entity and state parliaments, Gender Centers of RS and FB&H, Gender Equality Agency of B&H, as well as international organizations that we are continuously lobbying for support in our initiative for opening safe house/shelter for women and children victims of violence, improving legislative protection of women victims of violence, better coordination between NGOs

and official institutions, and strategic planning in the work of official institutions that are directly responsible to implement the law and assist women in need.

Third edition of "**Book of My Friend**" - **Guide for Women Victims of Violence** was really well accepted both from women beneficiaries of "Woman and Law" project, as well as official institutions that are working with victims of violence. The Guide enabled us to increase number of women that are informed about their rights and possibilities to break the violence cycle. Through feedback we received in our communication with representatives of center for social work and police, we realized that Guide represents a good tool in their work with women victims of violence, and increase of their general sensibility and overcoming patriarchal prejudices toward the issue of violence against women in our society. During 2006, United Women and hCa Banja Luka will distribute the Guide to our sister organizations in RS and FB&H, as well as interested official institutions, especially police officials, judiciary, centers for social work, etc.

Regular Monthly Radio Programs in the "Woman and Law" project became recognizable among both women and men citizens of Banja Luka, as we were contacted by many listeners that provided their comments about different actual topics. We noticed that radio programs in Republika Srpska are still popular among all age groups, and can attract a lot's of attention from people, especially women that are our potential beneficiaries. Since we organize this activity for a long time, it also became one of our ways for communication with citizens, women and men in our community about their common problems, and tool for raising awareness about the issues of gender based violence.

Violence against women became more visible with increase of our media visibility through organization of radio programs about issues affecting women in our society and frequent advertisement of our activities through contacts with media (participation in radio and TV programs, and statements in newspaper articles related to the violence against women). During this period, beside increased number of women beneficiaries that seek legal and psychosocial assistance, and increased number of SOS calls, we noticed increase of interest for our activities of fighting family violence from both men and women citizens of Banja Luka. They are contacting us asking what kind of services we are providing, and women especially showing interest for our initiative for opening of the safe house for women and children victims of violence.

It is important to mention that our media visibility and continuous lobbying of the local official institutions for recognizing problems of violence against women helped us to secure **free office space from City Administration Banja Luka for the period of two years** (with possible extension until privatization of the space) .

Our **regular meetings with local official institutions** helped us to improve cooperation with the Center for Social Work in Banja Luka whose professional workers assist us to secure a minimum of social assistance for unemployed women and women with low income, self-supporting mothers without proper housing, women refugees and displaced persons that still did not gain back their property and are in difficult financial situation, without right for health care and access to social services. Although it is usually impossible to secure regular financial assistance in those cases, Center for Social Work introduced practice of 'one-time financial assistance' in the most difficult cases, and sometimes pays modest housing for unemployed self-supporting mothers, women with low income, and other similar situation.

Through our workshops **about family violence for police workers in Banja Luka region**, we increased their sensibility for the issue of family violence and more efficient approach in assisting women and children victims of violence. 39 police officials - 25 women (64,10%) and 14 (35,89%) men and 41 family medicine doctors and medical nurses - 34 women (82,92%) and 7 (17,07%) men from Banja Luka region participated in small workshops about family violence organized by United Women and hCa Banja Luka, and increased their knowledge about nature and scope of this problem, hear our experiences from the work with women victims of violence, and develop specific recommendations for improving the work of official institutions in fighting gender based violence and discrimination in our local community. Our SOS volunteers noticed there is visible change in behavior of police workers, as they are more ready to receive information about cases reported to us. However, we are informed by women beneficiaries of the 'Woman and Law' that many of police workers still have a lot's of prejudices toward victims, act with neglect during investigating cases during field interventions, and do not act according to their legal obligation of bringing criminal charges against abusers. Although we identified a lot's of prejudices and stereotypes about family violence among police officers, we believe workshops were very successful in terms of strengthening our cooperation with police and exchanging experiences about work on fighting family violence – comparing to the past period where we could not reach the police at all! It is important step forward in cooperation with key institutions that are responsible for fighting this problem in our society.

Thanks to the workshops and our initiative for signing common Memorandum of Understanding for assisting women victims of family violence, we now have **regular meetings with community police officers in Banja Luka** (every first Thursday in the month), and we have better opportunities to discuss problems in our work, and inform them about problems of women victims of violence. Although key police officials in Banja Luka region still did not sign MOU, in terms of providing 24-hours police protection of the safe house location, we believe we made significant progress in our cooperation with the police on local level.

Workshops with medical professionals (physicians and nurses) in Banja Luka region increased their awareness about issues related to family violence, and improved their skills for providing assistance for women and children victims. All workshop participants said the workshops enabled them to learn about family violence, especially from the perspective of legal, social, and economic dimension of this problem, and receiving information about activities of local NGOs that are working with women and children victims.

A.2) Opening of the Safe House/Shelter for Women and Children Victims of Family Violence from the Banja Luka Region

For a past nine years, United Women Banja Luka is working on the initiative of opening shelter for women and children victims of family violence from the Banja Luka region. Opening of a shelter would enable temporary accommodation of women and children victims of violence in the moments of acute violence, and overcome lack of institutional protection for this target group. Thanks to our long term lobbying for this initiative, **United Women Banja Luka succeeded to get financial support from RS Government and Open Society Fund in B&H to buy an object/house for the purpose of shelter.** In November 2003, we bought the house in Banja Luka suburb region, and during 2004 successfully lobbied the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs that supported us with material and construction services. They reconstructed

and adapted the house, through the Council for Refugees in Mostar as the local implementing partner.

On **May 25, 2005**, with support of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) office in Banja Luka, United Women Banja Luka organized **visit of women and men members of City Assembly Banja Luka, women and men representatives of City Administration Banja Luka, police, Center for Social Work, local and international nongovernmental organizations, and media to the safe house/shelter for women and children victims of violence**, to present our initiative and lobby for their active support in further adaptation and opening of the object for women and children victims.

As result of our increased media presence and public advocacy activities on local and national level, United Women Banja Luka received grant support for final works on the reconstruction of shelter for women and children victims of family violence in Banja Luka. The grant of 63.342,00 BAM was allocated to us through **GAP (Governance Accountability Program) implemented by City Administration Banja Luka, and sponsored by USAID and SIDA**. Furthermore, City Administration Banja Luka decided to **award a grant of 50000 BAM to United Women Banja Luka for buying necessary furniture and appliances for the shelter for women and children victims of family violence in Banja Luka**. Additionally, we received strong promises from the City authorities that they will allocate money for the running costs of the shelter through rebalance of the City Budget for 2006, which has been scheduled for middle 2006.

A.3) Public Advocacy Campaign-"We Are All Equal...When Facing Violence" in Banja Luka

In the period between May 2005 and June 2005, SOS volunteers of United Women Banja Luka were active in campaign for promotion of the SOS help line and support for the process of opening of the safe house/shelter for women and children victims of violence in Banja Luka region.

The general objective of this public advocacy campaign was to support entering running costs of safe house/shelter in the Banja Luka city budget, and specific objectives of increasing media attention on the issue of domestic violence, increasing awareness among women and men citizens of Banja Luka about family violence through media presentations and street events, promotion of SOS line and presentation of its past work and future plans, increasing awareness and strengthening cooperation among women and men professionals whose work is related to the issue of family violence (e.g. police and medical professionals), and increasing sensitivity of women and men representatives in the City Assembly of Banja Luka toward family violence, and getting their support for opening of the safe house/shelter for women and children victims of violence.

The campaign was supported through small grant of 2000 BAM the **Development Cooperation Ireland Fund that supported OKC and CRS in work with local groups on public advocacy campaigns**.

With their signature on petition, **1800 women and men citizens of Banja Luka supported our initiative for including costs of the women's shelter in municipality budget for 2006**. SOS volunteers of United Women Banja Luka conducted the action of collecting signatures in the period May - June 2005. They informed us that at least 45% of citizens that signed the petition confirmed they are regularly informed about our activities through our media actions and activities.

A.4) Participation in the Initiative of Establishing Short SOS Number for Women and Children Victims of Violence in RS

In August 2005, United Women Banja Luka joined the initiative of establishing short SOS number for women and children victims of violence for Republika Srpska. Thanks to the support of Gender Center of RS, coalition of four local NGOs in RS got a possibility to improve their existing SOS services for women and children victims through establishing short SOS number - 1264. Budućnost Modriča, Women's Association "Lara" Bijeljina, Women's Center Trebinje, and United Women Banja Luka signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Gender Center of RS in relation to this activity.

A.4) Contribution of United Women Banja Luka to the Global Campaign "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence"

Short Background Information about Global Campaign

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. Participants chose the dates, **November 25, International Day Against Violence Against Women and December 10, International Human Rights Day**, in order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasize that such violence is a violation of human rights. This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates including **December 1, which is World AIDS Day, and December 6, which marks the Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre**. Since 1991, approximately 1,700 organizations in 130 countries have participated in the 16 Days Campaign!

Activities of United Women Banja Luka and our Partners in 2005

Since establishing of United Women Banja Luka, we contribute in the Global Campaign together with our partner organizations throughout B&H and the region, through organizing various activities, aimed for raising awareness of women and men citizens about violence against women.

On November 25, 2005 - International Day of Fighting Against Violence Against Women, we organized a press conference in the International Press Center Banja Luka, together with our partners Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka. Minja Damjanovic, Volunteer of United Women Banja Luka, Aleksandar Zivanovic, Program Coordinator of hCa Banja Luka, and Amela Basic, Psychologist of United Women Banja Luka presented the SOS line for women and children victims of violence, and information related to our long-term work on providing free legal and psychosocial assistance for women in Banja Luka region.

On November 25, 2005, we organized Radio Program on topic: **"Fighting Against Violence Against Women"**, broadcasted at **Radio UNO Banja Luka**. Guest of the Program was **Dragana Dardic, from Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka**. Ms. Dardic presented the results of national study about family violence that was conducted in cooperation of hCa Banja Luka, Women to Women Sarajevo, and Women's Association "Lara" Bijeljina. She emphasized that official institutions in B&H did very little on implementation of international obligations of B&H on CEDAW Convention and Beijing Declaration Platform for Action, and talked about lack of harmonization between laws and the practice on different institutional levels in B&H.

-On **November 28, 2005**, members of United Women Banja Luka participated in the Program **"Working Day"** broadcasted at Alternative Television Banja Luka. The

Program was devoted to the **issue of violence against women**, and United Women Banja Luka presented our work on this issue in Banja Luka and B&H.

-In the period from November 28 until December 2, 2005 volunteers of SOS telephone of United Women Banja Luka conducted a field research about family violence in five elementary schools in Banja Luka - "Branislav Stankovic", "Georgij Stojkov Rakovski", "Branko Radicevic", "Branislav Nusic", and "Jovan Cvijic.". Research was conducted with the approval of the Ministry of Education and Culture of RS, and enabled us to gather valuable information about level of information and awareness about the issue of family violence among elementary school students. Research sample was based on questionnaire among 206 boys and girls age between 13 and 15 years old. Key findings show following - 83,5% boys and girls believe family violence only appears through visible physical injuries. 65,5% boys and girls recognize also sexual violence with use of force. Only approx. 10% of boys and girls recognize acts of violence that are manifesting through psychological and economical abuse. As the most frequent victims of family violence, students recognize women - in 70,9% cases, and children in 26,7% cases. Only 2,4% of boys and girls that participated in research believe that men could also be victims of family violence.

- **On December 9, 2005**, in the eve of the **International Human Rights Day**, United Women Banja Luka and Helsinki Citizens Assembly Banja Luka **organized press conference in Banja Luka**. Representatives of our two associations talked about violations of women's human rights, rights of national minorities, gender equality issues in public and political life of B&H, gender sensitive media reporting in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

-On **December 11, 2005**, we organized Radio Program on topic: "**16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women**", **broadcasted at Radio UNO Banja Luka**. Guest of this Program was **Amela Bašić, Psychologist of "Women and Law" project**. She talked about the activities of United Women Banja Luka and hCa Banja Luka that were implemented as the part of Campaign from November 25, 2005 until December 10, 2005. She also presented the work of SOS telephones for women and girls victims of violence, and research about family violence that United Women Banja Luka volunteers conducted in five elementary schools in Banja Luka. She emphasized that results of this research show that both NGOs and official institutions should work more on education of students on family violence, and raising awareness of whole population in B&H.

B. Activities for Increasing Public Awareness about Trafficking of People in Bosnia and Herzegovina

United Women Banja Luka have long term commitment toward developing and implementation of the actions aimed for raising public awareness about the issue of trafficking of people in B&H, especially women and children as the most vulnerable population exposed to the influence of human trafficking criminal networks in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

B.1) During 2005, United Women Banja Luka and partner organization "Lara" from Bijeljina implemented the project "Protect Yourself - Action Against Trafficking of Children of B&H," with financial support of the Delegation of the European Union. The project aimed to contribute to creating conditions for successful protection of children in B&H against trafficking within the country and abroad through implementation of the following activities: organization of the trainings for school pedagogues about trafficking of people in B&H (two workshops

were held - February 26-27, 2005 in Banja Luka, and March 12-13, 2006 in Zvornik), projections of the movie "Lilya4ever" (from Swedish director Lukas Moodyson) and follow up workshop discussions about trafficking of people in 48 secondary schools in Republika Srpska, preparing, publishing, and distributing an informational booklet "I Have the Right to Say NO!" and TV Program/Discussion about trafficking of children and youth people in B&H, broadcasted at Alternative Television Banja Luka on December 12, 2005.

Summary of Accomplished Results:

39 women and men school pedagogues and school workers increased knowledge, skills and resources they can use in work with children on the issue of trafficking of people in B&H through the two trainings organized in the beginning of the project implementation. **9** school pedagogues and school workers that were unable to attend the trainings received training material, fully supported organization of the Lilya4ever movie projections and follow up discussions in their schools, and actively participated in these activities.

2336 students - **1634 (69,95%)** girls and **702 (30,05%)** boys from final classes of the 48 schools in RS and Brčko District increased awareness about trafficking of people in B&H through direct participation in the project activities - watching Lilya4ever movie, active participation in follow up discussions, and reading the informational booklet about trafficking of people. Students increased their ability to recognize potential threats of trafficking of people in their local communities and learned how to protect themselves from becoming victims of human trafficking. Project activities that were implemented directly in schools enabled us to gather useful information about situation of human rights among children and youth people, especially their level of knowledge and experiences related to trafficking of people in their local communities. Methodology used was survey among students during follow up discussions and presentations.

Key Findings Approx. 1% of students said they heard for cases of trafficking of people in their local communities. Approx. 65% of students associated trafficking of people in B&H with selling human organs. Approx. 5% of students were able to explain what human trafficking means in reality. Approx. 90% of students believe that children from incomplete families, poverty, and family violence are the main reasons why young people are exposed to human trafficking. Approx. 95% of students said that all women victims of human trafficking are becoming prostitutes (predominantly girls and women from Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine). 30% of students said they already heard about this issue through local media and Internet. Approx. 70% of students said they would accept the job abroad without any hesitations. Approx. 1% of students were able to identify organizations/institutions that could assist the victims of trafficking.

Key Recommendation for Future Activities In more than 90% of schools, students and professors expressed needs for future organization of similar activities also for younger students (first and second classes), continuous discussions among students through homeroom classes (razredna nastava), education for parents and school staff, and development of activities with local institutions (centers for social work, police, local administration, etc.) and nongovernmental organizations.

Identified Key Problems for Additional Education of Students - family violence, drug abuse, alcoholism, and smoking prevention.

School pedagogues and professors that participated in trainings about trafficking of people in Banja Luka and Zvornik informed other professors in their schools about

planned project activities and experiences from trainings on their regular teacher's meetings. As result of that, **123** school professors and school workers (school directors, school psychologists, school secretaries, professors of democracy and human rights, homeroom teachers, professors responsible for the coordination of Student's Councils) actively participated in the activities organized in high schools, and expressed their support for organizing similar actions on prevention of trafficking of children for future generations. In follow up communication with schools, we identified that **more than 70%** of teachers that participated in the project activities in the schools used parental meetings to distribute informational booklets and organize discussion about trafficking of people to the parents, and organized follow up discussion on the topic among students of lower classes.

6 members of Parent's Councils, 30 parents, and 4 journalists directly participated in Lilya4ever movie projections and follow up discussion in two high schools - East Sarajevo - Lukavica, and Ribnik.

20640 copies of the information booklet about trafficking of people were distributed to the schoolchildren of all ages, parents, school professors, and local population through our communication with school pedagogues and other school workers that were involved in organization of Lilya4ever movie projections and follow up discussions in schools throughout RS and Brčko District. (Approx. 430 copies per school)

Wide public in targeted local communities and throughout B&H was able to learn essential facts and issues about trafficking of people, with focus on children and youth people in B&H, results of the project activities in local high schools, and actions of official institutions and NGOs in B&H on prevention of trafficking.

Impact of project activities on direct beneficiaries - schoolchildren, school pedagogues and school professors is very visible, as we succeeded to reach their active involvement in all targeted local communities. Lilya4ever movie proved to be very powerful tool for educating children and youth people in targeted local communities about trafficking of people, as it influenced significantly on increasing their awareness about this issue, and encouraged them to discuss various problems that affect young generation in our country.

With assistance of facilitators and their school professors and pedagogues, children learned to recognize potential threats and risk behavior that can lead to becoming a victim of human trafficking. It is important to mention that children as well as professors raised their awareness that this issue affects not only girls because of widespread belief that human traffickers target female victims for forced prostitution.

In order to address this issue, United Women Banja Luka actively worked on raising public awareness about the issue of trafficking of people in B&H through various media activities, participation in joint actions with official institutions and local and international nongovernmental organizations, and participated in public advocacy actions of the RING NGO Anti-trafficking Network in B&H.

B.2) In the period from May 1, 2005 until July 31, 2005, United Women Banja Luka implemented the project "Prevention of Trafficking of Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina," with financial support of the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Bosnia and Herzegovina. Aim of the project was contribution to the prevention of human trafficking in B&H through legislative and establishing cooperation between different sectors involved in combating trafficking of people in B&H. As the project activities, we organized two round tables about trafficking of people in B&H in Modrica (June 3, 2005) and Banja Luka (July 9, 2005) with

participation of the official institutions that are working on combating trafficking in B&H (police, SIPA, state border services, etc.) representatives of the international organizations, local media, and local NGOs in B&H, and TV program/discussion broadcasted at ATV Banja Luka, with participation of Marijana Senjak, from Women's Therapy Center "Medica" from Zenica, Gordana Vidović from "Budućnost" Modriča, and Dženana Karup-Druško, from Magazine "Dani" Sarajevo.

Summary of the Key Recommendations for Future Work on Prevention of Trafficking of People in B&H developed through the Project Activities:

1. Bosnia and Herzegovina has Action Plan and Operative Plan for Combating Trafficking of People for 2005-2007, which are developed and adopted at the state level of B&H, as well as good legislative and operative procedures in this area. However, they are not enforced and synchronized. Participants in the project activities recommended following actions:

- Harmonization of all rules and regulations in official institutions that are working on combating trafficking of people (State Border Service, centers for social work, health institutions, etc), and dividing responsibilities among these institutions in order to prevent overlapping, or lack of coverage for some activities.

2. Women and men foreigners often receive working permit in B&H for non-short supply professions. Stay of women and men foreigners in B&H is not easy to track, especially because they often change their place of residence. Participants in the project activities recommended following actions:

- Establishing rules for controlling issuing of working visas, especially that women and men foreigners could not receive it for non short supply professions in B&H,
- Tightening procedure of employing women and men foreigners in B&H,
- Developing data base on the state level for entrance, movement, and stay of women and men foreigners in B&H, in order to support synchronizing information that are very important for all official institutions, especially State Border Service, and police,
- Checks of stay of women and men foreigners in B&H during specific time period
- Adoption of synchronized rules about requirements for all women and foreigners when leaving B&H to show notice of departure issued by authorized institution where a person was registered during stay in B&H,
- Creating well financed Center for Women and Men Immigrants and Center for Women and Men Asylum Seekers on the state level of B&H (one or more facilities)

3. Centers for social works are identified in the B&H Action Plan for Combating Trafficking. However, it has been noted that these official institutions do not have precise roles and responsibilities. Participants in the project activities recommended following actions:

- Involvement of centers for social work in prevention and protection of B&H citizens victims of trafficking
- Precisely defining roles of centers for social work in work with women and men foreign citizens that are victims of trafficking in B&H, especially underage persons.

4. Frequent reports against police officers and other authorized officials were noted because of abuses in work. It caused that women and men citizens of BYH lost confidence in work of these services, so it is necessary to:

- Carry out tests for each employee, and initiate procedures if there are indications that some police officers or other officials participated in some criminal acts
- Processing all cases and publishing results in order to inform wide public
- Through public availability of this information, women and men citizens of B&H will regain trust in police and other official institutions.

5. It is necessary to create group for protection of victims of human trafficking, potential victims of human trafficking, and potential witnesses on the state level of B&H. This group should be composed of women and men representatives of relevant governmental institutions and nongovernmental organizations that are working on the issue of human trafficking. Immediately after identifying victims, potential victims, or witnesses of human trafficking, group would have a responsibility to establish contacts with a person(s), and keep it until the end of a court procedure.

6. Beside responsibility of individuals, it is necessary to undertake legal measures also against legal subjects that were connected with human trafficking (such are closing down business objects, etc.)

7. It is necessary to lead proactive investigations, based on intelligence information, and plan these activities in order to take over complete burden from a victim of human trafficking. Not all evidences should be based solely on testimony of a victim on court. Official institutions should use combination of collecting intelligence information, standard investigating techniques, especially investigating acts, monitoring money flow, etc, all with the objective to secure evidences beside testimony of a victim.

- In order to secure application of proactive investigations, it is necessary to secure better cooperation of the official institutions that are implementing laws, especially within police, and between police and prosecutors offices.
- To define who has priority over usage of certain confidential information, especially those information related to victims of human trafficking.
- Enabling good protection of women and men witnesses
- Consider possibilities for signing agreements with neighboring countries, for establishing common institutions/bodies for collection, processing, and analysis of common information about trafficking of people, with defining responsibilities for protecting confident information
- Incriminating of all forms of human trafficking, such are forced prostitution, pornography, forced labor, and acts similar to slavery, etc.
- All sides involved in action against human trafficking should initiate campaign for adoption of legislation about compensation of damage for victims of human trafficking, which would enable reimbursement of damage for victims from total property of accused persons.
- Depriving illegally acquired property, and creation of Fund for Assistance for Victims of Human Trafficking, and enabling payment of damage to the victims of human trafficking from total property of accused persons.

8. Building trust and creation of partnerships on local level between nongovernmental organizations and all institutions that are active on prevention of human trafficking in B&H.

B.3) In the period from August 2005 to December 2005, United Women Banja Luka implemented the project "Think Before You Act," supported by STAR Network of World Learning/Batcom Project. The main objective of the project was to develop comic book that would present different situation of human trafficking

in B&H that would enable youngsters in B&H to learn about this issue through sample situation possible in real life. The comic book has been distributed to high school students in Doboj, Gradiska, Derventa, Sipovo, Knezevo, Bosanska Dubica, Prijedor, Mrkonjic Grad, Bosanski Novi, Ljubinje, Bosanski Brod, Bosanska Kostajnica, Bosanski Samac, Brcko Distrikt, Banja Luka, and Skender Vakuf. Furthermore, the comic book was shared with our partner organizations from RING NGO Anti-trafficking Network in B&H in Banja Luka, Bihac, Bijeljina, Bratunac, Derventa, Kljuc, Livno, Modrica, Mostar, Sarajevo, Trebinje, Tuzla, and Zenica.

Summary of the Results:

- High school youngsters of both sexes in targeted local communities are better informed about the human trafficking problem, and its forms in B&H
- Increased understanding for the issue of human trafficking among high school professors, pedagogues, parents, and common citizens of targeted local communities

B.4) Lectures on the Issue of Human Trafficking in Three Local communities in B&H

In November - December 2005, Lana Jajcevic from United Women Banja Luka has been engaged as lecturer on the issues of human trafficking for three lectures organized in parishes of Kotor Varos (November 29, 2005), Prijedor (November 30, 2005), and Ljubija (December 1, 2005). Lectures were organized on the initiative of CARITAS Banja Luka. Participants were women and men citizens of these three local communities, predominantly youth people - high school students. They also received informational material about human trafficking in B&H prepared by United Women Banja Luka.

B.5) Coordination Activities with the State Working Group for Prevention of Trafficking and Illegal Migration of People

During 2005, representative of United Women Banja Luka regularly participated in coordination meetings of the State Working Group for Prevention of Trafficking. We find it useful for receiving first hand information about anti-trafficking actions of official institutions in B&H, and use it as tool for development our advocacy activities. Contribution of our organization in this work was in making suggestions for concrete joint activities of the official institutions and NGOs on fighting human trafficking in B&H, and making influence on the State Action Plan for Prevention of Human Trafficking.

C). Activities of Fighting for Gender Equality and Improving Position of Women in Public and Political Life

Woman Today - Phase 9 - 2005

We are implementing this project in cooperation with the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka since 1997, thanks to understanding and long-term support from Kvinna till Kvinna foundation from Sweden. The activities we implemented in 2005 were following: seven public discussions on actual topic, five workshops "Communication, Cooperation, Coordination, and Collaboration" for women politicians and NGO activists public advocacy and lobbying actions, seven TV programs and press conferences that we used to emphasize condition of women's human rights and need for gender equality in our society, and networking of women, in order to strengthen stabilization

of women, as well as stabilization of political scene in B&H, organization of the Regional Conference "Real and Legal Position of Women in Southwestern Balkans," organized in November 2005 in Banja Luka, and publishing final project booklet. Target groups of this project were female politicians, women NGO activists from B&H and the region, and women and men citizens Bosnia and Herzegovina (for public discussions, TV public discussions, and TV Parliament).

Accomplished Results:

We succeeded to fully accomplish our objectives, as follows: 1. Support for women that are participating in public and political life, 2. Education of women about importance of participation in all segments of society, 3. Education of women about importance of networking for implementation of advocacy and lobbying actions, 4. Expressing opinions and lobbying for accomplishing needs and solving actual problems, and 5. Education of women and men through electronic media with important problems.

We supported women that are participating in public and political life through putting social priorities of B&H society into women's focus through the activities of this project. We believe that we were supporting women that participate in public and political life on local, entity, and state levels through planned and fully implemented activities of this project. It should be emphasized that we had contacts with women that are performing various public functions, women active politicians, and we implemented public meetings/discussions and planned all project activities together with them through the Advisory Board of the Project.

We educated 132 women from Banja Luka, Bosanska Gradiska, Prijedor, Bosanska Dubica, and Bosanski Novi through **workshops about Communication, Cooperation, Coordination, and Collaboration** about importance of participation in all segments of society, and importance of networking and cooperation. Approximately 350 women and men citizens of Banja Luka and surrounding local communities participated in our **public meetings/discussions** where we were developing and sending recommendations, and initiated advocacy and lobbying actions.

Thanks to the **media segment of this project**, we educated women and men citizens of B&H about importance of women's participation in public and political life. Seven TV programs/discussions were prepared and broadcasted, as follows:

- First TV Program, Alternative Television Banja Luka, February 7, 2005, topic: **"Politics in B&H, Influences and Responsibilities"**. Participants: Tanja Topić, political analyst, and Lidija Živanović, coordinator of the "Woman Today" project.
- Second TV Program, Alternative Television Banja Luka, April 21, 2005, topic: **"Advantages and Defects of the Tax on Additional Value"**. Participants: Damir Miljević, economist and Nada Golubović, coordinator of the "Woman Today" project.
- Third TV Program, Alternative Television Banja Luka, June 21, 2005, topic: **"Election Law of B&H in the Light of the Gender Equality Law in B&H"**. Participants: Nada Golubović and Lidija Živanović, Project Coordinators.
- Fourth TV Program, Alternative Television, November 10, 2005, topic: **"For Equal Possibilities of Women and Men in the Election Law of B&H."** Participants: Nevenka Trifković, representative in the People's Assembly of Republika Srpska and President of the Gender Equality Commission in RS Parliament, and Lidija Živanović, Project Coordinator of the "Woman Today" Project.
- Fifth TV Program, Alternative Television, December 6, 2005, topic: **"Constitutional Changes in B&H and European Integrations."**

- Participants: Željko Mirjanić, Professor of the Law School in Banja Luka and Nada Golubović, Project Coordinator of the "Woman Today" Project.
- Sixth TV Program, Alternative Television, December 6, 2005, topic: **"Family Violence - From Research to the Strategy."** Participants: Dragana Dardić from hCa Banja Luka and Amela Bašić, Psychologist on the Project Woman and Law.
 - TV Parliament - Talk Show BUKA, Alternative Television Banja Luka, September 30, 2005, topic: **"Legal and Real Position of Women in Southwestern Balkans."** Participants: Bojana Genov, Women's Network of Croatia, Lošinj, Croatia, Gordana Vidović, Budućnost Modriča, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Tanja Ignjatović, Voice of Difference, Belgrade, Serbia, Cyme Mahmutaj, Office for Equal Possibilities and Labor Issues of the Kosovo Prime minister, Pristine, Kosovo, Ljupka Kovačević, Anima, Kotor, Montenegro, and Valentina Novkovska Trajkovska, VMRO NP Skopje, Macedonia.

We succeeded to connect women from different local communities. We are partially satisfied with this networking because there are priorities that women on local level are very interested to work together. We must emphasize they are always interested for social problems, but when it comes to more complicated issues, such are police reform, constitutional issues, European integrations, military reforms, it is more complicated to reach the agreement, especially if political parties from which women are coming from have different opinions about these issues.

Women are ready to join in common advocacy actions on local, state, and regional levels when it comes to the solving of majority of problems, especially in the field of gender equality, and social priorities.

D). Public Advocacy for Equal Access of Women and Men to Media, and Gender Sensitive Media Reporting in B&H

D.1) Gender Equality in B&H = Informed Public Opinion and Gender Sensitive Media in B&H

In 2005, United Women Banja Luka started with the implementation of this three year project, aimed to contribute to the following objectives:

- Empowering journalists and media workers in B&H to recognize gender based discrimination, conduct gender sensitive media reporting, and support us in influencing positive changes in media policies and programs - through TV programs/discussions, gender equality workshops for women and men journalists, and networking and capacity building;
- Encouraging women NGO activists and women politicians to learn public presentation skills, build effective networks and communication with media, and present their opinion about important political, social, and economic issues that affect lives of common citizens - through TV discussions, gender and media workshop, and networking and capacity building;
- Creating public pressure on public officials and policy makers in B&H, and advocating for positive changes in official policies related to women's human rights, gender equality, and access of women to media;
- Increasing knowledge of women and men common citizens of B&H about specific gender equality issues addressed by the Gender Equality Law in B&H, and improving their capacity to have informed opinion about gender based discrimination.

We are implementing this project in partnership with Amica e.V. from Freiburg, Germany, and thanks to the financial support from EED Germany.

In 2005, as the initial phase of this project, United Women Banja Luka organized following activities:

- Organization of five TV programs/discussions that are focusing on specific topics from Gender Equality Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina-"**Gender Based Discrimination**," broadcasted on April 1, 2005, "**Gender Equality and Education**," broadcasted on May 25, 2005, "**Employment and Labor Rights and Gender Equality**," broadcasted on July 1, 2005, "**Gender Equality and Equal Access to Resources**," broadcasted on September 10, 2005, and "**Equal Treatment of Women in Urban and Rural Areas**," broadcasted on November 5, 2005. Additionally, on the initiative of RTRS, we organized additional TV program under name "**She and He: Equality**," broadcasted on December 29, 2005 to provide the overview of the TV programs and issues discussed during 2005. RTRS provided free broadcasting time for this program.
- Organization of gender equality workshop for women and men journalists, editors, and other media workers, organized in Banja Luka, March 25 - 27, 2005.
- Workshop about gender equality and media for women NGO activists and women politicians, organized in Banja Luka, June 10 - 12, 2005.
- Organizing exchange meeting with women's associations from Kosovo and Macedonia, in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, May 10 - 15, 2005.
- Preparation and organizing two working meetings with women and men journalists, editors, NGO activists, and female politicians in Banja Luka, August 24, 2005, and December 10, 2005.
- Study visit of United Women Banja Luka members to Germany in the period from November 7 to November 13, 2005.
- Cooperation with Amica e.V. Freiburg, Germany as partnership and consulting support for organization of exchange visit with women's organizations from Kosovo and Macedonia, study visit of United Women Banja Luka to Germany to learn about gender mainstreaming process, and project management and organizational development of United Women Banja Luka.
- Media monitoring, media statements, participation in TV programs, street campaigns, public advocacy and lobbying actions, organization of public meetings/discussions aimed for advocating for positive changes in official policies related to women's human rights, gender equality, and access of women to media.

Intermediate Results of the Project:

- 82 citizens of B&H - 57 (69,51%) women and 25 (28,12%) men called RTRS studio during broadcasting of TV programs/discussions and provided their comments on the topics of discussion.

- Since inception of the project, 343 citizens of B&H - 296 (86,29%) women and 47 (13,70%) men contacted our office and asked for additional information about topics discussed in our media activities. Majority of women contacted us to receive information for services provided for victims of violence (women's shelters, SOS lines, legal and psychosocial assistance), obtaining copies of Gender Equality Law of B&H, and possibilities for judicial protection against sexual harassment in schools and working place. Majority of men contacted us to report cases of discrimination in schools and universities, and receive information where they can obtain assistance for protecting their human rights.

- Cooperation with women delegates of People's Assembly of RS improved, especially with women members of the Committee for Equal Possibilities (Gender Equality Commission). They started regularly to seek for assistance from our experts in analyzing of draft legislation, especially draft laws that have strong gender dimension. In June 2005, they supported our amendments on draft Law for Protection from Family Violence in RS, where we lobbied for erasing provisions that would regulate family violence as minor offence, which would prevent effective punishing of abusers. Although we did not succeed to influence final decision of the RS Parliament on this Law, we continued to build networks of support and partnership with women parliamentarians in Republika Srpska;

- 25 media workers - 19 women and 6 men journalists and editors from electronic and printed media from 9 cities from both entities in Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in gender equality education organized as the part of the project. All media representatives that participated in the workshop expressed readiness for future cooperation, and active participation and contribution in the project activities. They continued to be active supporters of our activities in media, and actively participated in working meetings to network and increase cooperation with women NGO activists and female politicians.

- 25 women workshop participants - 12 women NGO activists and 13 women representatives of political parties and official institutions from 10 cities from both entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Brčko District actively participated in workshop about gender equality and media. They developed concrete recommendations for future work on improving media portrayal of women and gender equality, which were used by all project participants in media promotion, and discussed further on working meetings that were organized in the project. These recommendations will also be incorporated in future activities of the project, especially as a base for field research on status of women in media that will be implemented during second year of the project implementation.

- All women NGO activists and women politicians that participated in the workshop expressed readiness for future cooperation, and active participation and contribution in the project activities. They continued to be active supporters of our activities in media, and actively participated in working meetings to network and increase cooperation with women and men journalists and editors from printed and electronic media in B&H.

- Improved understanding of women's position and gender equality issues in regional context.

D.2) Participation of United Women Banja Luka in Global Media Monitoring Project GMMP 2005 initiated and coordinated by World Association of Christian Charities (WACC)

In 2005, United Women Banja Luka and Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka acted as national coordinators of media monitoring for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Global Media Monitoring Project 2005 was initiated and globally coordinated by WACC with aim to promote the fair and balanced representation of both sexes in news media worldwide. It consisted of media monitoring and advocacy - **on February 16, 2005 hundreds of participants in over 100 countries worldwide monitored the participation and portrayal of women and men in the news media on television, radio and in newspapers, with using specially developed monitoring tools - coding (quantitative) analysis and qualitative analysis.** The results of the monitoring are published in global report and used in participating

countries by NGO activists as a tool for advocacy and increasing dialogue with media to develop and implement guidelines and policies oriented towards more gender sensitive news media. United Women Banja Luka also prepared National GMMP 2005 Report for Bosnia and Herzegovina, which will be used as model for our planned media activities in 2006.

United Women Banja Luka will use positive experiences of participating in Global Media Monitoring Action to develop planned field research about position of women in media in B&H, and to continue with media monitoring activities, together with women and men journalists, editors, NGO activists, and female politicians in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

E). Strengthening Cooperation with Other Nongovernmental Organizations and Official Institutions in B&H and Abroad **Accomplished Results in 2005**

As important part of our long-term strategy and strengthening our visibility in local and regional environment, United Women Banja Luka are working on developing cooperation, exchange of information and joint initiatives with other nongovernmental organizations in both entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as in the region. Here we would like to emphasize our cooperation with local women's organizations - members of the Kvinna till Kvinna Network in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Gender Coalition in B&H and RING NGO Anti-trafficking Network in B&H, with which we developed numerous initiatives and joint projects.

Our friends from international organizations - Kvinna till Kvinna Sweden, Amica e. V. from Germany, Global Rights - Partners for Justice, office in B&H, Amica e.V. Freiburg, Germany, World Association of Christian Charities - Women's Program, and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Gender Project in Bosnia and Herzegovina enabled us to widen our perspectives on fighting for better position of women in our country through learning from their experiences and examples from other countries. It is of great value that they remind us constantly how important is for us to work not only on local issues, but also be visible regionally and globally, in order to offer our support to other women and to increase our perspective about international instruments of fighting for women's human rights and gender equality.

United Women Banja Luka developed good cooperation with official institutions, especially those who are by their official duty responsible for policy development and implementing specific steps for improvement of women's human rights and gender equality in our society. We strengthened our cooperation with women politicians from local political parties and women in executive governance, such are People's Assembly of RS, Local City Government in Banja Luka, Gender Centers of Republika Srpska and Federation of B&H, and Gender Equality Agency of B&H. They are regularly supporting our advocacy initiatives within policy and decision-making structures and we assist them with providing information and advices, legal expertise and analysis. Furthermore, our cooperation with police and Center for Social Work in Banja Luka improved in terms of interventions that are more efficient, protection and assistance to the victims of family violence.

F.) The Overview of our Activities in 2005 on Developing Cooperation With Nongovernmental Organizations and Official Institutions in B&H:

In 2005, United Women Banja Luka representative joined the **State Working Group for Improving Health and Social Care for Women**. This expert group is structured from representatives of official institutions (entity Ministries of Health Care, Social Welfare services and Social Medicine institutions, entity Gender Centers of RS and FB&H and Gender Equality Agency of B&H) and non-governmental organizations throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina that are working on women's human rights and gender equality. During 2005, working group prepared analysis of domestic legislation in the area of health and social protection and their compliance with the Gender Equality Law in B&H, and prepared recommendations for advancement of health and social care of women in B&H that will become a part of official policies to be implemented by official institutions in upcoming period;

- In August 2005, United Women Banja Luka joined the initiative for **establishing short SOS number - 1264 for victims of violence in RS**. This initiative has been supported by Gender Center of RS, and involves four local women's NGOs that are providing services for victims of violence - Buducnost Modrica, Lara Bijeljina, Women's Center Trebinje, and United Women Banja Luka. We signed memorandum of understanding and cooperation with partner organizations and Gender Center of RS in relation to this activity.

In October 2005, United Women Banja Luka Legal Advisor joined **State Working Group for Preparing Commentary of the Gender Equality Law in B&H**. This expert group is structures of legal experts from official institutions and local NGOs with aim to prepare comprehensive commentary of the Gender Equality Law in B&H, and improve its implementation in the practice of judicial institutions.

In 2005, United Women Banja Luka was invited to join the **Advisory Group for planning the activities of the State Coordinator for Fighting Against Human Trafficking in B&H**. Our representative attends monthly working meetings, and enables us to have direct influence in creation of state policies and response on the issue of trafficking of women and girls in B&H.

- **February 14, 2005 - Coordination meeting with local NGOs in Banja Luka, organized by NGO Vidra Banja Luka**. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss possibilities for creating advisory NGO body on local level that would participate in the project "**Local Democratic Governance for Return and Reintegration**."

- **February 21, 2005** - Meeting with the City Administration Banja Luka to discuss **reform of social sector in the Banja Luka region**.

- **February 25, 2005 - Participation on consultative/coordination meeting organized by Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees in B&H and UNDP B&H Gender Program in Sarajevo**. Aim of the meeting was to discuss previous activities of NGOs on implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, information about delegation of B&H Government that will participate on Beijing + 10 in New York, and signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between NGOs and institutional mechanisms for gender equality in B&H.

- **February 26-27, 2005** - Participation in meeting of the Network "**Be Seen Be Heard**," together with Women's Forum Bratunac, Women to Women Sarajevo, Li Women Livno, and women's organizations from Milici, Drvar, and Mostar, to develop plans for the activities in 2005/2006.

-March 5, 2005 - Participation in workshop "**Sex and Gender**" in Skelani, organized by Women's Association "Zelja" Skelani.

-March 24, 2005 - **Coordination meeting organized by National Democratic Institute (NDI) office in Banja Luka**, with objective to discuss possible joint activities on improving position of women in public life of B&H, with focus on Banja Luka, Prijedor, Brcko District, and Bijeljina.

- March 31, 2005 - **Participation in the Constituent Assembly for opening of Daily Center for Older People in Banja Luka**. Representative of United Women Banja Luka joined the initiative board for opening the Center.

- April 1, 2005 - Meeting of the "**Safe Network for Fighting Against Violence Against Women in B&H,**" organized in Mostar, on the initiative of "Women to Women" Sarajevo. The main objective of the meeting was discussion about current challenges in the work of the Network, and development of joint strategy for future activities (including fundraising for the work of the Network).

- July 25, 2005 - **Participation in the meeting of the Board for Equal Possibilities of the People's Assembly of Republika Srpska**. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss draft Law for Protection from Family Violence in RS, and Report of Ombudsman of RS for 2004.

- August 18, 2005 - **Meeting with representatives of SIPA Office in Banja Luka** to discuss cooperation on assisting the victims of human trafficking in B&H.

- August 24, 2005 - Participation in the **Third Consultative Meeting with NGOs**, as a part of Sub-regional gender equality project implemented by UNDP B&H. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss current work of local NGOs and institutional mechanisms for gender equality on implementation of the Gender Equality Law in B&H, presentation of the results of small projects on gender equality supported by UNDP and implemented in local communities of B&H, and preparation for the Regional Conference "Beijing +10" in Sarajevo scheduled for September 2005.

- September 5, 2005 - **Participation in Public Hearing/Discussion on Law for Protection from Family Violence in RS, organized by the RS Ministry of Justice in Banja Luka**. Participants were representatives of centers for social work, NGOs, judges, prosecutors, and police officials. The main objective was to have open and critical discussion about final draft of the Law, and develop suggestions for changes of the Law, prior its adoption in the parliamentary procedure.

- September 8, 2005 - **Participation in the meeting of Council for Social Policy and Protection of the City Administration Banja Luka**, to discuss City Statue of Banja Luka.

-September 9, 2005 - **Participation in evaluation meeting for Gender Equality and Equity Project**, implemented by the Gender Centers of RS and FB&H, and supported by the Government of Finland in B&H.

- September 13, 2005 - **Participation in the Meeting of Gender Working Group for Revision of Midterm Development Strategy for B&H, in Gender Center of FB&H in Sarajevo**. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss ways and possibilities for conducting extensive gender analysis of PRSP for B&H, and planning of

the gender training for women and men representatives of 22 working groups that participated in development of PRSP for B&H.

- **September 14-15, 2005 - Participation in the Regional Conference "Beijing +10," organized by UNDP in Sarajevo.** The main objective of the conference was to discuss progress in implementation/development of National Action Plans for Gender Equality in the region, encouraging regional cooperation on improving position of women, and lobbying representatives of the international community in the region to support gender equality actions of local NGOs and institutional mechanisms for gender equality.

- **October 10, 2005 - Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation related to coordination of activities on running shelter for women and children victims of family violence in Banja Luka** between City Administration Banja Luka, Center for Social Work Banja Luka, Ministry of Justice RS, Medical Center Banja Luka, Public Prosecutors Office of RS, and United Women Banja Luka.

- **October 11, 2005 - Participation in panel discussion "Socially Endangered Categories and Realizing their Rights," organized by Center for Social Work Banja Luka and Youth Communication Center Banja Luka.** The main objective of the discussion was to improve cooperation of local NGOs and official institutions that are working with socially endangered categories of population.

- **October 17-19, 2005 - Participation at the Regional Conference "Integrating Gender Concept in Bosnia and Herzegovina - Lessons Learned and Regional Overview," organized by Gender Equality Agency of B&H in Sarajevo.** Lana Jajcevic, representative of United Women Banja Luka, presented on second day plenary session on the issue of cooperation of institutional mechanisms and NGOs on gender equality in B&H. As result of the Conference, institutional mechanisms for gender equality in the region signed Declaration on Cooperation on Regional Level.

- **November 21, Meeting in United Women Banja Luka office with the representatives of "Forum for Security of Community,"** informal group of women and men representatives of different official institutions from Prijedor. They visited us to learn about our activities on opening of the shelter for women and children victims of violence in Banja Luka, and inform us about their initiative for opening shelter in Prijedor.

- **November 18, 2005 - Representative of United Women Banja Luka participated in first meeting of Working Group for Combating Human Trafficking in Banja Luka, organized by OSCE Regional Office in Banja Luka.** Participants at the meeting were representatives of OSCE, EUPM, UNHCR, SIPA, and Center for Public Security Banja Luka, State Border Service, and Center for Social Work Banja Luka, and Public Prosecutors Office RS.

- **December 2, 2005 - Meeting with EUPM representatives in Banja Luka in United Women Banja Luka office,** to discuss cooperation on fighting family violence and human trafficking, and enhance their support for our initiative of opening shelter for women and children victims of family violence in Banja Luka.

- In December 2005, United Women Banja Luka and hCa Banja Luka received **letters of support from the Ministry for Protection of Soldiers and Invalids of RS, and Ministry of Justice of FB&H** on our appeal for official institutions in B&H at all levels

to pay special attention of the protection of victims of family violence, especially through adopting new legislation, developing social programs, and budgeting for existing services for victims of family violence established by NGOs.

G). Overview of the Visits to United Women Banja Luka and our Participation on the Seminars, Workshops, and Study Visits in B&H and abroad in 2005

February 9, 2005 - Participation in round table "**Prostitution in B&H - Is Legalization/Decriminalization a Solution,**" organized by Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues in B&H. The main objective of the round table was to have an open discussion about possible solutions for solving the problem of prostitution in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

February 17-18, 2005 - Participation in the National Conference "**Support for Implementation of the Positive Legislation aimed for Prevention of Family Violence,**" held in Sarajevo, and organized by the Gender Center of Federation of B&H. Aim of the Conference was to develop effective solution for implementation of the Law for Protection from Family Violence in RS and FB&H, and defining roles of official institutions and NGOs that will work on the implementation of this Law.

- **March 13-20, 2005 - Participation in the study trip to Sweden** - Amela Basic, Psychologist of the United Women Banja Luka joined the group of 12 women NGO activists from B&H, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Croatia, and Macedonia. The study trip was organized by Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation Sweden, and it enabled our representatives to learn about working methodology and strategies of local NGOs and official institutions in Sweden to address women's human rights and gender equality.

- **March 24, 2005** - Participation in the round table "**Presentation of the B&H Criminal Court - Department for War Crimes,**" organized by B&H Criminal Court, Nansen Dialogue Center Banja Luka, and United States Institute for Peace (USIP). The main objective of the round table was to present the activities of Department for War Crimes, and mechanisms for coordination with civil society organizations, especially representatives of associations of war victims.

-**April 7-8, 2005 - Participation of UW volunteers in public advocacy workshop organized by Youth Communication Center (OKC) Banja Luka.**

- **April 11-13, 2005** - Participation in the workshop "**Strengthening National Mechanisms for Human Rights,**" organized by OHCHR in Sarajevo.

- **June 6, 2005 - Visit of Rachel Meyers, Human Rights Officer in USA Embassy of B&H to United Women Banja Luka.** We presented our activities on prevention of human trafficking in B&H in secondary schools of RS.

- **June 20, 2005 - Visit of Sonja Pastuovic, Consultant for Media and Human Rights External Relations in OHCHR office in Sarajevo to United Women Banja Luka.** We discussed our activities on prevention of human trafficking in B&H, and cooperation with the international organizations in work on this issue.

- **July 20, 2005** - Visit of the **Women's Association "Derventa"** from Derventa to United Women Banja Luka, to learn about our working methodologies, activities, management, and fundraising strategies.

- **August 29-31, 2005 - Representatives of United Women Banja Luka participated in media and public relations training, organized by Media Centar Sarajevo, and supported by CRS B&H.** Our members got an opportunity to learn introduction in public relations, relations with media, developing press statements, organizing press conferences, and preparing promotional material.

- **September 9, 2005 - Visit of Aleksander Krez, Human Rights Officer in OSCE Regional Center Banja Luka to United Women Banja Luka.**

-**September 16, 2005 - Visit of Ilia Utmelidze, Legal Advisor, HR Institutions in OSCE Regional Office in Sarajevo to United Women Banja Luka.**

- **September 22-24, 2005 - Representatives of United Women Banja Luka participated in the Conference "Networks in B&H," organized by Youth Communication Center in Banja Luka.** The main objective of the conference was to discuss role of networks in advocacy for democratic changes in B&H, structure of the networks, communication within the networks, and their communication with external world, and self-sustainability of the networks.

- **September 28, 2005 - Visit of Sasha Simsicin, from Sexual Assault Center of Edmonton, Canada to United Women Banja Luka.** He shared with us valuable experiences from their work with survivors of sexual violence, rape, family violence, and provided us with useful tools and materials for our educational work on violence against women. Sasha Simsicin also held an info session for SOS volunteers of United Women Banja Luka.

- **From September 30, 2005 until October 5, 2005 - Natalija Petric, representative of United Women Banja Luka visited Sweden** to participate in presentation of Kvinna till Kvinna Special Report "**Security for whom? If women and men were equal,**" at Book Fair in Geteborg, and Seminar "**Ten Years After Dayton Peace Agreement,**" organized by SIDA in Stockholm. Her participation in these important events was possible thanks to the support from Kvinna till Kvinna Sweden.

H). Media Activities of the United Women Banja Luka during 2005:

March 2005

March 29, 2005 - Overview of gender equality workshop for journalists, editors and media workers, and presentation of recommendations from the workshop, broadcasted on Cantonal Television, Bihać

April 2005

April 4, 2005 - Participation in TV program "Srpska Today" - Discussion about strengthening position of women in rural areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina, broadcasted on RTRS

April 14, 2005 - News program "Info Profile" - Presentation of conclusions and recommendations from public meeting about influence of introducing of indirect tax system in B&H, organized by United Women Banja Luka, broadcasted on RTRS

May 2005

May 13, 2005 - Participation in TV program "Importance of cooperation between civil society and government in improving social position of woman," broadcasted on TV Prijedor

May 16, 2005 - Statement of United Women Banja Luka regarding lack of women in political negotiations about police reform in B&H, broadcasted in the main news of Alternative Television (ATV) and RTRS

May 19, 2005 - Statement of United Women Banja Luka regarding draft Law for Protection Against Family Violence - objection on attempt of official institutions to regulate domestic violence as minor offense and diminish the social danger of family violence in B&H, broadcasted in the main news on ATV and RTRS

May 23, 2005 - Presentation of public advocacy of United Women Banja Luka to include running costs of the women's shelter in municipality budget, broadcasted in the main news on ATV

May 24, 2005 - News program "Info Profile" - Presentation of public advocacy of United Women Banja Luka to include running costs of the women's shelter in municipality budget, broadcasted on RTRS

June 2005

June 6, 2005 - Presentation of public discussion about human trafficking in B&H, broadcasted in the main news of RTRS

June 9, 2005 - Information about women's shelter, broadcasted in the main news of ATV and RTRS

June 10, 2005 - "Morning Program" Presentation of the SOS phone for women and girls victims of violence

June 13, 2005 - "Working Day" - 2 hours program devoted to the issue of family violence, broadcasted on ATV

June 14, 2005 - Presentation of recommendations from the public meeting about changes of Election Law in B&H and importance of creating conditions for greater representation of women in decision - making, organized by United Women Banja Luka, broadcasted in the main news on ATV and RTRS

June 15, 2005 - News program "Info Profile" - Presentation of conclusions from public meeting about changes of the Election Law in B&H, broadcasted on RTRS.

July 2005

July 12, 2005 - Participation in Radio Program "Sexual Harassment at B&H Universities" at Balkan Radio

July 31, 2005 - Participation in Radio Program "Prevention and Combating of Trafficking of Women and Girls in B&H" - guests were United Women Banja Luka, and Zoran Popović, Legal Advisor of the OSCE Regional Office in Banja Luka, program broadcasted at Radio "UNO" Banja Luka

August 2005

August 24, 2005 - Published article about family violence and work of the Center for Free Legal and Psychosocial Assistance for Women and Children - Weekly Magazine "Novi Reporter"

August 24, 2005 - Statement of United Women Banja Luka for TV and Radio Bihać about position of women in media in B&H and the region

August 28, 2005 - Participation in Radio Program "Stress and Consequence of Family Violence, guest Dijana Đurić, Clinical Psychologist and Activist of United Women Banja Luka, program broadcasted at Radio "UNO" Banja Luka

September 2005

September 4, 2005 - Story about SOS Phone for Women and Girls Victims of Violence, broadcasted at the Central News Program, TV "Pink B&H," guest Amela Bašić, Psychologist of the United Women Banja Luka

September 15, 2005 - Statement related to our activities on combating gender based violence, and position of women in media of B&H, Aleksandra Petrić, Human Rights Advisor of the United Women Banja Luka, broadcasted in the central news program at RTRS

September 18, 2005 - Participation in popular Talk Show "Magazine In By B&H", on the topic "Position of Women in B&H Society - Is This Primitive Balkan", guest Lana Jajčević, Lawyer of the United women Banja Luka, program broadcasted at the "Pink B&H" Television

September 24, 2005 - Radio Program "Where Am I" broadcasted at Radio "Best" Šipovo, members of the United Women Banja Luka talked about gender stereotypes in education, women's human rights, and gender equality in B&H

September 25, 2005 - Participation in Radio Program "Law for Protection from Family Violence in B&H," broadcasted at Radio UNO Banja Luka, Lana Jajčević

September 27, 2005 - Participation in Daily Talk Show "Working Day," broadcasted at Alternative Television Banja Luka, Lana Jajčević from United Women Banja Luka talked about abuse of women's body in media in Bosnia and Herzegovina

September 27, 2005 - Participation in Political Talk Show "BUKA" broadcasted at ATV Banja Luka, on the topic "Voice of Civic Initiatives in Political and Social Changes in B&H," Nada Golubović

October 2005

October 1, 2005 - Broadcasted stories about Regional Conference "Legal and Real Position of Women in Western Balkans" organized by United Women and Helsinki Citizens Assembly in Banja Luka. Stories were broadcasted at the main news programs at RTRS and ATV Banja Luka, and Radio Skopje, Macedonia

October 4, 2005 - Participation in Political Talk Show "BUKA" broadcasted at ATV Banja Luka, on the topic "Position of Women in the Region of SEE," participants were women NGO activists and women representatives of official institutions for gender equality from the region (Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, and Kosovo)

October 17, 2005 - Statement about opening shelter for women in Banja Luka, broadcasted at Public Radio BiHT1

October 17, 2005 - Participation in "Morning Program" at RTRS. United Women Banja Luka members talked about women and poverty, women's shelter in Banja Luka, SOS telephone for victims of violence.

November 2005

November 1, 2005 - Participation in TV Program "P.S. About Everything in the Afternoon", guest Amela Bašić, Psychologist of the United Women Banja Luka, talked about family violence and counseling services for women victims of violence in Banja Luka.

November 6, 2005 - Preparing and broadcasting Radio Program "Women in Media" - guest Olga Lola Ninković, broadcasted at UNO Radio Banja Luka, program prepared by United Women and hCa Banja Luka

November 24, 2005 - Statement for Serbian News Agency SRNA related to the November 25 - International Day of Fighting Against Violence Against Women

November 25, 2005 - "Presentation of the Regional Study about Family Violence," guest Dragana Dardić, Journalist and member of hCa Banja Luka, broadcasted at Radio UNO Banja Luka, program prepared by United Women and hCa Banja Luka

November 25, 2005 - Press Conference of the United Women Banja Luka and Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka - Presenting activities related to 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women

November 25, 2005 - Statement for Daily Newspapers "BLIC" related to violence against children, Amela Bašić, Psychologist of the United Women Banja Luka

November 25, 2005 - Statement for the Central News at Alternative Television Banja Luka - Sexual Violence and Protection of Women through Labor Law of RS and FB&H

November 26, 2005 - Articles about activities of United Women Banja Luka on 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women published in daily newspapers "Glas Srpske," "BLIC" and "Independent Newspapers." Statement of United Women Banja Luka broadcasted at news "22 Hours" at TV "BEL" Banja Luka

November 28, 2005 - Participation in Daily Talk Show "Working Day" - whole program devoted to the issue of violence against women

December 2005

December 10, 2005 - Statement related to the December 10 - International Human Rights Day, broadcasted at central news program of Alternative television Banja Luka and RTRS

December 12, 2005 - Statement for the Central News at RTRS, related to the initiative of United Women Banja Luka to open women's shelter

November 25 - December 10, 2005 - Fee broadcasting of radio jingle at Radio UNO Banja Luka - promotion of SOS line for women and children victims of violence

December 11, 2005 - Radio Program - Actions in Banja Luka and Bosnia and Herzegovina related to 16 Days of Activism, broadcasted at Radio UNO Banja Luka

December 13, 2005 - Participation in the TV Program "P.S. About Everything in Afternoon" program dedicated to the issue of family violence in B&H, broadcasted at RTRS

December 19, 2005 - Central News - Story about education for male and female politicians about gender equality - program of United Women Banja Luka

December 20, 2005 - Participation in Daily Talk Show "Working Day" - Amela Bašić and Dragana Dardić talked about the issue of family violence, field research implemented in the region of Western Balkan.

I.) Obstacles in Our Work:

In 2005, United Women Banja Luka did not face significant obstacles in implementation of our projects and planned activities. Thanks to strategic development of our projects and successful fundraising, we did not have financial difficulties to implement the majority of our planned activities.

However, the major obstacle for our future sustainability and long term planning represents the fact that United Women Banja Luka are, as well as practically all local nongovernmental organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, heavily dependant on financial support from international organizations and foreign governmental agencies. This certainly slow down our organizational growth and influence overall success of our projects in terms of long term planning.

Additional difficulty represents durable political, social and economic crisis in both entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is visible that official institutions on entity and state level of Bosnia and Herzegovina reflect absence of clear indicators of progress in terms of fighting poverty, criminal networks, corruption of officials and establishing sustainable official policies in all segments of social and economic progress and development.

All of this signals the need for extensive work of local nongovernmental organizations in a future, especially in terms of creating conditions for further democratic developments and strengthening civil society in all fields of life - from education, politics, and economy to implementation of gender equality and strengthening women's human rights.

J.) Strategic Priorities in the Work of United Women Banja Luka during 2006:

United Women Banja Luka will continue to follow our strategic objectives from previous period, and especially focus on following priorities:

- Fighting against violence against women and diminishing gender based discrimination in private and public life, with special focus on, sensibilization of the official institutions in B&H on this issue, and developing and implementation of educational programs with different target groups aimed for increasing awareness about family violence;
- Opening of the safe house/shelter for women and children victims of family violence in Banja Luka region, and continuing with providing direct legal, and psychosocial support for women and children victims of family violence;
- Continuing with our public advocacy activities aimed for diminishing discrimination and abuse of women in electronic and printed media in B&H, and creating conditions for equal access of women and men on creation of media policies, increasing gender sensitivity of women and men journalists in B&H,
- Increasing public awareness about the issue of trafficking of people in B&H;
- Continuation of activities on supporting sustainable return in Bosnia and Herzegovina through work on strengthening position of women in rural communities of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Empowering women to participate in social changes through their active role in creation of public policies, and political decision making on local, entity, and state level in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Public advocating for strengthening position of women in our society, and diminishing discrimination of women in political, economic, and social sphere through activities on implementation of the Gender Equality Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with special focus on providing gender sensitive education of male and female politicians on local level;
- Strengthening cooperation with other nongovernmental organizations and official institutions in Banja Luka, Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina and other countries in the region;
- Developing internal capacities and working on organizational development of the Association.

K.) Organizational Structure of the United Women Banja Luka

Nada Golubović – President of the Association

Professional Staff:

Aleksandra Radeta Stegić – Secretary of the Association

Lana Jajčević – Lawyer, Project Coordinator

Natalija Petrić – Attorney at Law, Legal Advisor

Amela Bašić - Psychologist

Vedrana Kelava - Social Worker

Miroslav Samardžić - Financial Manager, Project Coordinator

Aleksandra Petrić – Human Rights Advisor, Project Coordinator

Volunteers:

Jovanka Ivković

Sanja Vukša

Minja Damjanović

Iva Papić

Danijela Bašić

Tanja Boromisa

Ana Despenić

Maja Kovjениć

Snježana Spremo

Members of the Supervisory Board:

Stanka Miletić, (retired) Teacher, Vice-president of the Association

Mile Dmičić, PhD, Constitutional Court of RS

Danica Berberović, PhD. Professor at the Faculty of Economy, Banja Luka, B&H

Miodrag Živanović, PhD. Professor at the Faculty of Philosophy, Banja Luka, B&H

Zvezdana Rajkovača, MD. Clinical Center of Banja Luka, B&H

Boris Ivanović, SIPA, Banja Luka, B&H

L). Financial Overview of the United Women Banja Luka for 2005:

Donation	Partner	Title of the Project	Period of the Implementation	Donor
30097,58 BAM	-	From Law to Real Gender Equality in B&H (Phase I)	End of the project 28.02.2005.	WFD UK
116738,62 BAM *Waiting for payment of balance cca 27987,05 BAM in 2006	"Lara" Bijeljina	Protect Yourself- Action Against Trafficking of Children and Youth People of B&H	14.12.2004 - 14.12.2005	European Union
67006,74 BAM	-	Gender Equality in B&H = Informed Public Opinion and Gender Sensitive Media	01.01.2005 - 31.12.2005	EED/KED Germany
11544,33 BAM	-	Prevention of trafficking of women in B&H	01.05.2005- 01.08.2005	CRS (Catholic Relief Service) B&H
130808,40 KM BAM	"hCa" Banja Luka	Women and Law IX	01.01.2005- 31.12.2005	Kvinna Till Kvinna Sweden
7956,25 BAM	-	Think before you act	01.08.2005- 31.12.2005	STAR Network of World Learning/Batcom Project
2000,00 BAM	-	You Are Not Alone - There is A Help	25.05.2005- 15.07.2005	OKC - CRS (Catholic Relief Service) B&H
52379,30 BAM *Waiting for payment of balance cca 10962,70 BAM- in 2006	-	Help for Victims of Family Violence - Reconstruction of the Shelter for Women and Children in Banja Luka	31.08.2005 - 28.04.2006	Governance Accountability Program (GAP) - USAID & SIDA Sweden
166,40 BAM	-	Support for capacity building of United Women Banja Luka		hCa Banja Luka - Jasminka Džumhur
430,25 BAM	-	Preparing report - support for capacity building of United Women Banja Luka		Žene ženama Sarajevo
1800,00 BAM	-	Training for Project of Cross border Cooperation		CRS B&H
8240,00 BAM	-	Training for Farmer's Associations in B&H	01.01.2005- 31.07.2005	IOCC
13200,00 BAM	-	Donation	01.12.2006 - 31.12.2006	GRAFID, Printing Company Banja Luka

1000,00 BAM	-	Support for capacity building of the United Women Banja Luka		Individual donors
91919,39 BAM	-	From Law to Real Gender Equality in B&H (Phase II)	06.12.2005 - 06.12.2006	European Union
BAM 535287,26			2005	TOTAL

Transfer from 2004	30854,00
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Enter u 2005	in BAM
Donor Contribution	510450,61
Donations of juristic persons	14796,65
Trainings	10040,00
Other incomes - reimbursement of sickness leave	1935,00
Total	537222,26

Expenditures in 2005	in BAM
Gross Salaries	66712,00
Costs for the Activities	280597,00
Equipment costs and office costs	75161,00
Total	422470,00
Balance	114752,00

Banja Luka, April 2006