



banjaluka, BiH

2006 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: office@unitedwomenbl.org
Web: <http://www.unitedwomenbl.org>

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 2006 annual report of United Women Banja Luka. It consist from following sections: overview of programs and strategic objectives/priorities for 2006, description of political, social and economic environment in which we implemented our activities, description of implemented activities and achieved results of United Women in 2006 (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 2006, obstacles in our work, strategic priorities and planned activities for 2007, and financial overview for 2006.

We hope presented information would provide you the overview of our work during 2006 and our plans for 2007. 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. Furthermore, if you wish to find out latest news and download publications prepared by United Women Banja Luka during 2006 and archived publications related to our previous activities, please visit our regularly updated Web page at: <http://www.unitedwomenbl.org>

2. Overview of Programs and Strategic Objectives in 2006

A. Advocacy Against Violence Against Women and Gender Based Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Strategic Objectives: Ensuring efficient support and services for women and children victims of violence, improving cooperation and coordination of nongovernmental organizations and official institutions in fighting against violence against women, public advocacy and strengthening public awareness about the issue of domestic violence and gender based violence, as well as making influence on adoption and change of discriminative laws and public policies in this field.

B. Media and Gender Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Strategic Objectives: diminishing gender stereotypes in media, making influence on positive changes of media policies and programs to increase visibility of women and women's issues in media, gender sensitive education of women and men media workers, as well as creating possibilities for eliminating gender based discrimination in all fields of social economic, and political life through enabling women and men citizens of Banja Luka and Bosnia and Herzegovina to learn about the Gender Equality Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina, create informed public opinion about gender based discrimination, and actively participate in fighting for improving women's position in our environment.

C. Gender Equality in Public and Political Life in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Strategic Objectives: 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 levels of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and public advocacy for gender equality in public and political life of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

D. Advocacy Against Trafficking of People in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Strategic Objectives: Development and implementation of activities aimed for increasing public awareness about the issue of trafficking of people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially women and children, as the most vulnerable categories exposed to influence of criminal networks of human traffickers in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region.

3. Political, Social and Economic Environment in which we Implemented Our Activities in 2006

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

Since beginning of 2006, overall progress is visible in work of institutional/governmental mechanisms for gender equality and their cooperation with women's NGOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Gender Equality Agency of B&H and Gender Centers of Government of Republika Srpska and Government of Federation of B&H, as the key institutions within executive governance prepared and defended **Official CEDAW Report for Bosnia and Herzegovina**.¹ **NGO Gender Coalition of 19 women's nongovernmental organizations throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina** prepared and presented **NGO Shadow Report on CEDAW Convention**², with overall coordination and support of Global Rights Partners for Justice, office in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Two NGO activists from Bosnia and Herzegovina - Ms. Diana Šehić, from Global Rights Office in Sarajevo and Ms. Marijana Senjak, from NGO Medica Zenica participated on 35th Session of UN CEDAW Committee and advocated for strong recommendations related to improving institutional protection of women's human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina. **United Women Banja Luka** participated in drafting part of the Shadow Report related to Violence Against Women and Trafficking of Women and Girls in B&H, and NGO consultations related to presenting Shadow Report to the UN CEDAW Committee in New York, conducted during first part of 2006.

Gender Action Plan (GAP) for B&H³ was prepared by joint effort of institutional mechanisms for gender equality in B&H, and approved by the B&H Council of Ministers in September 2006, as the first comprehensive official policy document on gender equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina. B&H Gender Action Plan covers fifteen key priority areas for B&H official institutions in their future work on advancement of gender equality and women's human rights in B&H, as follows: 1. Gender equality and European Union integrations; 2. Cooperation and strengthening capacities; 3. Macroeconomics and development strategies; 4. Gender sensitive budgets; 5. Political life and decision-making; 6. Employment, incomes, benefits, non-paid work, and labor market; 7. Social inclusion; 8. Gender sensitive media; 9. Lifelong learning; 10. Health prevention and protection; 11. Violence and human trafficking; 12. Role of men; 13. Harmonization of professional and family life; 14. Gender and sustainable environment; and 15. Information and communication technologies.

¹ Report on implementation of the Convention for Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) for Bosnia and Herzegovina (Initial, and Combined First, Second, and Third Periodical Report) has been submitted and discussed on the 35th Session of CEDAW Committee of United Nations, held in May 2006, in New York, USA. English version of the Report can be found at the official web presentation of the Gender Equality Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina at: <http://www.arsbih.gov.ba>

² NGO Shadow Report on CEDAW for Bosnia and Herzegovina can be downloaded from United Women Banja Luka web page at: <http://www.unitedwomenbl.org>

³ Gender Action Plan (GAP) for Bosnia and Herzegovina can be downloaded from web page of Gender Equality Agency of B&H at: <http://www.arsbih.gov.ba>

At the beginning of 2006, Gender Center of RS Government intensified **activities on developing official policies related to fighting violence against women and domestic violence**. After adoption of the Law for Protection from Domestic Violence in RS (December 2005 - January 2006), process of developing and adoption of accompanying bylaws that would enable effective implementation of this Law has been intensified. During first part of 2006 draft Rule Book for Police Interventions related to Cases of Domestic Violence, prepared by the RS Ministry of Interior Affairs and Draft Rule Book for Securing Protection of Women Victims of Violence, prepared by the RS Ministry of Health and Social Protection were adopted.

However, in the first phase of implementation of the Law, it became visible that official institutions (police, centers for social work, prosecutors, and courts) were unable to secure effective implementation of special protection measures regulated by the Law. Additionally, since the Law regulates domestic violence as minor offence -despite large pressure of women's NGOs against such legal provision - and at the same time it is regulated as criminal act in the Criminal Codes of both B&H entities, this created space for double standards and legal insecurity for victims, predominantly women and children. In January 2007, Working Group was appointed by the Ministry of Justice of RS to prepare amendments of the Law in urgent procedure, to be adopted by the People's Assembly of RS.

Because of large pressure made through TV programs and public advocacy activities of United Women Banja Luka and other women's NGOs throughout the Bosnia and Herzegovina aimed to secure fair access to justice, fast and efficient protection of official institutions for women and children victims, Ministry of Justice of RS appointed Legal Advisor of United Women Banja Luka as a member of this Working Group to represent voice of civil society organizations.

Gender Center of RS also developed **Draft RS Action Plan for Fighting Domestic Violence in 2007**, initiated creation of **Working Group for preparing RS Strategy for Fighting Domestic Violence for 2007- 2011**, and sent the initiative to the RS Government and RS People's Assembly for announcing **year 2007 as the Year of Fighting Against Domestic Violence in RS**. These important policy documents are still in draft phase, and it is uncertain when their adoption will be completed, and when they will become public documents. It is important to acknowledge that governmental institutions, especially institutional mechanisms for gender equality in B&H became more open toward involvement and consultation with local NGOs in these processes, as shown in the above presented example.

We believe this represents one of the direct results of our public advocacy activities, as they enabled us to increase visibility of gender equality issues, namely violence against women, stereotypical portrayal of women in media, and lack of women decision making at all levels of governance, and push these issues on social agenda(s).

Since beginning of 2006, United Women Banja Luka representatives regularly participate in coordination meetings organized by the Gender Equality Agency of B&H and Gender Center of RS where we have the opportunity to present our views, comments, and concrete proposals aimed for improvement of official policies related to gender equality. Beside participation in preparing amendments on the Law for Protection from Domestic Violence, our Legal Advisor joined the Working Group for preparing RS Strategy for Fighting Domestic Violence for 2007-2011, and Human Rights Advisor regularly participates in coordination meetings with official institutions.

Beside these positive steps, numerous challenges and issues in the work of official institutions in B&H on gender equality are still visible. Apart from visible efforts of the entity Gender Centers and Gender Equality Agency of B&H, very little has been done for building sustainable framework for reaching equality of women and men in all levels of public life. Appointed persons as **gender focal points** in various ministries and official institutions at all levels of B&H, which should coordinate gender-mainstreaming activities are still ineffective. Their work 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. The key challenge is how these institutions could become less formal and more effective in putting existing legislative and policy frameworks in the practice. Due to the financial assistance provided by foreign

agencies and donors, B&H governments at all levels tend to reduce financial support for initiatives and activities of gender equality institutions from the official budgets,⁴ which also signals lack of true willingness of B&H authorities for fighting highly visible gender based discrimination, and promote real equality of women and men in all spheres of life.

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

During 2006, political life in Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to be loaded with turbulent political crisis and constant pressure of the international community present in B&H on local official institutions at all levels to conduct political reforms.

Reform of B&H Constitution, initiated reform of police structures, negotiations with the European Union for signing the Stabilization and Association Agreement created challenges for significant improvements in social and economic policies, strengthening rule of law and respecting human rights of women and men B&H citizens. The international community expects that these processes should be led and "locally owned" by B&H authorities. However, outcomes and impact of these processes is very slow, and hardly visible through the eyes of common women and men citizens of B&H. Attempts of key B&H political leaders to agree about common interests for reform of B&H Constitution failed, and it is still uncertain when this process will be re-opened. Negotiations with EU are marked with high pressure on B&H authorities to capture and hand over key suspects for war crimes - Radovan Karadžić and Ratko Mladić, as well as close monitoring of the work of newly established Criminal Court of B&H - War Crimes Unit. These are key political priorities that occupy local politicians and media attention throughout B&H.

On the other side, poorly conducted privatization processes in both entities of B&H influenced increase of unemployment rate, and affected middle age workers of large state owned factories, which are left without any perspective for earning for living, and providing for their families. Numerous reports of official B&H institutions and the international community speak about success reached in return of refugees and displaced persons, and property return. However, despite formal constituent status for three leading national communities (Bosniaks, Serbs, and Croats) in the whole territory of B&H, little or no effort has been made to open possibilities for returnees to find employment, and rebuilt their lives, and lives of their families.

Marginalization of women and diminishing importance of gender equality in all fields of political, social, and economic life continued to be highly visible, despite continuous pressure of local NGOs to put these issues on social and political agendas. In numerous meetings with representatives of the local B&H authorities and international organizations, as well as through our media statements, United Women Banja Luka constantly raises the issue of invisibility of women in decision making about top B&H political priorities, and urges for including women in all political processes, especially constitutional reform talks and European Union integration negotiations. However, beside declarative support of B&H male political leaders and individuals from the foreign aid agencies present in B&H, there is no visible progress in this field.

At the beginning of 2006, United Women Banja Luka joined the initiative of 145 local NGOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the entity Gender Centers and Gender Equality Agency of B&H to push for **changes of the Election Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina**. This was especially important for us because of the General Elections in B&H held in early October 2006. Our key requests were following - each list of candidates for the elections should consist of alternate representation of male and female candidates⁵, and obligatory gender disaggregated data

⁴ This issue has been discussed on coordination meetings of Gender Equality Agency of B&H and local women's NGOs. Initially, entity Gender Centers and Gender Equality Agency of B&H were established as the joint project of Finish Government and B&H Government (Gender Equity and Equality Project -GEEP), where B&H Government contributed with less than 30% of financial support. In February 2006, GEEP Project was completed. However, other foreign donors and agencies expressed strong interests, and continued to support the institutional mechanisms for gender equality-such are Canadian CIDA, Swedish SIDA, British DFID, etc. Due to that, in the process of adopting 2006 official budgets B&H Governments reduced financing of Gender Centers and Gender Equality Agency from the official budgets.

⁵ B&H Election Law (Article 4, Paragraph 19) regulates that each list of candidates for the elections should have at least one third of candidates of "less represented sex."

related to the elections. However, despite the fact that both requests have had legal basis in the Gender Equality Law of B&H,⁶ after two hours of harsh discussions, overwhelming majority of delegates of the Parliamentary Assembly of B&H rejected the request for enabling women and men the same chances to be elected. This is the most obvious example of absence of true willingness for implementing the gender equality in public and political life of Bosnia and Herzegovina - the paradox is that the same session of the Assembly adopted the Gender Equality Law in B&H three years earlier and now refused to implement it.

Campaign for general elections held in October 2006 was marked with almost complete absence of women in public presentations and media programs. Female candidates were also invisible on billboards and posters, pre-election TV spots, sponsored by political parties that run campaigns. United Women Banja Luka and other women's NGOs throughout the country made a lot's of efforts to support their candidacy, especially through capacity building workshops, consultations, securing space in media for their promotion, and public advocacy for greater voter's support for female candidates.

The election results and further process of establishing the legislative and executive governance bodies at entity and state levels of B&H showed general increase of women's representation at entity levels, but also decrease at the state level.

Joint Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina again has no female members, President and Vice Presidents of Republika Srpska - all men, President of Federation of B&H is a woman for the first time since signing of Dayton Peace Agreement. Parliamentary Assembly of B&H - House of Representatives has 12,0% female representatives (14,30% in the last session), House of Representatives of People's Assembly of Republika Srpska has 20,4% female representatives (16,9% in the last session), House of Representatives of Parliament of FB&H has 18,37% female representatives (21,4% in the last session). Council of Ministers of B&H (state government) has all male ministers and to women deputy ministers - last session of this body had one woman - Minister of Finance. Government of RS has two women ministers, and Government of FB&H has one woman minister.

In the process of appointing new governments and House of People's in Parliaments at entity and state levels, United Women Banja Luka sent the open letters to Central Election Commission of B&H and Parliamentary Assembly of B&H, as well as to leaders of all parliamentary political parties and media, and called for respect for Gender Equality Law in B&H and securing equal representation of women and men. In upcoming period, United Women Banja Luka will continue to monitor the work of these institutions and inform the public about all violations of the Law in order to create public pressure for positive changes in terms of women's representation and real influence in decision making processes.

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. These arguments reflect lack of awareness about equal responsibility of both women and men for reaching gender equality in political and public life, and necessity for promotion of active role of both sexes in gender mainstreaming.

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

⁶ Article 15 of the Gender Equality Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina (May 2003) requires equal representation of women and men in all governance bodies - including judiciary, legislative and executive governance bodies. Article 18 of the Law regulates that all statistical data and information collected, recorded, and processed by state bodies on all levels, in public offices and institutions, state and private companies, and other subjects, shall be gender-disaggregated. Furthermore, Article 30 of the Law regulates obligation of harmonization of all state and entity laws with provisions of the Gender Equality Law in B&H Law no later than within 6 months.

United Women Banja Luka continued to monitor media and their reporting about women's issues and gender equality. In 2006, 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. Some private printed media, such is popular independent political magazine **"B&H DANI"** from **Sarajevo** started with publishing special reports about women's issues and gender equality called **"Women Conquering Bosnia and Herzegovina."** Furthermore, there is visible progress in terms of usage of gender sensitive language by media. However, it is still noticeable news stories with women and gender equality issues as subjects are dominant in so called "dark chronicles," - mostly cases of severe violence against women and domestic violence. In case of electronic media, discrimination and abuse of women is still visible - for example one of the key private media in B&H "Alternative Television" recently broadcasted the central news story about case of sexual harassment and abuse of young girls by professors in high school in Prnjavor, near Banja Luka. The news story was shocking, because the reporter revealed the full identity of family members of one girl victim, exposing her to further intimidation and threats from abuser. This story provoked numerous articles in local newspapers - majority of them emphasized biased assumptions about "suspicious moral" of victims, while none of the stories revealed the identity of a suspected professor. Such reporting reconfirms social taboos and prejudices, and does not contribute in the process of fighting against gender-based discrimination.

Another example represents the pressure of media for bringing women victims of violence to testify in the public about their "cases," which does not contribute to solving the issue of violence, but re-victimizes women and affects their privacy. Through our media statements, press conferences and public advocacy actions, United Women Banja Luka strongly advocates for protection of privacy of a victim, non-biased reporting, and presenting violence against women as a pattern, without revealing identity and details of individual cases.

Media continued with the practice of asking women politicians and NGO activists 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 exclusively by men - governmental officials and leaders of political parties. Through our project activities, United Women Banja Luka continues to struggle to challenge these media stereotypes, and influence on positive changes in media policies of reporting about women's human rights and gender equality.

4. Implemented Activities/Projects

Our activities in 2006 were directly linked to our program areas and strategic objectives our Association.

A. Advocacy Against Violence Against Women and Gender Based Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina

A.1 Woman and Law - Phase 10 - 2006 Providing 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.

Activities implemented in 2006: free legal assistance and representation of attorney in courts and other official institutions, free assistance of the social worker, free assistance of psychologist, SOS telephone lines for women and young girls victims of violence, discussion groups for women and girls victims of domestic violence, media activities related to promotion of women's issues and gender equality issues in our local community, monitoring progress in implementation of the laws, planning, and organization of ad-hoc advocacy actions to improve

our response and impact on status of women's human rights and gender equality on local, national, and regional level, one - day coordination/strategic planning workshop with police officials and other official institutions in Banja Luka, two one day workshops for women and men physicians and nurses from family medicine ambulances and other health care institutions in Banja Luka region, and periodical working/coordination meetings with women and men representatives of official institutions working on the issue of domestic violence.

Accomplished Results:

- Provided free legal and psychosocial assistance for **768** women beneficiaries from Banja Luka and surrounding region, and successfully closed **96** cases (some of them were cases continuing from 2004 and 2005);

- SOS telephone for women and girls victims of violence received **1176** calls for assistance, predominantly from women victims of violence;

- Women and girls victims of violence had support from other women who survived domestic 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.

- **"Book of My Friend"** - Guide for Women Victims of Violence which we created and published during previous years of the project implementation is 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 centre 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.

- Violence against women became more visible with increase of our media visibility through participation of United Women Banja Luka staff in wide range of media activities - TV and radio programs, press conferences, and providing statements for articles published in newspapers and magazines. 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 domestic violence from both men and women citizens of Banja Luka.

- Media visibility and continuous lobbying of the local official institutions for recognizing the issue of violence against women helped us to secure support of the **City Administration Banja Luka in 2006 for final works of the safe house reconstruction and buying appliances and furniture for the safe house, through the GAP Project (Governance Accountability Project), supported by SIDA and USAID.**

- **Workshops about domestic violence for medical professionals in Banja Luka region** helped us to increase their sensibility for the issue of domestic violence and more efficient approach in assisting women and children. **In 2006, 32 women and men medical professionals from Banja Luka, Prnjavor, Novi Grad, Laktaši, Srbac, Čelinac, Gradiška, Kotor Varoš, Kneževo, Omarska, and Mrkonjić Grad participated in two one day workshops organized in Banja Luka.** We improved their skills for providing assistance for women and children victims, and enabled them to identify concrete steps for improvement of medical services for victims of violence. All workshops participants said the workshops enabled them to learn more about domestic violence, especially from the perspective of legal, social, and economic dimension of this problem, and to receive updates about activities of local NGOs that are working with women and children victims.

- Through continuous contacts of United Women Banja Luka staff with Centre for Social Work and police workers, and our joint work on concrete cases of violence against women, we are influencing positive change in their attitude toward violence against women and work on their sensitization for all aspects of violence. We consider this important part of our work, as the extended opportunity for educating individuals in official institutions beside one-day workshops on domestic violence.

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

During 2006, United Women Banja Luka continued to work on the initiative of opening safe house/shelter in order to enable temporary accommodation of women and children victims of domestic violence in the moments of acute violence, and overcome lack of institutional protection for this target group. Thanks to long term lobbying for this initiative, **in February 2006, United Women Banja Luka received financial support from City Administration Banja Luka through Center for Social Work Banja Luka in amount of 50000,79 BAM, as one-time support for buying furniture and appliances for the safe house. Furthermore, City Administration Banja Luka provided support for initial work of the safe house in amount 19.998,36 BAM.**

United Women Banja Luka officially opened the safe house on 11 December 2006. It will be ready to provide shelter for first beneficiaries in the beginning of 2007, when we finish with administrative procedures of acquiring necessary licenses and hiring personnel.

United Women Banja Luka will continue with public advocacy and lobbying activities aimed for securing long term financial security for the safe house through city budget of Banja Luka.

Volunteer Action "Safe House" - August 2006

With support of **Youth Communication Center Banja Luka**, in period **22 - 23 August 2006**, United Women Banja Luka organized volunteer action of cleaning of the safe house/shelter for women and children victims of violence in Banja Luka region. Thirty (30) volunteers of United Women Banja Luka and Youth Communication Center (OKC) Banja Luka participated in cleaning of the house and painting the fence, both days from 9:00 to 15:00. Local private companies **"Central"** and **"Tropik"** from Banja Luka supported the action with providing transport and food and refreshments for the volunteers.

The action received great media coverage by electronic and printed media - Radio Television of Republika Srpska (RTRS), Alternative Television (ATV) Banja Luka and daily newspapers Blic and Fokus.

A.3 Implementing the Research "Level of Awareness about the Issue of Domestic Violence Among Boys and Girls Students of Eight Grades of Elementary Schools in Banja Luka

United Women Banja Luka conducted this research within the period of one week in December 2005, as contribution to the activities on Campaign of 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women. Research results were systematized and analyzed in January 2006.

Target groups of the research were boys and girls students of eight grades of five elementary schools (ES) in Banja Luka - ES Borislav Stanković, ES Branislav Nušić, ES Branko Radičević, ES Georgij Stojkov Rakovski, and ES Jovan Cvijić.

The main objective of the research was to identify level of awareness of boys and girls in eight grades of elementary schools about the issue and prevalence of domestic violence.

Participants in the research were 206 boys and girls, age of 13, 14 and 15 - 101 girls and 105 boys.

Results of the research indicate low level of awareness about the issue of domestic violence among boys and girls of this age. As domestic violence, they recognize exclusively physical

form of violence with body injuries, or some forms of sexual violence. This can be seen as consequence of high number of sexual abuse images shown in media. Boys and girls that participated in this research do not recognize psychological and economic violence as forms of domestic violence.

As the most frequent victims of violence, boys and girls identified women and children. Husbands and fathers were recognized as the most frequent abusers. High number of boys and girls heard about the issue of domestic violence, predominantly through media. They identified alcohol abuse and drug abuse and as the most frequent causes of domestic violence.

As the reasons why women suffer from violence, they identified prejudices that marriage should be preserved at any price, in order to preserve the family life. In high number of cases, children did not discuss the issue of domestic violence at any circumstances and occasions, because they believe this issue represents a private matter. Small number of boys and girls stated they occasionally discuss this issue at homeroom classes.⁷

A.4) Contribution of United Women Banja Luka to the Global Campaign "16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women" in 2006

In 2006, United Women Banja Luka organized numerous local activities as our contribution and support to the Global Campaign "**16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women.**" Although the Campaign officially started on **November 25 - the International Day of Fighting Against Violence Against Women**, we started this year activities on November 15, 2006 with placing billboards on streets of Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina. United Women Banja Luka received financial support from **Global Fund for Women, USA**, to organize these activities.

We used the opportunity to present the campaign to women and men citizens of Banja Luka, and remind them on SOS telephone and safe house for women and children victims of domestic violence. **Billboard campaign** officially lasted until December 15, 2006, but we noticed that some billboards were not removed from the streets until late January 2007.

Together with billboard campaign, United Women Banja Luka also organized **poster and leaflet campaign**, with the main objective of promoting SOS telephone and safe house for women and children victims of domestic violence in Banja Luka. In 2006, leaflet campaign territorially covered whole Bosnia and Herzegovina, as support to the local campaigns organized by our sister organizations throughout B&H, and to join our voice in order to increase public awareness about widespread issue of violence against women in our society.

To support this objective, United Women Banja Luka designed a leaflet with information about SOS telephones in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to make it useful resource and info for all women and men citizens in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We officially started our campaign with **press conference organized on November 25, 2006** in the International Press Center in Banja Luka. United Women Banja Luka activists and supporters informed women and men journalists and wide public with the campaign and our current activities aimed for prevention of domestic violence. We especially emphasized the data about received SOS calls for victims of violence during 2006, as well as the activities on opening of the safe house for women and children victims of domestic violence in Banja Luka region.

Participants at the press conference were members of United Women Banja Luka - Nada Golubović, Amela Bašić, and Aleksandra Radeta-Stegić. Ljiljana Radovanović, Representative of the City Administration Banja Luka supported our activities through identifying domestic violence as social issue, not private problem of a victim, which we consider as important success of our activities.

⁷ Complete research report on local language can be downloaded from United Women Banja Luka web page at: <http://www.unitedwomenbl.org>, under link researches

Overview of the Activities of United Women Banja Luka within the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women

1 December 2006 - On International Day of Fighting HIV/AIDS, action of raising awareness about this issue, on invitation of the Association for Sexual and Reproductive Health "XY" from Sarajevo.

6 December 2006 - On International Day of Fighting Male Violence, public discussion "Discrimination of Women and Human Rights - From Local to Global Issue" with Snježana Savić, Professor at the Law School in Banja Luka and Nikola Dorontić, Representative of the Center for Social Work Banja Luka, as the introductory expert speakers.

7 December 2006 - Round table "Discrimination and Marginalization of Women in Politics" to emphasize one of the important fields of social life with highly visible violations of women's human rights.

8 December 2006 - In the eve of 10 December, International Human Rights Day, press conference in Banja Luka, with focus on marginalization of young people and women.

9 December 2006 - TV program with Jadranka Miličević, from Foundation CURE Sarajevo, Nikola Dorontić from the Center for Social Work Banja Luka, and Aleksandra Radeta -Stegić, Member of United Women Banja Luka. TV Program focused on the areas of violation of women's human rights, and provided the overview of activities implemented by United Women Banja Luka and other nongovernmental organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as the part of 16 Days of Activism Campaign in 2006.

B. Media and Gender Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina

B.1 Gender Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina = Informed Public Opinion and Gender Sensitive Media

United Women Banja Luka is implementing this project since 2005, thanks to generous and long-term support of **Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst - EED, from Germany** and partnership with **Amica e.V. from Freiburg, Germany**.

Activities implemented in 2006: Organization of six TV programs/discussions that are focusing on specific topics from Gender Equality Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina - "**Gender Equality and Social Protection**", broadcasted on February 11, 2006, "**Gender Equality and Health Protection**", broadcasted on April 29, 2006 "**Gender Equality in Media**", broadcasted on June 24, 2006 "**Gender Equality in Public and Political Life**," broadcasted on August 26, 2006 "**Sanctions Within Gender Equality Law in B&H**," broadcasted on October 7, 2006, and "**State Obligations Toward Implementation of Gender Equality Law in B&H**", broadcasted on December 2, 2006, organization of working meetings with women journalists and women NGO activists, in B&H, on February 27-28, 2006, September 19-20, 2006, and one day meeting at December 10, 2006, implementation of media monitoring on March 8th, and field research aimed for creating conditions for public advocacy actions for increasing gender sensitivity of media, preparing, printing, and distribution of the publication "**Media and Gender Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina**"⁸, cooperation with Amica e.V. Freiburg, Germany as partnership and consulting support for project management and organizational development of United Women Banja Luka, establishing of the web presentation of United Women Banja Luka and media project, and advocating for positive changes in official policies related to women's human rights, gender equality, and access of women to media in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Accomplished Results:

***Through organization of TV programs/discussions that were broadcasted on Radio Television of Republika Srpska (RTRS) we succeeded to reach great number of women and men common citizens of B&H, and increase their awareness about these**

⁸ The publication can be downloaded from United Women Banja Luka web page at: <http://www.unitedwomenbl.org>, under link publications

important gender equality issues, as well as legislative protection provided through the Gender Equality Law in B&H

- During 2006, 154 citizens of B&H - 112 (72,70%) women and 42 (27,30%) men called RTRS studio during broadcasting of TV programs/discussions and provided their comments on the topics of discussions. Comparing to the 2005, this represents increase of approx. 40% in number of calls of women and men citizens to TV studio during broadcasting of TV programs/discussions related to gender equality in B&H as a part of this project;

- During 2006, 376 citizens of B&H - 283 (75,27%) women and 93 (24,73%) men contacted the office of United Women Banja Luka and asked for additional information about topics discussed in our media activities. Comparing to 2005, this represents increase of approx. 10% in total number of calls. However, it is interesting to mention that number of male citizens, which called to request additional information from us slightly increased - from 13,70% in 2005, to 24,73% in 2006, which also reflect increased public awareness about gender equality issues, and their effects on both women and men in B&H society.

Majority of women contacted us to receive information for services provided for victims of violence - women's shelters, SOS lines, legal and psychosocial assistance, to report irregularities in the work of local social and health services, to obtain copy of Gender Equality Law in B&H, and newly adopted Law for Protection from Family Violence in RS. Majority of men contacted us to report cases of discrimination at work, poor social services, protection of pensioner's rights, but also to report cases of violence against their female family members, and violence against children in schools. From our perspective, this represents encouraging sign of changing social attitudes and prejudices about role of women and men in a B&H society, and importance of discussing gender equality discrimination in relation to burning political, social, and economic issues in B&H society;

***Improved communication and cooperation with official institutions on local, entity, and state level of Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially with those institutions that are responsible for creation and practical implementation of official policies related to improving women's human rights and gender equality**

- In 2006, we improved our cooperation with local police authorities, SIPA Regional Office in RS9, Center for Social Work, and Municipality Administration of Banja Luka (Major's office and Local Assembly), as well as Medical Center Banja Luka on our activities directed to providing assistance for women and children victims of violence in Banja Luka region. We initiated and successfully organized numerous working meetings with these institutions, and succeeded to gain partial financial support for running costs of the safe house for 2007, which enabled us to officially open the safe house for first beneficiaries - women and children victims of violence in Banja Luka region in early December 2006. Thanks to our media activities on making violence against women visible in our local community and B&H as the whole, we succeeded to secure initial support for running costs of the safe house in 2007 from the City Administration Banja Luka official budget. Furthermore, Center for Social Work will cover the costs for each woman and dependant minor children that are accommodated in the safe house through their official budget.

- In 2006, United Women Banja Luka representative was invited to joint the **Working Group for developing Strategy for Fighting Domestic Violence in RS for period from 2007 to 2011**. This expert group is structured from representatives of official institutions in Republika Srpska (Gender Center, Ministry of Health and Social Care, Centers for Social Work, Ministry for Youth, Sport, and Family, Ministry of Finance, and representatives of judiciary) and representatives of women's NGOs from Republika Srpska. This working group should develop a strategy, including action plan and specific measures that would enhance protection from domestic violence in RS, and improve coordination of local institutions and nongovernmental organizations in work on this issue.

⁹ SIPA refers to Agency for Security, Information, and Protection. It represents the state B&H Agency created in 2004 within the Ministries of Interior Affairs on the entity and state level of B&H. It represent specialized police unit for fighting organized crime, including trafficking of people.

- Thanks to our TV programs/discussions, **we succeeded to lobby the Minister of Health of Republika Srpska to enforce the decision about free delivery for all women in Republika Srpska, regardless if they have health insurance or not.** Additionally, **Government of Republika Srpska decided to introduce the special fund called "4th Child," which will enable one-time financial assistance in amount of 1000 BAM for all women that gave a birth to fourth child.**

- In 2006, United Women Banja Luka representatives participated in **coordination meetings with the Gender Equality Agency of B&H, Gender Centers of RS and FB&H and the Gender Equality Commission of the Parliamentary Assembly of B&H,** which enabled us to have update about the status of policy development on gender equality in B&H, provide our critical opinion about the work of official institutions, and propose actions that would improve women's human rights in B&H.

- In 2006, United Women Banja Luka representative participated in the **State Working Group for Preparing Commentary of the Gender Equality Law in B&H,** consisting of representatives of institutional mechanisms for gender equality (Gender Equality Agency of B&H), legal experts, and NGO activists. The outcome of this initiative should be an effective tool for practical implementation of the Gender Equality Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the judicial system at all levels, and prepared recommendation for education of judges and prosecutors on implementation of this law.

- United Women Banja Luka prepared **comments on the official CEDAW Report of B&H** in relation to violence against women, and access and portrayal of women in media, and submitted it to the Gender Equality Agency of B&H. We were informed that our comments were integrated to the Official Report, and presented as such to the CEDAW Committee on its 35th Session held in May 2006 in New York.

- Representative of the United Women Banja Luka continued to contribute into the work of **Advisory Group for planning the activities of the State Coordinator for Fighting Against Human Trafficking in B&H.** Our representative attends periodical 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.

***Quantitative and qualitative progress in increasing gender sensibility of media in B&H and positive impact on empowering women and men journalists, editors and other media workers to take an active role in diminishing gender stereotypes and discrimination of women in media**

- **Quantitative improvement in media focus on gender equality issues** - increased presence of gender equality issues in news and specialized programs, as well as some qualitative improvements, such is the introducing of gender sensitive language as the part of official policy of Radio Television of RS as the largest entity public broadcasting service.

- Through regular monitoring of TV programs, United Women Banja Luka noticed that **private TV stations with high viewer's rate,** such are the Alternative Television Banja Luka and "BN" Television in Bijeljina **started to pay attention on inviting both male and female guests in popular TV talk shows and TV discussions on political and social topics.** Furthermore, some influential political magazines, such is Weekly Magazine "BIH DANI" from Sarajevo introduced special reports about women's issues and gender equality called "Women Conquering Bosnia and Herzegovina." United Women Banja Luka believe these are direct results of our public appeals and work with media to introduce gender sensitive policies in their work.

- Approximately **70% of women journalists that participated in gender equality workshop during 2005, continued to be active in promotion of gender equality** through participation in regular working meetings, media monitoring, and field research on creating conditions for public advocacy actions on increasing gender sensibility of media in B&H.

- As direct result of our long time cooperation and work with Radio Television of Republika Srpska (RTRS) on TV programs/discussions and education of their journalist network, we received **strong commitment from management of RTRS they will continue with preparation and broadcasting "She and He: EQUALITY" cycle initiated by this project as regular part of their programming.** Furthermore, on their own initiative, **RTRS strongly supported 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women Campaign in 2006, with special TV programs, news reports, and documentaries related to domestic violence and violence against women** during the period from 25 November - International Day of Fighting Violence Against Women, to 10 December - International Human Rights Day.

*** Increased and strengthened cooperation of women journalists, NGO activists and women politicians throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina on making positive impact in increasing gender sensibility of media, and enhanced networking and capacity building**

- 62 women - 27 journalists, 31 women NGO activists, and 4 women representatives of political parties and official institutions from 10 cities from both entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina actively participated in the three working meetings, and supported the activities related to **global public campaign "Who Makes the News?" in B&H.**

- 10 women journalists and NGO activists from 10 cities in B&H actively participated in media monitoring on March 8, 2006 and field research aimed for creating conditions for public advocacy actions aimed for increasing gender sensibility of media in B&H.

B. 2 Who Makes the News? Contribution of United Women Banja Luka in Implementation of Three Weeks of Global Action on Gender and Media - Activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Background of the Action

In the period from 16 February until 8 March 2006, **World Association of Christian Communication (WACC)** organized the Global Action with title **Who Makes the News? Three Weeks of Global Action on Gender and the Media**, supported by UNIFEM, UNESCO and coalition of local and international partner organizations. The Global Campaign started with press conference and round table held on 15 February 2006 in London, UK when research results of **Global Media Monitoring Project in 2005** were released to the public. Participants at the press conference and round table were key leaders of international media, representatives of international organizations - such are Amnesty International, Article 19, International Federation of Journalists, TVE, and many others.

During three weeks of Global Campaign, global WACC and GMMP networks and many other gender and media organizations worldwide conducted advocacy activities on promotion of gender equality in media through using results of global, regional and national Global Media Monitoring Project reports prepared during 2005.

The global action ended on 8 March - International Women's Day, with supporting UNESCO Initiative "Women Make the News."

Activities of United Women Banja Luka

- With support of **EED Germany**, on **27 - 28 February 2006**, United Women Banja Luka organized networking meeting with participation of eighteen (18) women journalists and NGO activists from ten cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina - Banja Luka, Sarajevo, Mostar, Tuzla, Modriča, Trebinje, Zenica, Bihać, Kozarska Dubica, and Bijeljina. The meeting focused on discussion of results of the **Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) in 2005**, with focus on the key findings for **Bosnia and Herzegovina** and **Regional Report for Central and Eastern Europe**. Small capacity building workshop was held with presentation and discussion about "Gender and Media Advocacy Toolkit" prepared by WACC as the key resource for Global Media Monitoring Project. United Women Banja Luka prepared unofficial translation of the Toolkit consisting of the following materials: GMMP TV Monitoring Guide, GMMP Radio Programs Monitoring Guide, GMMP Monitoring Guide for Printed Media, GMMP Guide for

Qualitative News Analysis, and Who Makes the News? - Resource Pack for Three Weeks of Global Action on Gender and Media.

- **On 1 March 2006**, United Women Banja Luka **sent the appeal to identified key printed and electronic media, and invited them to take immediate action to ensure that they represent women and men in a fair and balanced way.** We sent the appeal to thirty (30) media - we targeted ten (10) TV Stations, ten (10) radio stations, and ten (10) daily newspapers throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. The appeal was signed by United Women Banja Luka, and six (6) local NGOs in B&H that participate in informal network on gender equality in media in B&H - Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka, NGO "Vesta" Tuzla, Women's Association "Lara" Bijeljina, Women's Association "Medika" Zenica, NGO "Budućnost" Modriča, and Women's Association "Žene sa Une" Bihać.

- **On 7 March 2006**, United Women Banja Luka organized **the press conference in Banja Luka to present GMMP 2005 report for B&H to media and the public.** Fourteen (14) women and men journalists participated at the press conference, and received the Media Appeal, fact sheet with key findings of Global GMMP 2005 Report and Regional Report for CEE, as well as GMMP 2005 Report for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Short report about the working meeting with women journalists and NGO activists and our contribution to "Who Makes the News?" global public campaign was prepared and sent to WACC GMMP Coordinator.¹⁰

- **On 8 March 2006**, ten (10) women journalists, NGO activists, and women politicians throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted **media monitoring** of twenty seven (27) electronic and printed media in B&H - ten (10) TV stations, ten (10) radio stations, and seven (7) daily newspapers. Media monitoring was conducted based on methodology prepared for Global Media Monitoring Project in 2005. It enabled us to identify changes in position and portrayal of women in media of Bosnia and Herzegovina, one year after monitoring media for GMMP 2005 initiative, involve women journalists, NGO activists, and women politicians from ten local communities in B&H in common action of advocating for equal access and portrayal of women and men in media of B&H.

- **Results of the 8 March 2006 Media Monitoring were presented on 8 April 2006 in TV Program "Woman Today" broadcasted at Radio Television of Republika Srpska (RTRS).** On that occasion, Amela Bašić, Psychologist of United Women Banja Luka, and Mira Lolić Močević, Program Director of RTRS presented the key results of media monitoring and discussed gender based discrimination in media of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

C. Gender Equality in Public and Political Life in Bosnia and Herzegovina

C.1 Woman Today - Phase 10 - 2006 - Promoting Women's Participation in Public and Political Life

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.

Activities implemented in 2006:

Seven preparatory meetings of Advisory Board, five public discussions - **"Role of Media in Promotion of Women's Human Rights"**, on 7 March 2006, **"Constitutional Changes in Bosnia and Herzegovina"**, on 19 April 2006, **"European Integrations - Process and Where It Leads Us"**, on 20 June 2006, **"Gender Analysis of the Pre-Election Campaign in Bosnia and Herzegovina"**, on 26 October 2006, and **"Discrimination of Women, Local**

¹⁰ Short report with press clipping and photographs related to presentation of GMMP 2005 B&H Report and activities on public appeal to media in B&H is available at following web links:
http://www.whomakesthenews.org/who_makes_the_news/national_campaign_activities/press_conference_in_bosnia_and_herzegovina
http://www.whomakesthenews.org/who_makes_the_news/national_campaign_activities/activities_in_bosnia_and_herzegovina

and Global Problem", on 6 December 2006, six workshops - **Training of Trainers**, held in Banja Luka on 16 - 20 February 2006, **Workshops for Women Politicians** held in Teslić, held on 3-5 March 2006, 14-16 April 2006, 12-14 May 2006, 9-11 June 2006, and **Workshop for Women Candidates on the Election Lists**, held in Neum on 8-10 September 2006, three TV programs - **"Position of Women in Media"**, broadcasted on RTRS on 9 April 2006, **"European Integrations, Process and Where It Leads Us"**, broadcasted on RTRS on 8 July 2006, and **"Women in Elections"**, broadcasted on RTRS on 19 August 2006, two radio programs - **"Gender Analysis of Pre-Election Campaign 2006"**, broadcasted on Radio RS on 1 November 2006, and **"Domestic Violence - Real and Legal Protection"**, broadcasted on Radio RS on 12 December 2006, pre-election TV spot campaign **"Think Over In the Name of All of Us, Decide, and Give Your Vote to a Woman"**, broadcasted on RTRS during September 2006 round table **"What We Did So Far and Where Are We Going To - Elections 2006"**, on 7 December 2006, TV Parliament - **"Women and Elections"**, broadcasted RTRS on 28 December 2006, five press conferences, final evaluations - interviews with women workshop participants, and preparing and printing of the final project brochure.

Accomplished Results:

- Around 240 women and men citizens of Banja Luka participated on public meetings/discussions and got the opportunity to acquire information and express their views related to actual events and issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 19 women activists of nongovernmental organizations were trained through training of trainers for public advocacy and media presentation
- 91 female politicians from five cities of Northwestern Bosnia and Herzegovina improved their skills of public advocacy and media presentations
- We improved communication between women from different political parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina and improved contacts between women activists of nongovernmental organizations and women in politics
- We contributed for more experienced female politicians to start sharing their knowledge and skills with their colleagues that are just entering the politics in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- We contributed to election of 25% of female representatives in the People's Assembly of Republika Srpska
- We contributed to increase of reports about women's human rights in media of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- We improved communication with media in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

United Women Banja Luka and Helsinki Citizens Assembly Banja Luka will continue with implementation of "Woman Today" project also in 2007. We are planning to conduct the research in ten cities of Bosnia and Herzegovina about gender stereotypes, and inform women and men citizens about its results through public meetings/discussions. We will continue to organize a cycle of public discussions in Banja Luka under title "Actual Moment," in order to enable voices of women and men citizens to be heard in the public. We will promote project activities and results through press conferences and TV programs. We will advocate for full implementation of the Gender Equality Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina and harmonization of other B&H laws and public policies with this Law.

C.2 From the Law to (Real) Gender Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina

United Women Banja Luka implemented this project in the period from December 2005 until December 2006, thanks to the support from **European Union** provided through **Program of European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights**.

Project Activities:

Posters for promotion of gender equality in public and political life of Bosnia and Herzegovina, focusing on promotion of Article 15 of Gender Equality Law in B&H, preparation and organizing of **gender equality workshops for women and men members of local branches of political parties** - Kozarska Dubica, on 10-12 February 2006, Gradiška, on 24-

26 February 2006, Novi Grad, on 10-12 March 2006, Prijedor, on 24-26 March 2006, Modriča, on 7-9 April 2006, Doboj, on 28-30 April 2006, Trebinje, on 19-21 May 2006, Višegrad, on 2-4 June 2006, Nevesinje, on 13-15 October 2006, Bijeljina, on 27-29 October 2006, and Banja Luka on 10-12 November 2006, preparation and organization of **radio programs "From the Law to Real Gender Equality"** in targeted local communities - Kozarska Dubica, broadcasted on DUB Radio on 14 March 2006, Gradiška, broadcasted on Radio Gradiška on 21 March 2006, Prijedor, broadcasted on Radio FREE Prijedor on 1 April 2006, Doboj, broadcasted on Radio Doboj on 4 May 2006, Trebinje, broadcasted on Radio Trebinje on 25 May 2006, Novi Grad, broadcasted on Radio Novi Grad on 5 June 2006, Višegrad, broadcasted on Radio Višegrad on 12 June 2006, Nevesinje, broadcasted on Radio Nevesinje on 2 November 2006, Bijeljina, broadcasted on Radio PAN Bijeljina on 6 November 2006, and Banja Luka, broadcasted on Radio Republika Srpska on 11 November 2006, and organization of **public meetings/discussions about Gender Equality Law in B&H and gender equality issues in public life of local communities** - Kozarska Dubica, on 15 March 2006, Gradiška, on 22 March 2006, Prijedor, on 26 April 2006, Novi Grad, on 7 June 2006, Modriča, on 3 July 2006, Doboj, on 30 August 2006, Višegrad, on 13 September 2006, Trebinje, on 14 September 2006, Nevesinje, on 6 November 2006, Bijeljina, on 7 November 2006, and Banja Luka, on 20 November 2006, and preparation, printing and distribution of informational brochure about implementation of Gender Equality Law in B&H on local level.

Accomplished Results:

***Women and men members of local branches of parliamentary political parties in eleven (11) local communities of Bosnia and Herzegovina learned about Gender Equality Law in B&H, increased gender sensibility and able to influence on improving policies of political parties on gender issues**

- **345** members of local parliamentary political parties - **243 (70,43%)** women and **102 (29,57%)** men actively participated in gender equality workshops and public meetings/discussions about implementation of Gender Equality Law in B&H in their local communities;

***Women and men members of local civil society organizations increased cooperation in work on gender equality issues with local political parties, and participate as active partner in creation of gender sensitive polices and solving gender equality issues on local level**

- **197** representatives of local civil society organizations - **153 (77,66%)** women and **44 (22,34%)** men actively participated in gender equality workshops for women and men members of local branches of political parties, public discussions about implementation of the Gender Equality Law in B&H, and radio programs about gender equality in local communities;

***Open dialogue and cooperation between political parties, local official institutions, civil society organizations, local media, and common citizens aimed for improving position of women in public and political life of local communities**

- **664** members of local branches of parliamentary political parties, public officials from local and entity public administration, local civil society organizations, and media - **469 (70,63%)** women and **195 (29,37%)** men were involved in project activities, and had the opportunity to openly discuss current situation in their local communities and B&H in relation to participation of women in decision making and public and political life.

They increased awareness about the Gender Equality Law in B&H, current activities of local NGOs and institutional mechanisms for gender equality aimed to improve position of women in public and political life, and discussed priorities for the activities that should be taken in the future to improve equal access and participation of women in public and political life on the local level and B&H;

***Representatives of local media increased knowledge about gender equality issues in local communities, and will be able to positively influence on creation of gender sensitive local media policies**

- **73** representatives of media - **41 (56,16%)** women and **32 (43,84%)** men were direct participants of the gender equality workshops for women and men representatives of political

parties, and public meetings/discussions about Gender Equality Law in B&H and gender equality issues in the local communities;

***Women and men common citizens increased knowledge about Gender Equality Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina and gender equality issues in their local communities, and able to influence on creation of gender sensitive public policies of local administration**

- Women and men citizens of targeted local communities had the opportunity to increase awareness about Gender Equality Law in B&H and gender equality issues in their local communities through direct participation in eleven (11) public meetings/discussions, eleven (11) Radio Programs "From the Law to Real Gender Equality", which were broadcasted on local radio stations, and follow up media programs and reports;

D. Advocacy Against Trafficking of People in Bosnia and Herzegovina

During 2006, United Women Banja Luka continued with public advocacy activities and education about the issue of trafficking of people in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Our representatives regularly participated in meetings of **Working Group for Fighting Against Trafficking of People in Banja Luka Region**, coordinated by OSCE Field Office in Banja Luka. We had the opportunity to acquire information and update about work of other NGOs and official institutions working on this issue in our region, and to share information about our work and activities in this field.

On 5-6 April 2006, United Women Banja Luka members participated on seminar "**Cross Border Cooperation Against Trafficking of People**", held in Slavonski Brod, Croatia in organization of the Star Network of World Learning/ZONTA, where we shared our experiences on education and advocacy against trafficking of people in B&H.

During 2006, United Women Banja Luka had **regular meetings and cooperation with SIPA Office in Banja Luka** used for planning of activities on continuing education of schoolchildren in border areas of RS about trafficking of people in BiH.

In November 2006, United Women Banja Luka received support of **Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in RS B&H** to implement the project "**Prevention of Trafficking of People in High Schools of Northwestern Bosnia and Herzegovina.**" The project period is November 2006 - June 2007. The project will be implemented in 6 high schools in 6 municipalities of Northwestern BiH - Secondary Vocational and Technical School Gradiska, School Center Petar Kocic Srbac, Medical, Technological and Construction School Prijedor, Co-educational Secondary School Nikola Tesla Kozarska Dubica, Secondary Vocational School Kostajnica and Grammar School in Novi Grad. The objective of the project is providing education for boys and girls high school students about trafficking of people, especially about its forms in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to give our contribution in prevention of trafficking of people, especially youth people.

5. Strengthening Cooperation with Other Nongovernmental Organizations and Official Institutions in B&H and Abroad

Accomplished Results in 2006

United Women Banja Luka considers as important part of our long-term strategy and strengthening our visibility in local and regional environment our work on developing and improving cooperation, exchange of information and joint initiatives with other nongovernmental organizations in both entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as in the region. 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.

Cooperation and joint projects with international organizations - **Kvinna till Kvinna Sweden, Amica e. V. from Germany, Global Rights - Partners for Justice, office in B&H, World Association of Christian Charities (WACC) - Women's Program, and UNDP Gender Program 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 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 Republika Srpska, Local City Government in Banja Luka, Gender Centers of Republika Srpska and Federation of B&H, and Gender Equality Agency of B&H.

The Overview of our Activities in 2006 on Developing Cooperation With Nongovernmental Organizations and Official Institutions in B&H:

In 2006, Legal Advisor of United Women Banja Luka joined the **Working Group for Preparing Commentary of the Gender Equality Law in B&H**, consisting of representatives of institutional mechanisms for gender equality (Gender Equality Agency of B&H), legal experts, and NGO activists. The outcome of this initiative should be an effective tool for practical implementation of the Gender Equality Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the judicial system at all levels, and prepared recommendation for education of judges and prosecutors on implementation of this law;

In **February 2006**, representative of United Women Banja Luka participated in the meeting of Gender Equality Commission of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, related to **amendments on the Election Law of B&H** submitted by the women's NGOs in B&H and supported by the institutional mechanisms for gender equality. We requested adjustments of the Election Law in B&H with the Article 15 of the Gender Equality Law in B&H, in order to enable equal representation of female and male candidates on the election lists. Although Gender Equality Commission of Parliamentary Assembly B&H supported the amendments, overwhelming majority of delegates in the House of Representatives in the B&H Parliament voted against the proposed changes. Although we were not successful in this activity, we can say that it contributed to improvement of our cooperation with institutional mechanisms for gender equality on the state level, and increased visibility and public attention on the issue of lack of women in political decision making in B&H;

Human Rights Advisor of United Women Banja Luka prepared **comments on the official CEDAW Report of B&H in relation to violence against women, and access and portrayal of women in media**, and submitted it to the Gender Equality Agency of B&H. We were informed that our comments were integrated to the Official Report, and presented as such to the CEDAW Committee on its 35th Session held in May 2006 in New York;

Representative of the United Women Banja Luka continued to contribute into the work of **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;

In August 2006, Psychologist of United Women Banja Luka participated in the **Coordination Meeting** organized by the **Ministry of Health and Social Care of Republika Srpska**. This Ministry had the responsibility for preparing bylaw for implementation of special protection measure - accommodation of victim of domestic violence in the safe house - as regulated by the Law for Protection from Domestic Violence of Republika Srpska. The meeting was called by the Ministry to receive an update on current activities related to cooperation of local official

institutions (centers for social work, police) and United Women Banja Luka on opening safe house for Banja Luka. We emphasized the issue of lack of financing of the running costs and providing police protection for the safe house. In the period August - September 2006, we participated in three meetings housed by the Ministry, which resulted with preparing draft bylaw;

Psychologist and Social Worker of Woman and Law project participated in regular coordination meetings of **joint SOS line for victims of violence in Republika Srpska** facilitated by **Gender Center of Republika Srpska** related to work. We shared our experiences of running the SOS line with our sister organizations - Budućnost Modriča, LARA Biljeljina and Women's Center Trebinje, discussed planned activities for 16 Days of Activism Against Violence, and our lobbying efforts to include running costs of the safe house/shelter for women and children victims of violence on the official budget on local and entity level;

Through continuous contacts of United Women Banja Luka staff of **Centre for Social Work Banja Luka and police workers in Banja Luka region** and our joint work on concrete cases of violence against women, we are influencing positive change in their attitude toward violence against women and work on their sensitization for all aspects of violence. Thanks to the workshops about domestic violence with police officials that we organized during previous years of implementation of "Woman and Law" project and our initiative for signing common Memorandum of Understanding for assisting women victims of domestic violence, we 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.

January 2006 - Representative of United Women Banja Luka joined the **Working Group for Fighting Trafficking of People for Banja Luka region**, established by the **OSCE Field Office in Banja Luka** where we have the possibility to inform about activities of local NGOs and official institutions in work on this issue, and work on joint initiatives to secure protection for victims of trafficking. During 2006, we participated in several periodical meetings of the Working Group;

January 2006 - Our representative was participating in workshop/training with title "**Gender and Media Advocacy Campaign**" for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, organized in Zagreb (Croatia) by **Women's Group B.a.B.e (Be Active Be Emancipated)**. and supported by World Association of Christian Communication (WACC). We had the opportunity to establish contacts with women's organizations in the region and discuss media advocacy experiences and strategies for fighting gender based discrimination in our countries.

February 2006 - Lawyer and Social Worker participated in opening of **Center for Life and Family**, opened by **CARITAS Office in Banja Luka**. We had the opportunity to learn about planned service of this Centre, such are marriage and family counseling and prevention of violence in a family, and present activities of Woman and Law project;

March 2006 - Representative of United Women Banja Luka participated in **NGO Fair in Jajce**, organized by **NGO Viktorija 99 Jajce**, with overall topic "**Economic Empowerment of Women in Developing Process of Economic Reforms.**" At the round table organized as the part of this activity, we exchanged experiences with other women's NGOs on possibilities for economic empowerment of women;

March 2006 - Visit to United Women Banja Luka from Milka Lončar, Representative of **Foundation for Education, Development and Social Protection of Children from Prijedor**. This Foundation was established in October 2005 to run the safe house and SOS telephone for Prijedor region. We shared our experiences of working with women and children victims of violence, and we discussed possibilities for offering education for SOS volunteers of

the Foundation and providing assistance with strategic planning of their activities in the future period;

March 2006 - Human Rights Advisor participated in presentation of the **National Study about Domestic Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina** prepared by **hCa Banja Luka, Žene Ženama Sarajevo and Lara Bijeljina**, organized for judges, public prosecutors from different local communities and representatives of the Ministry of Justice of RS in Banja Luka. The presentation was held in the **Center for Education of Judges and Prosecutors of Republika Srpska** in Banja Luka, and gathered 30 participants. We shared our experiences in work with women victims of violence in Banja Luka region, especially problems to ensure effective legal assistance, due to slow judicial procedures. We used this opportunity to distribute "**Book of My Friend**" prepared by "Woman and Law" project, lobby for their support in opening of the shelter for women and children victims of violence in Banja Luka region, and advocate for their increased sensibility toward women victims of domestic violence, women in procedure of divorce, and alimony claims.

May 2006 - Our representative participated in **NGO Coordination Meeting** held in Banja Luka, with participation of **Youth Communication Center Banja Luka, Union of National Minorities of RS, Humanitarian Association "Partner" Banja Luka, Center for Civic Initiatives, and Center for Promotion of Civil Society Sarajevo**. Meeting was organized in the occasion of the visit of Doris Pack Chief of Delegation of European Parliament For Relations with South Eastern Europe to Bosnia and Herzegovina. We presented our work on promotion and protection of women's human rights, especially our activities on fighting gender based violence and participation of women in political decision making, and learned about experiences of other civil society organizations in communication with official institutions at all levels in B&H;

May 2006 - Our representatives participated in the **workshop organized by Kvinna till Kvinna Sweden** for network of women's nongovernmental organizations in Serbia and Montenegro, where we presented our experiences in work with local authorities, institutions and politicians on promotion of women's human rights and gender equality;

May 2006 - Six local NGOs active on gender equality in media in B&H - "**Helsinki Citizens' Assembly**" Banja Luka, "**Vesta**" Tuzla, **Women's Association "Lara" Bijeljina, Women's Association "Medika" Zenica, NGO "Budućnost" Modriča, and Women's Association "Žene sa Une" Bihać** joined us in the common public appeal to electronic and printed media in B&H to take immediate action to ensure that they represent women and men in a fair and balanced way;

June 2006 - United Women Banja Luka representatives participated in Working Meeting held in Sarajevo under title "**Violence Against Women in Post-Conflict Settlements,**" organized by **Foundation CURE from Sarajevo**. Objective of the meeting was exchanging experiences and creating recommendations for National Action Plan for Fighting Violence Against Women that will be presented in Brussels. Participants at the meeting were approx. 60 women and men representatives of international organizations, prosecutors, centers for social work, courts, and nongovernmental organizations throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. Three working groups created recommendations related to future work on prevention of domestic violence, protection of victims of domestic violence and improving legal framework related to treatment of domestic violence in B&H;

June 2006 - United Women Banja Luka representatives participated in seminar related to **Good Practices in Cooperation of Civil Society Organizations and Municipal Administrations in Bosnia and Herzegovina**. Seminar was organized in Neum by **Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Sarajevo, BOSPO Tuzla and Youth Communication Centre Banja Luka**. Objective of the seminar was to discuss good practices in cooperation of local NGOs and city governments, and present draft action plans for six local communities of B&H. We presented our experiences of working with City Administration Banja Luka;

August 2006 - United Women Banja Luka representatives participated at the **NGO Fair in Banja Luka**, organized by **Genesis Project Banja Luka**, and supported by USAID and IOCC. Together with more than 40 local NGOs and citizens' organizations from Banja Luka region, we presented our work on promotion and protection of women's human rights through placing street stand, and offering leaflets and publications of Woman and Law project;

October 2006 - United Women Banja Luka representatives participated at the **International Conference About Violence Against Children**, held in Sarajevo, in organization of **Council for Children B&H of B&H Council of Ministers**, and supported by UNICEF and Save the Children, UK. We presented our work on fighting domestic violence, and participated in working group aimed for developing recommendations for improving cooperation of civil society and governmental institutions in B&H on prevention of violence against children in B&H;

November 2006 - United Women Banja Luka representatives participated at the **Conference About Social Inclusion in Bosnia and Herzegovina**, organized by **UNDP in Sarajevo**. We provided introductory presentation about social exclusion of women in B&H, and participated in working group related to role of women in social development of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

December 2006 - United Women Banja Luka representatives participated in the **Round Table "Role and Importance of a Family in Socialization of Persons with Special Needs,"** organized in Banja Luka by **Union of Paraplegic and People with Special Needs of Republika Srpska**. We gave introductory presentation on domestic violence with special emphasis of violence against women with special needs;

December 2006 - United Women Banja Luka representatives participated in **International Workshop About Gender Sensitive Budgeting**, held in **Skopje, Macedonia**. The workshop was organized by **UNIFEM Office for Central and Eastern Europe**, and participants were women representatives of civil society organizations and institutional mechanisms for gender equality from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Macedonia, and Montenegro. Representatives of UNIFEM presented their plans for supporting local initiatives on introducing gender sensitive budgeting in the region within the period of next four years. We had the opportunity to learn about good practices and experiences on gender sensitive budgeting in the region and worldwide, and discuss possibilities for developing pilot projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina on local level;

7. Overview of the Visits to United Women Banja Luka in 2006

February 2006 - Visit to United Women Banja Luka from **Svetlana Sinjaja, representative of Most Mira Banja Luka**, and **Nancy Moore, Thomas Agin and Dan Burton from Cincinnati, Ohio, USA**. They were interested to learn about activities of United Women Banja Luka on prevention of domestic violence, and providing support for safe house for women and children victims of violence in Banja Luka;

April 2006 - Visit to United Women Banja Luka from **Dragana Pavlović, Gender Consultant of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Republika Srpska** and **Clare Bishop-Sambrook, Agricultural Economist and HIV/AIDS Gender Specialist** from Italy, related to our work with women in rural communities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and education of farmers' associations;

September 2006 - Visits to our office from **Claudia Volmer, Gender Equality Analyst** and **Elaine Thro, Long-Term Observer**, of the **joint initiative of ODIHR and OSCE Missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina** related to our work on promotion of women's human rights and participation of women in political life. We presented our activities and work on fighting gender based violence and portrayal of women in media, and emphasized lack of public promotion of women politicians in pre-election period;

November 2006 - Visit of **Danielle A. Harms, Political Officer and Second Secretary of USA Embassy in Sarajevo, B&H**, aimed to receive information about our work on prevention of gender based violence and trafficking of women and girls in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

November 2006 - Visit of **Isla Paterson, Gender Advisor of the Justice Reform Project, implemented by Consortium GENIVAR/University of Ottawa, Canada**. She informed us about activities of three-year project aimed for judicial reform and securing access to justice, and planned activities with the Centres for Education of Judges and Prosecutors in RS and FB&H and Basic Courts in Banja Luka and Sarajevo. We shared our experiences of working with courts and prosecutors on providing assistance for women victims of violence;

8. Media Activities of the United Women Banja Luka during 2006:

January 2006

In January 2006, Public Broadcasting Service "BHT1" initiated cycle of TV programs related to the issue of human trafficking in B&H - first program presented the activities of United Women Banja Luka on this issue;

9 January 2006 - Statement for Radio Program "Women in the Election Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina," broadcasted on Public Radio "BH Radio1" Sarajevo;

11 January 2006 - Statement for the Central News of RTRS related to gender based violence in Banja Luka and B&H, presented statistics related to violence against women, and current status of the initiative for opening shelter for women and children victims of violence in Banja Luka region;

15 January 2006 - Statement for the Central News of RTRS related to issue of gender sensitive budget planning in B&H at all levels;

23 January 2006 - Statement for the Central News of RTRS and "ATV" Banja Luka related to our activities of fighting against trafficking of women and children in B&H

30 January 2006 - Participation in the Morning Program of Radio "UNO" Banja Luka, presenting the activities of United Women Banja Luka on fighting violence against women in private and public life of B&H;

30 January 2006 - Daily Newspapers "Večernje Novosti" published the article "Safe House Soon" related to preparations for opening of the shelter for women and children victims of violence in Banja Luka region, and cooperation of United Women Banja Luka with local municipal authorities, police, and center for social work in relation to this activity;

February 2006

1 February 2006 - Daily Newspapers "Nezavisne Novine" published the article "Reconstruction of the Safe House Soon" related to the preparations for opening of the shelter for women and children victims of violence in Banja Luka region, and support of Banja Luka City Administration to this initiative;

3 February 2006 - Participation in the Radio Program "Family Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina," broadcasted at Public Radio "Radio RS" Banja Luka, together with the representatives of Gender Center of Republika Srpska, and Center for Social Work Banja Luka.

6 February 2006 - Central News of RTRS broadcasted public appeal of United Women Banja Luka directed to Mr. Milorad Dodik, Mandatory of RS Government to respect the Gender Equality Law in B&H when suggesting candidates for the new ministers of RS Government;

7 February 2006 - TV story clip about work of United Women Banja Luka was broadcasted in TV Program "Panorama of Banja Luka," at RTRS;

7 February 2006 - Daily Newspapers "BLIC" published the article "Dodik: I Have the Majority" related to election of new Government of RS. The article also presented the appeal of United Women Banja Luka directed to Mr. Milorad Dodik, Mandatory of RS Government to respect the Gender Equality Law in B&H when suggesting candidates for the new ministers of RS Government. The same appeal was published in Women's Political Magazine "Lara On Line" on **21 February 2006**.

8 February 2006 - Daily Newspapers "Glas Srpske" published the article "Battering Changes Its Shape" with presenting the activities of United Women Banja Luka, Women's NGO "LARA" Bijeljina, NGO "Budućnost" Modriča, and Women's Center Trebinje on fighting violence against women in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

10 February 2006 - News Program "Info Profile" broadcasted on RTRS presented the activities of United Women Banja Luka related to gender sensitization of women and men members of political parties in B&H;

February 13, 2006 - Daily Newspapers "BLIC" published the article "Victims on Safe in Second Half of 2006" related to the initiative of United Women Banja Luka for opening of the safe house for women and children victims of violence in Banja Luka region;

16 February 2006 - Informative Program "In Search" broadcasted at RTRS focused on the overview of positive changes in protection of women's human rights in past ten years. It included TV story clip about work of United Women Banja Luka on improving portrayal of women in media of B&H;

17 February 2006 - Political TV Program "Under the Carpet" broadcasted on RTRS on the topic of women in political life of B&H, included statements of women politicians from B&H and women NGO activists, including United Women Banja Luka on this issue;

28 February 2006 - Central News of RTRS broadcasted news story about third working meeting of women journalists, NGO activists, and women politicians, organized by United Women Banja Luka, presented appeal of United Women Banja Luka to media in B&H to give editorial role of news to women editors on March 8, 2006, and announced media monitoring on March 8, 2006;

March 2006

1 March 2006 - Central News Programs of RTRS and Alternative Television Banja Luka broadcasted the public protest of United Women Banja Luka for appointing only two women ministers in new RS Government;

3 March 2006 - Private Radio Station "Balkan" Banja Luka prepared news story about activities of United Women Banja Luka on increasing gender sensitivity of media in B&H;

4 March 2006 - Central News Programs of RTRS and TV of Federation of B&H broadcasted the statement of United Women Banja Luka related to economic position of women, and role of women in development processes in B&H;

7 March 2006 - Informative Program "Srpska Today," Central News of RTRS, and Central News of the Entity Public Broadcasting Service "Television of Federation of B&H" broadcasted news story about press conference of United Women Banja Luka, presentation of the 2005 Global Media Monitoring Project Results for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and B&H activities related to support of global public campaign "Who Makes the News?";

7 March 2006 - Informative Program "Working Day", and Central News of Alternative Television of Banja Luka broadcasted news story about press conference of United Women Banja Luka, presentation of the 2005 Global Media Monitoring Project Results for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and B&H activities related to support of global public campaign "Who Makes the News?";

7 March 2006 - Morning Program of the State Public Broadcasting Service "BHT1" broadcasted the statement of United Women Banja Luka related to our support to global public campaign "Who Makes the News?" and results of 2005 GMMP media monitoring in B&H;

8 March 2006 - Statement of United Women Banja Luka related to position of women in media of B&H broadcasted in morning program of Radio "UNO" Banja Luka;

8 March 2006 - Public Radio of RS prepared Special Program related to March 8 - International Women's Day, and broadcasted the statement of United Women Banja Luka related to position of women in media of B&H;

8 March 2006 - Central News of Alternative Television of Banja Luka broadcasted the statement of United Women Banja Luka about prejudices related to March 8 - International Women's Day;

8 March 2006 - Statement of United Women Banja Luka related to the International Women's Day, position of women in public and political life, and our media monitoring action in B&H, broadcasted in the Informative Program "Info Profile, at RTRS;

8 March 2006 - Daily Newspapers "BLIC" published the article "One Day of Attention" related to public call of United Women Banja Luka to media in B&H to give editorial role to women on this day, and presenting key results of Global Media Monitoring Project for B&H in 2005.

8 March 2006 - Daily Newspapers "FOKUS" published the article "One Bird Does Not Make a Spring," related to social position of women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and activities of United Women Banja Luka on gender sensibilization of media in B&H;

8 March 2006 - Daily Newspapers "Nezavisne Novine" published the article "Today's News Hand Over to Women" related to public call of United Women Banja Luka for giving editorial role to women in news on March 8, 2006. The same article also presented key results of 2005 GMMP Report for B&H prepared by United Women Banja Luka and Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka.

8 March 2006 - Daily Newspapers "Glas Srpske" published the article "Women More Favorable as Housewives" with presenting key results of 2005 GMMP Report for B&H prepared by United Women Banja Luka and Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka;

8 March 2006 - Central News of the Entity Public Broadcasting Service "Television of Federation of B&H" broadcasted the statement of United Women Banja Luka related to our contribution to the global public campaign "Who Makes the News?", and media monitoring on 8 March 2006 in B&H;

March 2006 Issue of Banja Luka City Magazine "INTERMEZZO" published the article about strengthening and affirmation of women's human rights in B&H, presentation of activities of United Women Banja Luka, SOS telephone, and shelter for women and children victims of violence;

13 March 2006 - Daily Newspaper "Glas Srpske" published the article "With Money to Independence", with statement of United Women Banja Luka related to issue of feminization of poverty in B&H.

April 2006

1 April 2006 - Daily Newspapers "Nezavisne Novine" published the article "Battering Wives," focusing on police report about family violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and statistics of United Women Banja Luka and other women's NGOs in B&H that are providing legal and psychosocial assistance for women victims of violence;

4 April 2006 - Informative Program "Srpska Today," and Central News of RTRS and Alternative Television of RS, broadcasted the news story about visit of United Women Banja Luka and Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka to the President of the People's Assembly of Republika Srpska;

6 April 2006 - Informative Program "Srpska Today" at RTRS broadcasted the statement of United Women Banja Luka related to women's human rights, and role of women in constitutional changes in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

7 April 2006 - Informative Program "Srpska Today" at RTRS broadcasted the news story about activities of United Women Banja Luka in Modriča on increasing gender sensibility of women and men members of local branches of parliamentary political parties;

8 April 2006 - Special Program "Woman Today" at RTRS on topic "Women in Media of B&H" with representative of United Women Banja Luka and Ms. Mira Lolić Močević, Program Director of RTRS, focusing on presentation of the results from 2005 Global Media Monitoring Project for Bosnia and Herzegovina and CEE;

9 April 2006 - News Program of "BN" Television broadcasted the news story about work of United Women Banja Luka on increasing visibility of women in public and political life of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

17 April 2006 - News Program of Public Radio of RS, broadcasted the news story about work of United Women Banja Luka on fighting gender based violence, work of SOS telephone for women and children victims of family violence, and initiative for opening the shelter for victims of violence in Banja Luka region;

19 April 2006 - Central News Program at RTRS broadcasted the news story about public discussion on constitutional changes in B&H and role of women in this process, organized by United Women Banja Luka and Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka;

27 April 2006 - Daily Newspaper "FOKUS" published the article "Safe House for Women," which activities of United Women Banja Luka on opening shelter for women and children victims of violence in Banja Luka region;

30 April 2006 - Central News Program at RTRS broadcasted the news story about activities of United Women Banja Luka on gender equality education of women and men members of local branches of parliamentary political parties in Dobož;

May 2006

4 May 2006 - Informative Program "Info Profile" at RTRS, broadcasted the statement of United Women Banja Luka related to constitutional changes in Bosnia and Herzegovina and lack of women's participation in this process;

6 May 2006 - Daily Newspaper "BLIC" published the article about right on free delivery of women without health insurance in Republika Srpska, (RS Minister of Health Mr. Ranko Škrbić made this decision after TV discussion on Gender Equality and Health, prepared by United Women Banja Luka, broadcasted at April 29, 2006 at RTRS) and statement of United Women Banja Luka about importance of this measure for securing access for health protection for all women in RS;

10 May 2006 - Informative Program "Srpska Today" broadcasted the news story about work of United Women Banja Luka on reconciliation in B&H and cross-border cooperation of local NGOs from Kozarska Dubica (B&H) and Hrvatska Dubica (Republic of Croatia);

10 May 2006 - Central News Program of "BN" Television broadcasted the statements of Mr. Ranko Škrbić RS Health Minister, and United Women Banja Luka about enforcement of new decision of RS Ministry of Health to enable free delivery for all women without health insurance in RS;

15 May 2006 - Special Program of Public Radio of RS related to the International Family Day, participation of United Women Banja Luka and discussion about the issue of family violence in B&H, and lack of efficient prevention programs organized by official institutions;

18 May 2006 - Special Program "Banja Luka Postcard" broadcasted at Public Radio of RS, statement of United Women Banja Luka related to our activities on prevention and treatment of violence against women in Banja Luka region;

27 May 2006 - Central News at RTRS and Alternative Television Banja Luka broadcasted the news story about activities of United Women Banja Luka on promotion of gender equality in media of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

June 2006

7 June 2006 - Informative Program "Info Profile" at RTRS broadcasted the news story about the recommendations of the CEDAW Committee on B&H Official Report, and statements of United Women Banja Luka, Global Rights - Partners for Justice Sarajevo, Women's NGO "Medika" Zenica, and Center "Women and Society" Sarajevo related to the NGO Shadow Report for Bosnia and Herzegovina;

8 June 2006 - Informative Program "Srpska Today" at RTRS broadcasted the news story about work of United Women Banja Luka on gender equality education of local women and men politicians in Novi Grad;

17 June 2006 - Central News at RTRS broadcasted the news story about work of United Women Banja Luka on public advocacy and media presentation skills of women politicians in B&H;

21 June 2006 - Central News of the State Public Broadcasting Service "BHT1" broadcasted the news story about activities of United Women Banja Luka on promotion of gender equality in media of B&H;

26 June 2006 - Informative Program "Working Day" at Alternative Television Banja Luka broadcasted the story about work of United Women Banja Luka on prevention of family violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, our cooperation with local official institutions - police, judiciary, and centers for social work, and influence in creation of official policies on fighting family violence in B&H at all levels.

July 2006

6 July 2006 - UNO Radio Banja Luka - Morning program, Amela Bašić, Psychologist of Woman and Law Project presented activities on opening of the safe house and announced volunteer action on cleaning of the safe house, scheduled for August 2006;

13 July 2006 - Alternative Television Banja Luka - TV Program "Working Day", Amela Bašić, Psychologist of Woman and Law Project presented our activities on prevention of domestic violence, opening of the safe house for women and children victims of violence in Banja Luka region, and our cooperation with local official institutions, and called interested women and men citizens of Banja Luka to join volunteer action of cleaning of the safe house in August 2006;

27 June 2006 - Weekly Magazine "DANI" Sarajevo - Article with title "They Are Not Authorities, And They Change Laws" focusing on activities of United Women Banja Luka on public advocacy changes of discriminative laws in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

August 2006

9 August 2006 - Daily Newspapers "Euro Blic" - Article about work of City Administration of Banja Luka and its cooperation with civil society organizations. It also presented a statement of Vedrana Kelava, Social Worker of Woman and Law Project about our current activities and call for women and men citizens to support volunteer action on cleaning of the safe house in August 2006;

14 August 2006 - Daily Newspapers "Nezavisne Novine" - Article under title "Volunteer Action for Cleaning of the Safe House";

16 August 2006 - UNO Radio Banja Luka - Statement of Vedrana Kelava, Social Worker of Woman and Law Project gave a statement related to the volunteer action on cleaning of the safe house;

22 August 2006 - Radio Television of Banja Luka - TV Program "Panorama of Banja Luka" statement of Amela Bašić and Lana Jajčević about opening of the safe house and volunteer action;

23 August 2006 - Radio Television of Republika Srpska - As a part of central news program, broadcasted a story about volunteer action of cleaning of the safe house;

23 August 2006 - Daily Newspapers "Euro Blic" - Article about volunteer action of the cleaning of safe house;

23 August 2006 - Daily Newspapers "Fokus" - Article with title "Escape from Violence" with statement of Lana Jajčević about volunteer action and opening of the safe house;

September 2006

6 September 2006 - Daily Magazine "Nezavisne Novine" - Article about work of Woman and Law project, preparations for opening of the safe house for women and children victims of violence and implementation of Memorandum of Understanding signed by United Women BL and local official institution related to safe house;

City Info Magazine "Intermezzo" Banja Luka - September 2006 Edition

Article under title "Opening of the Safe House Soon" related to plans of United Women Banja Luka to open the safe house for women and children victims of domestic violence in Banja Luka region;

October 2006

2 October 2006 - Radio Television of Republika Srpska - TV Program "Info Profile" guest, Lana Jajčević, Lawyer of Woman and Law project presented our activities on prevention of gender based violence and talked about issues related to non-implementation of the Gender Equality Law in B&H and Law for Protection from Domestic Violence in RS;

17 October 2006 - Alternative Television Banja Luka - TV Program "Working Day" guest, Amela Bašić, Psychologist of Woman and Law Project presented our cooperation with local official institution on fighting domestic violence, SOS line statistics, and characteristics of domestic violence in our environment;

23 October 2006 - Daily Newspaper Glas Srpske Banja Luka

Article about activities of Woman and Law project on providing legal assistance for women victims of domestic violence, statistics of SOS calls, and our cooperation with police and center for social work on providing assistance to women in need;

26 October 2006 - Radio UNO Banja Luka - Radio program with title "Causes and Consequences of Domestic Violence", guests Lana Jajčević Lawyer of Woman and Law Project and Jelena Milinović, Public Relation Officer of Gender Center of RS Government. Lana presented our work on providing legal and psychological support for women victims of violence and efforts to open the safe house in Banja Luka;

November 2006

8 November 2006 - Daily Newspaper "Nezavisne Novine" Banja Luka - Article "Women on Margins of Political Life," with statement of Nada Golubović about our activities aimed for promotion of greater participation of women in public and political life in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

24 November 2006 - Radio Bihać - Morning program devoted to 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women, Nada Golubović, President of United Women Banja Luka presented planned activities in this period, and background of the international campaign;

24 November 2006 - Radio Television of Republika Srpska - TV Program "Srpska Today" broadcasted a story from the workshop organized within Woman and Law project aimed for enhance our coordination and cooperation with local official institutions on prevention of domestic violence. Broadcasted statements of Nada Golubović, from United Women Banja Luka, Nikola Dorontić, from Center for Social Work Banja Luka, Goran Lolić, representative of the Ministry of Interior Affairs of RS, and Snježana Živković, representative of the District Prosecutor's Office Banja Luka. ***The same story was broadcasted as the part of Central News program at Alternative Television Banja Luka.**

25 November 2006 - Radio Television of Republika Srpska and Alternative Television Banja Luka - As the part of central news programs, both TV companies broadcasted a story from the press conference of United Women Banja Luka on the occasion of the International Day of Fighting Violence Against Women. Statements of Nada Golubović, Amela Bašić, Aleksandra Radeta Stegić from United Women Banja Luka, Ljiljana Radovanović on behalf of the City Administration Banja Luka, Nada Tešanović, Vice President of the People's Assembly of RS, and Mira Lolić Močević, Program Director of RTRS;

26 November 2006 - Daily Newspapers "Glas Srpske" - Article with title "With Law Against Abuser" presented the conclusions of the strategic planning/coordination workshop with local official institutions within Woman and Law Project aimed for enhancing cooperation on implementation of the Law for Protection from Domestic Violence in Republika Srpska;

26 November 2006 - Daily Newspapers "Nezavisne Novine" - Article with title "Disturbing Increase of Violence Against Women," with a statement of Nada Golubović, President of United Women Banja Luka about preparations for opening of the safe house;

27 November 2006 - Radio Television of Republika Srpska - TV program "Info In Focus" on the topic of violence against women, guests Aleksandra Radeta Stegić from United Women Banja Luka and Saša Savičić from Gender Center of RS Government.

27 November 2006 - Radio Television of Republika Srpska, Alternative Television Banja Luka, TV "PINK" BiH - As a part of central news programs, these TV stations broadcasted the appeal of United Women Banja Luka and hCa Banja Luka to the Central Election Commission of B&H to respect equal representation of women and men when verifying delegates for House of Peoples at all levels in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

29 November 2006 - Radio Television of Republika Srpska - TV Program "Youth Forum" on the topic of domestic violence, guests - Amela Bašić, Psychologist of Woman and Law Project, Siniša Kosojević, representative of the Ministry of Interior Affairs of RS, Jelena Milinović, Public Relation Officer of Gender Center of RS Government, and Gordana Vidović, Director of Budućnost Modriča.

December 2006

1 December 2006 - Radio Television of Republika Srpska - TV program "Actualities" on the occasion of the International Day of Fighting AIDS, statement of Lana Jajčević, Lawyer of Woman and Law project related to our activities of fighting against violence against women;

2 December 2006 - Radio Television of Republika Srpska - TV program "Srpska Today" broadcasted the story about domestic violence, statistics of SOS telephone, and work of police and center for social work on prevention and treatment of domestic violence;

3 December 2006 - BHT1 - TV program "TV Liberty" broadcasted a story about the issue of lack of financing for the shelters for women and children victims of violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina and lack of sensibility toward this issue from official institutions at all levels. Statement of Aleksandra Radeta Stegić from United Women Banja Luka. The statement re-broadcasted by several TV stations in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

5 December 2006 - Radio Television of Republika Srpska and Alternative Television of Banja Luka - As a part of central news programs, TV companies broadcasted a story about round table "Re-socialization of Persons with Special Needs", organized in Banja Luka by Union of Paraplegic of RS. Statements of Nada Lipovac, Representative of the Ministry for Family, Youth, and Sport of RS, and Aleksandra Radeta Stegić, United Women Banja Luka related to domestic violence, with focus on violence against women with special needs;

6 December 2006 - Radio Television of Republika Srpska - As a part of central news program, RTRS broadcasted a story about public discussion with title "Discrimination of Women and Human Rights - From Local to Global Issue," with statement of Snježana Savić, Professor of the Law School in Banja Luka/activity supported by Global Fund for Women, USA;

7 December 2006 - Radio Television of Republika Srpska and Alternative Television Banja Luka - As a part of central news programs, TV companies broadcasted a story about the press conference of United Women Banja Luka and Helsinki Citizens Assembly Banja Luka on the occasion of the International Human Rights Day. In addition, BHT1, broadcasted a statement of Aleksandra Petrić, HR Advisor about stereotypes related to domestic violence, our plans for opening the safe house for women and children victims of violence in Banja Luka region, and our cooperation with other women's organizations in B&H on fighting violence against women;

9 December 2006 - Radio Television of Republika Srpska - TV program with the topic "Discrimination of Women and Human Rights - From Local to Global Issue," guests Jadranka Miličević, CURE Foundation Sarajevo, Nikola Dorontić, Center for Social Work Banja Luka and Aleksandra Radeta Stegić, United Women Banja Luka/activity supported by Global Fund for Women, USA;

11 December 2006 - **Story about opening of the safe house for women and children victims of domestic violence in Banja Luka region broadcasted as the part of news programs at following media:**

Radio Television of Republika Srpska (TV Programs "Info Profile" and "Srpska Today"), Alternative Television Banja Luka (TV Programs "Working Day" and Central News at 19:00), TV PINK BiH (News Program "Info Top"), BHT1 - Central News, Radio of Bosnia and Herzegovina - Central News, Radio UNO Banja Luka, Radio NES Banja Luka, and Radio of Republika Srpska;

12 December 2006 - **Articles about opening of the safe house for women and children victims of domestic violence in Banja Luka region published in following daily magazines:**

"Glas Srpske" Banja Luka - Article with title "Defense Against Battering - Safe House Opened in Banja Luka"

"Euro Blic" Banja Luka - "Shelter After Mistreatment", "Nezavisne Novine" Banja Luka - "Safe House Opened in Banja Luka".

9. Obstacles in Our Work:

In 2006, United Women Banja Luka did not face significant obstacles in implementation of our projects and planned activities, except securing long term financing for the safe house for women and children victims of violence in Banja Luka from local City budget. We will continue to lobby for continuous support of City Administration of Banja Luka in this activity.

The major obstacle for our future sustainability represents the fact that United Women Banja Luka is, 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, respecting rule of law, corruption of officials and establishing sustainable official policies in all segments of social and economic progress and development.

All of this signals 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.

10. Strategic Priorities in the Work of United Women Banja Luka during 2007

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 focus on increasing sensibility 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 domestic violence;
- Securing financial security for safe house/shelter for women and children victims of domestic violence in Banja Luka, and continuing with providing direct legal, and psychosocial support for women and children victims of domestic violence;
- Continuing with 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 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.

11. 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, Safe House Coordinator
Vedrana Kelava - Social Worker
Miroslav Samardžić - Financial Manager, Project Coordinator
Aleksandra Petrić – Human Rights Advisor, Project Coordinator
Minja Damjanović - Project Coordinator

Volunteers:

Jovanka Ivković
Sanja Vukša
Minja Damjanović
Iva Papić
Danijela Bašić
Tanja Boromisa
Ana Despenić
Maja Kovjenić
Snježana Spremo

Members of Management Board:

Stanka Miletić, (retired) Teacher, Vice-president of the Association
Mile Dmičić, PhD, Constitutional Court of RS, Member
Danica Berberović, PhD. Professor at the Faculty of Economy, Banja Luka, B&H, Member
Miodrag Živanović, PhD. Professor at the Faculty of Philosophy, Banja Luka, B&H, Member
Zvezdana Rajkovača, MD. Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, Banja Luka, B&H, Member
Boris Ivanović, SIPA, Banja Luka, B&H, Member

12. Financial Overview of the United Women Banja Luka for 2006:

Donation (EURO)	Partner	Title of the Project	Period of the Implementation	Donor
46.997	-	From Law to Real Gender Equality in B&H	06.12.2005 - 06.12.2006	European Union
43.210	-	Gender Equality in B&H = Informed Public Opinion and Gender Sensitive Media	01.01.2006- 31.12.2006	EED/KED Germany
32.386	-	Help for Victims of Domestic Violence -	31.08.2005- 28.04.2006	Governance Accountability

		Safe House		Program (GAP) SIDA Sweden USAID USA
25.565	-	One Time Support for Buying Furniture and Appliances for Safe House	06.02.2006	City Banja Luka through Center for Social Work Banja Luka
73.404	hCa Banja Luka	Women and Law X	01.01.2006- 31.12.2006	SIDA/Kvinna Till Kvinna Sweden
10.866	-	16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women	25.11.2006- 10.12.2006	Global Fund For Women, USA
12.782	-	One Time Financial Support	2006	Donations of Legal Entities - Telekom of Republika Srpska
649	-	Volunteer Action - Safe House	August 2006	Youth Communication Center Banja Luka
8.306	-	Prevention of Trafficking of People in High Schools of Northwestern BiH	01.11.2006 - July 2007	Catholic Relief Service (CRS) BiH
2.889	-	Building Capacities of Farmers' Unions	September - December 2006	International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)
10.226	-	Mobile Team for Support of Victims of Domestic Violence	Implementation during 2007	Center for Social Work Banja Luka
14.274	-	Payment of 20% from the project implemented in 2005	Implemented in 2005	European Union
287	Foundation of Local Democracy Sarajevo	Partnership in organizing Round Table	July 2006	Foundation of Local Democracy Sarajevo
292.066			2006	TOTAL

Transfer from 2005 and previous years	147.109,00 BAM
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Enter in 2006	in BAM
Donor Contribution	418.340,00
Other incomes (membership fees, etc.)	1.673,00
Total	567.122,00

Expenditures in 2006	in BAM
Gross Salaries	98.772,00
Costs for the Activities	292.447,00
Equipment costs and office costs	128.123,00
Total	519.342,00

Balance - Transfer to 2007	47.780,00
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PUBLICATION PREPARED BY:

United Women 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

Web: <http://www.unitedwomenbl.org>

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Editor:

Aleksandra Petrić

For the Publisher:

Nada Golubović

Layout:

Maja Ilić

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