

# C@ucAsia

international coalition of gender journalists

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# GLOBALIZATION

# AND

# GENDER



*they do this 'woman's job' for Coca-Cola, and do not feel any uncomfortable. But if you ask them to clean the window in their own kitchen, they will tell you everything about the Natural Destination*

*photo by Polina Miloradovich*

These Tbilisi guys wash Coca-Cola booth. There are plenty of alike stalls in Moscow and Bishkek, in Delhi and Bangkok, in Jerusalem and in Tokyo... These cognate tents appear in any country of the world, hardly not in every tiny village with at least a hundred of solvent residents.

There are money pumps installed allover the world. They keep pumping despite of officially declared democratic values. And the gap between global North and global South, between global West and global East gets dipper and dipper.

We keep dividing ourselves in different poles: rich and poor, employed and unemployed, white and black, young and old, adults and kids. Each of these adversarial groups in its turn divides into two unequal groups - men and women.

There is still enough air in the planet. There still is water, but it is not equally clean and accessible. And there still is cynicism in the world. Ideas of equity serve as a cloak... Gender is the global try to straight global heel. By today, this heel became dangerous, and this is why idea and practice of women's equality is paving the way. It is not only the result of joint efforts of thousands of people focused on fairness,

but also the issue of rational use of human resources. Neither global economy, nor global culture will be able to develop without 'the second' gender. So why women's activation is accompanied by so many problems? Why do we again have to prove our equivalence?

The constitution of our civilization is so interesting! It can not live without socially active women, but it continues pretending that it gives us an easy time, letting us come closer to machines, lecturing desks, ministerial vacancies.

But the civilization bluffs! The purpose of this craftiness is to exploit us twice - at the machine or lecturing desk and at the kitchen stove. Didn't you want to work, darling? So go ahead. But please don't forget about your Natural Destination!

At the evening, thousands of tired women stand motionless at the widow for a minute. There is some laundry to do, there are some dishes. Before they continue working, these women look at the sunset. They know that there will be another difficult day tomorrow.

# JUST STATISTICS

## FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THE PROBLEM

**70% of the world's poorest** people are women.

Women spend **two thirds** of the total world's time working, but earn only **one tenth** of the world's money.

Women produce **the half** of the world's food, but they own **less than 2%** of land.

Almost a **third** of women are homeless or live in inappropriate conditions.

There is a total of **800 million** illiterate adults in the world; women are **two thirds** of this index.

Annually, **2 million of girls** aged between 5 -15 appear at the market of sexual services.

**Every third** woman was raped, beat, forced to sex or became subject of other kind of violence.

**More** women die as the result of domestic violence, than as the result of wars, malaria, cancer or car accidents. Half of these women get murdered by their present or past partners and husbands.

**Every minute** in the world, one woman dies as the result of pregnancy complications.

Statistics by UNFPA  
and human rights organizations



*plenty of things to think about  
on March 8...*

*photo by Diana Petriashvili*



# SOS!

sound of alarm

## SUBSTITUTION

March the 8th was established to celebrate the Day of women's power and solidarity in the fight for their rights, but turned into something completely different. On this day, even the most successful and independent women become the very opposite. And some of them, for some reason, get very annoyed about flowers. This is when someone starts talking about feminism. Oh God, are there so many people that give you so many flowers in this world, that you seem to be willing to exchange your rights to bunch of roses?!

Anna Datochvili,  
Tbilisi



*besides other, March 8 is a well organized flower business*

*photo by Diana Petriashvili*

# APPEALS FOR MARCH 8

## THE DAY OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS PROTECTION

as published by the Feminist League of Kazakhstan on threshold of the holiday

Many people, both men and women, have forgotten that March the 8th is the day for protections of women's rights. But not a holiday of tulips and male sexual activity

CIS women! Strengthen your solidarity in the fight for your rights!



C@ucAsia supports the Feminist League and adds its own slogan:

**Half of the World - to Women,  
Half of the Kitchen - to Men!**

*photo by Umida Akhmedova*

Sister Regards to All the People of Sister Soviet Republics!

Resign Male Governments!

Cancel Sexist Constitutions!

We Fight for Equal Opportunity Government!

We Fight for Women Interests Lobbying Parliament!

No to Male Privatization!

No to Brutal Reforms!

Give Us Beauty Contest for Guys!

Men! Ne Cherchez pas la Femme, when it's your fault!

All People are Sisters!

Fight to World Feminism Enemies!

Vote for Feminists, the Patriots!

Women Have Rights for Half of Land, Half of Air, Half of Authority!

Be Worthy of Your Mother's Glory!

No More than Rights to Men; no Less than Rights to Women!



Women are Majority, who Lives the Life of Minority. Stop Inequality!

### WE ANNOUNCE COMPETITION FOR FEMINIST SLOGANS AND MOTTOS

Dear readers, please send your own slogans to our address with "Feminist Motto" in the subject line. The best mottos will be published in the next year's C@ucAsia March issue

Alma BEKTURGANOVA-ANDERSEN,  
Denmark

**market's iron clutch**

# CLARA'S HOUSE SOLD AND RUINED

historic building, where March 8 was announced, destroyed in Copenhagen



*the House  
in its last days*

*photo by Alma  
Bekturganova-Andersen*

The Youth House, that became the reason for public riots recently, used to bear another name. In 1890s, this building was known as the People's House and belonged to Denmark's labor movement. This was the place where ideas of social equality and social protection today's Denmark is so proud of, appeared for the first time. The history of the People's House includes a lot of historic events. One of these events is special for the women's movement. In 1910, the People's House hosted international women's conference, where one of its participants, German communist and feminist Clara Zetkin, came out with the proposal to initiate an international holiday; the day of fight for the women's rights. As the time passed, the House passed to the hands of the youth.

All times' youth has problems. For some fifteen years, the House was the arena for a social experiment. The youth it hosted, worked out its own regulations for

living in the house. Besides other, the regulations declared solidarity for all the House residents, who did not have any leaders, but elected their parliament. The regulations forbid any kind of violence and use of drugs. The House hosted so-called problem youth; those, who appeared in difficult circumstances and did not have any other place to live.

In 2000, Copenhagen Commune, that used to support the experiment previously, unexpectedly displayed the building for sale. After series of resale, the house became a property of certain religious organization that demanded from the house inhabitants to free the building. Initially, the youth organized peaceful protest actions requesting justice. Number of local organizations created a fund in support of the House, and the House owners were offered significant amount of money, which exceeded five times the amount they planned to sell it for; but the owners refused. Finally,





one of 500 arrested?  
Riots were suppressed  
and the life returned to  
its regular mode

photo by  
Alexey Smulsky,  
Estonia

the youth found out about the new owners' decision to destroy the house. And protest actions began. Over 500 activists were arrested as the result of the riots, and some 20 cars were burnt down. Thanks God, there were no serious injuries, and the city lived its regular life during these events. While municipal officials calculated the damage, the House owners began dismantling process. Protected

by police and wearing masks, workers began destroying the historic building, when on the opposite side of the road there appeared flowers. That was how Copenhagen residents marked the part of their history. I also brought flowers on behalf of CaucAsia's women's organizations. It was so sad.



the house was ruined completely, and now people bring flowers and toys to this place.

photo by Alexey Smulsky, Estonia



this black flag was displayed here after the women's demonstration of March 8. Inscription says: "they took away our house." Probably, the final would not be so sad, if the women's organizations would be more active from the very beginning. Maybe they could be exactly who protects the interests of kids.

photo by Marat Bekturganov, Denmark

Vafa SALEH,  
Azerbaijan

**pros and cons**

# TV SPOILS OUR WIVES

making them to understand  
themselves better, men believe

*According to different philosophers, collision of different cultures will soon become the reason for the global discord in the world. This process has already begun in Azerbaijan, involving different fields of life.*

Recently, there appeared the following opinion in Azerbaijan: "It is necessary to ban foreign soap operas, as they negatively influence our culture." I asked several men I know: "What exactly is the negative influence about?" And they answered me angrily:

- Azerbaijani women start living independently from men;
- They divorce their husbands if the latter cheat;
- Women realized that they have legal rights for their husbands' property;
- Women strive for decision-making positions;
- Women want to drive;
- Women now feel free smoking cigarettes;
- To become mothers, they don't have to be officially married.

Etcetera...

This is only a part of men's opinions on the negative impact of globalization. Men strongly dislike this situation, while women's opinion is the opposite, as they believe the changes opens new horizons to them. It provokes new conflicts as well, however.

A woman named Mahbuba addressed to our organization claiming domestic violence in her family. She said that her husband does not allow her to watch TV, and thus she is unable to get information she wants

"Once I sit down to watch a movie or a TV show on women's rights or simply on the lives of women abroad, my husband makes me to switch the channel. When I protest, he says: "It was so good back in the Soviet times, when all the peo-

ple watched only one TV channel. But today the TV takes our wives away and breaks the families!"

We invited Mahbuba's husband to our office. During the conversation, this 44 years old man did not show sign of changing his opinion, saying that soap operas negatively influence Azerbaijani women in general and his wife in particular. Poor Mahbuba!

But everything is comparative in this world. Our organization, the Clear World, conducted research of refugee families from Chechnya, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, who presently live in Azerbaijan. Women refugees stated that Azerbaijani women have "much more freedom" than those living in their home countries...

One of men, a refugee from Afghanistan, who participated in the focus group work, said:

"According to our traditions, we should not be speaking about our family lives. There are plenty of other limitations as well. It is very bad to be a refugee, as another country's culture has its negative impact on us..."

I think that men's opinion is quite understandable: they simply see how they loose their previous power, and it scares them.



*older generation remains being more or less traditional, but the youth is 'spoiled' completely - they want to be independent.*

*photo by Umida Akhmedova*



Nurjan TULEGABYLOVA,  
Kyrgyzstan

**in essence**

# IN CHARGE FOR THE MEALS

she'd rather starve herself  
to death,  
than takes a delicious titbit

Food for sure plays an important role in our lives, both from the physical and social points of view. Throughout our entire history, women of all nations had closer relation with food production than men. The world practice shows that women produce and process the main volume of the world's food. Certain feminists believe that this role is the power women possess. But this factor is to a greater extent a tool for suppressing women. It can be seen at the example of Kyrgyz women. Let me quote several statements:

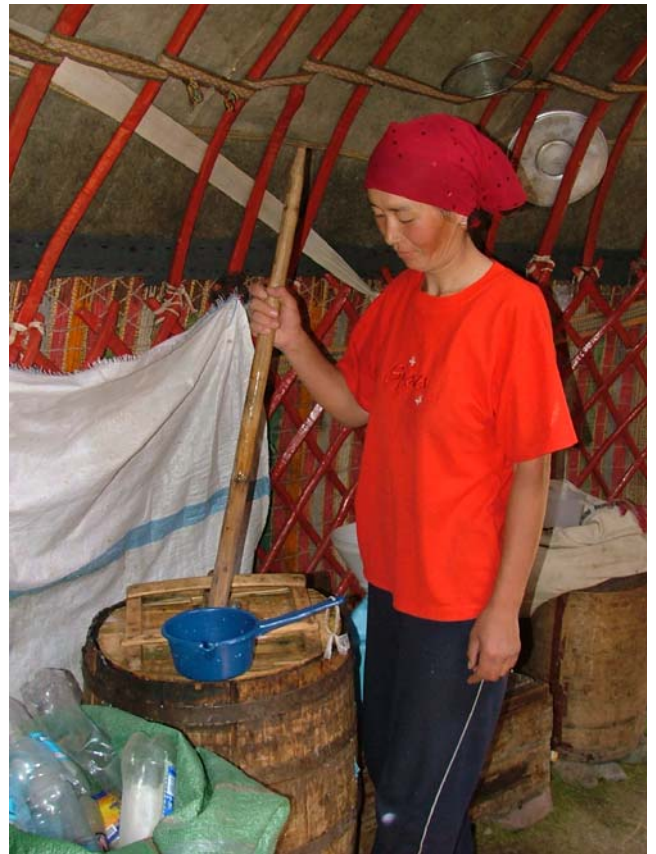
"My mother taught me that the best food should always be given to father and husband. And I always do so." (Anara, 36)

"I don't understand why it is common for Kyrgyz families: we do not start eating until man, the head of the family, sits down at the table. I understand that this is for showing respect, but there are other ways to demonstrate your respect to your husband." (Kyal, 19)



...let's face it: relatives take our offering as a matter of course

photo by Nurjan Tulegabylova



false measure not in favor of the cook

photo by Nurzhan Tulegabylova

"When you are pregnant, you get the best food from your husband and his family, but once you give birth to a baby, everything changes. Amn't I a human?" (Merim, 28)

"Man is a breadwinner. He should be eating the best and the most delicious food. (Asia, 73)

"If there is something special to eat, I give it to my husband and kids. I was taught to do so." (Asel, 32)

Women starve more often than men, in poor families, they get only minimal meals. They are always ready to sacrifice their health for the sake of their families and their kids. However, theoretically they can keep a titbit for yourself. But it is hard to imagine that an average Kyrgyz mother and wife would do so. Mostly, men get more food. The food is being used as a 'weapon' when fighting for superiority and power.

It is known that there are millions of people in the world, who starve, despite every country's economy is capable to provide its citizens with sufficient food. Are all the reasons of economic matter? A hungry person who has no stabile access to healthy food can not be independent, self-confident and protected.

Apologists of globalization state that through bringing new technologies, globalization would increase the volume of food in the world. But critics respond that the huger in the world is not the cause of the lack of food, and that hunger is caused by particular economic, social and political reasons. And humanitarian aid, that is being distributed by rich countries once in a while does not solve the problem

Hungry people do not need alms, but technologies and stabile economic development.

# SOS!

sound of alarm

## WATER FOR SALE

This issue appears on the agenda once so often. Authorities intend to build new plants that will bottle our water and sell it abroad. The God did not give us a good government, we are unlucky with our presidents. And the only gifts that we possess are water, air and sun. But water seems to be on sale.

*Nato Keresedze,  
peasant, Racha region, Georgia*



we still have plenty of water, and we don't want it to be in deficit

photo by Diana Petriashvili



Where should I go now?

photo by Diana Petriashvili

# SOS!

sound of alarm

## HOW MANY TIMES WILL I BECOME A REFUGEE?

We live in *Maspindzeli* hotel, it is located at the Railway Square in Tbilisi. The building is half-ruined, very wet and dark. We take shelter here and make fire outside to get warmer. We are the refugees from Abkhazia, and we live in the circumstances like this for many years already. We lost everything at the war, but even today we are losing this building. To turn us out of house, authorities stopped supplying us with electricity and water. My husband and my parents died at the war, and I have only a child I brought up in Russia. But we were deported from there. Recently, I found out that I am seriously ill. I addressed to different structures, but nobody pays attention to me. I went to the minister of refugees and placement, but he said rude things and showed the door to me.

*Kety Kvaratskhelia, internally displaced person,  
Tbilisi*

## United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA):

**37 million people around the world are refugees. Women and children make over 65 percent of this figure**





Tinatin MZHAVANADZE,  
 Georgia  
**fake**

# WILL I TRUST MANANA? NO WAY!

this woman MP has two positions: one is for Europe,  
 and another one for internal use

My priorities are sharply defined: I need to struggle for cleanness of the house, for health, education and morality of my children. Besides this, I need to fight against stupid superstitions, irresponsibility of doctors and teachers. I want my country to live in the harmonious world and to be worthy among the equals, to have no wars, epidemics, corruption and environmental misbalance - to put it briefly, there is enough work to do for several generations.

The arena for the fight is wide and many-sided, and the enemy is generally very well-observed: abstract ideas are being proclaimed by concrete and tangible people. It is not easy to find trustworthy allies, who would provide you with ideologic and status home front.

Sometimes, you appear at a fight, when you are sure of being strongly protected, but all of a sudden a person you believed to be your ally just leaves the battle and goes to the hostile camp; thus discrediting the idea you fight for. Manana Nachkebia, MP, New Rights political party member, was asked at one of Georgian entertainment TV shows: what do you do as the member of gender rights commission? What do you fight for? What are the women's problems about? And this female politician answered with gentle smile on her face: actually, all these gender affairs are being financed from abroad, in reality, she, Manana Nachkebia, entirely accepts men's superiority, and considers that a man should know how to put a woman on her place. Otherwise, she will go too far demanding too much.

"We do not ask you to implement our, the women's, job," Nachkebia, the opposition member and the leader of women's rights fighters said, "we will do our job ourselves, just give us equal opportunities!"

That was her reply on the question wither her husband does the dishes, when she comes home late and tired.

Even a well-experienced male chauvinist would not be able to discredit idea of gender equality as skillfully, as this lady, is in charge for promoting these ideas! Ms. Nachkebia nearly apologized for dealing with such harmful and seditious ideas that are even disgraceful for a real Georgian woman!

What makes her to act this way?

Unscrupulousness and cowardice - this is my diagnosis. Unfortunately, there are many other women who are infected with this illness. I believe that women are exactly who provokes the most of iniquity; and our overall cowardice is the reason behind the unfair treatment.

Now my question is: who should be charged? How can we convince a regular peasant from any tiny Georgian village

that she actually is equal with a man, and that she is not supposed to bear with humiliation? How is it possible, in the case when even high-ranking officials discredit this idea and demonstrate that our country's alleged aspiration towards gender equality is just a bow to the West? How is it possible in the case when even brilliant Western education does not guarantee that Georgian politicians get rid of barbarism in their minds?

Public opinion is extremely inflexible, and none of us likes to be associated with a non-popular idea. I suspect that the society faces split of national idea: we want to keep being a traditional country, but at the same time we want to use all the boons of western civilization, including private property regulations and the Human Rights Declaration.



*...just as violinist, just as playing...  
 But there is no music!*

*photo by Polina Miloradovich*



# SOS!

sound of alarm

## WRONG PEOPLE IN CHARGE FOR GENDER!

Gender movement reminds an avalanche: big changes appeared in this field throughout the recent five years. Previously, we didn't even know what gender was about, but today there are already certain state structures that are assumed to deal with gender. From one hand, it is good that these structures exist, and it is necessary to make them work. But from the other hand, these commissions and councils remain being formal only. They are needed by the authorities to demonstrate how democratic the country is, and that it can be accepted to the European unions. Various gender state councils are generally headed by the people who can be easily managed and directed by the authorities. Gender literacy of a head of such structure is not among the top priorities, and these people are likely to demonstrate discrediting illiteracy and oftentimes voice the ideas that are simply hostile for women.

I think, Europe should not be content with the formal solutions only. And the women's movement should be more conjoint in promoting its own candidates to alike positions.

*Roza Kukhalashvili,  
Tbilisi*



*it seems that we discriminate us ourselves, when letting illiterate people manage gender  
photo by Polina Miloradovich*

## SAVE OUR CHILDREN

# SOS!

sound of alarm

My son is 10 years old. He likes to eat potato chips, to drink coke, and to play computer games. There is plenty of blood in these games, and there are a lot of chemicals in that kind of food and drinks he likes. I so many times promised myself that I'd change his childhood, that I'd throw away all his CD discs and that I'd stop use of all that crunchy and fizzy junk. But far from it. It is all so omnipresent, that it is impossible to fight it. Someone wants to sell it and to earn millions, and despite I realize it, I can not change anything to protect my child.

*Lubov Cherkizova,  
Kiev*

Ruta PELS,  
Estonia

**chiaroscuro**

# SAVING ONE'S SOUL

## LIVING IN GLOBAL VILLAGE

### mothers' and grandmothers' role



*moving abroad is very stressful. Your mother's hands are a life buoy that waits for you at home*

*photo by Umida Akhmedova*

It became especially visible after the country entered the European Union. Despite many of 'old' European countries still follow the transitional acceptance of new member states' labor force, Estonian descendants actively open up Ireland, Great Britain and neighboring Finland. Gender aspect is especially significant in this process.

First Estonian 'White Widows' appeared as constructors and bus drivers migrated to Finland. At best, wives see their husbands, who work on the opposite side of the gulf, once a week. But generally, couple reunite once every two or three months. But the new salaries of migrates, significantly exceed those they used to get in their homeland, and this fact smoothes over the separation.

Ireland now hosts both men and women; some of them go there for a couple of months to earn some money, others spend years there. Young people get married, build families and have kids - Irish laws allow you to have local citizenship in the case your baby has one.

White Widows - this is how Italians named their women, who were left alone without their labor migrant husbands. It is common for the people to travel in the world, but sometimes it happens that all nations move for better lives simultaneously. Globalization is amongst the reasons for mass migration in the world: residents of African and Asian countries move to Europe and America; Latin Americans go to the US, the residents of former USSR can be met practically anywhere in the world. Estonia is also participating in this process. Back in the Soviet times, migration from USSR was generally caused by political reasons, but in early 1990es, economic migration appeared.

Alike situation is in Great Britain as well, however, economic migration to this country is not always legal. Tens of intermediating companies propose temporary jobs available in Great Britain. Many of those people who used this opportunity, stay in that country. There already is some sort of Estonian Colony in London, which includes also Tallinn and Narva communities in it.

Those residents of Narva and other places of Russian North-East of Estonia, who could not afford going abroad move to Tallinn. Many of them build careers in local private and state companies, after learning the national language.

The vacant positions are generally occupied by rural residents and by foreign immigrants - Polish develop construction market, Ukrainians are dealing with ship repair, Estonian North-East is generally very glad to employ Russian doctors.

In the streets of Estonian cities it is now common to see African, Asian and Latin American origins. But the local villages with traditional agriculture remain

empty. At local grocery stores there are goods produced far away from Estonia - Danish and German butter, American and New Zealand meat, fruits are from Spain and Morocco. It is very exotic. It is globalization...

But who benefits from it? First of all, both employers and employees are those who benefit. An employer gets necessary and cheaper labor force, while an employee (who might be unemployed at all) gets a job with higher income than in his home country.

But not all people are ready to leave their home country, as working abroad is not a journey, but a real life with all its trials and tribulations. Besides this, even in the case of an official invitation, no one has any guarantees for fair treatment at the new working place, and for social protection. It is not easy to get used to the new environment with its traditions and cultural values. New labor migrants generally have to decide how much they want to be integrated into the new society. They either accept their new country and their new nationality entirely, or try to preserve their own national qualities and traditions.

Moving abroad is full of stresses, and family members, children of labor migrants are sometimes those who suffer the most, as it is very hard for them to deal with new language, with new schools, kindergartens, traditions and food. It is not easy for average Estonians, who are quiet and self-restrained, to interact with loud Irish.

People often say that our planet is a 'Global Village.' Every resident of this global community should have

*I interviewed Katya, a prostitute from Narva. She said: "Oh this globalization! I went to Helsinki and Stockholm to work there and just came back to Estonia. My place appeared to be occupied both in Tallinn and Narva! Too many young girls came here from Russia, Ukraine, Moldova..."*

*Actually, situation is the same for housemaids. While Estonian women go to Germany and Poland, German housemaids work in UAE and the US, and women from Moldova and Ukraine come to work in Estonia.*

*Ruta Pels, Tallinn*

his own place, where he can speak his native language and use his unique culture. And the woman's role in these circumstances is very important, regardless of where her family lives. Mothers and grandmothers of these families represent some sort of a border zone distinguishing new and habitual lives, dividing aggressive external and comfortable internal worlds of the family. Despite of the global migration in the world, the majority of families preserve their identity: in Estonia, Georgians, Ossetians, Tatars, Armenians and Azerbaijanis remain being Georgians, Ossetians, Tatars, Armenians and Azerbaijanis. And even if they do not look any special in the streets of Estonian cities and speak fluently national language of Estonia, they have something special in their houses, that was preserved by their mothers and grandmothers - be it an ancient decoration or national cuisine. Preserving one's individuality, when accepting all the colors of the modern world is the main point of globalization.

## ORDINARY AND SCARY

# SOS!

sound of alarm

A young girl came to Astana to start working. At the very first night, some men came to the house where she stayed together with her friend. Her friend said that it was her birthday and she invited guests. But in reality, the men were Turkish workers of a local construction company. They scared the girl and took away all her papers.

This is how girls get engaged in internal trafficking. The scheme is simple: some young woman comes to a village and tells a story about how lucky she was to find a good job in the capital. Young village girls believe her and follow her to the capital.

*Ziash Ishmukhanova,  
Karaganda, Kazakhstan.*

## ESCAPED FROM CAPTIVITY, BUT KILLED AT HOME

A friend of mine became trafficking victim. She was forced to prostitution abroad, and could not escape for two years. It was a miracle that she managed to get back home. But later, back home, there appeared some people who told her family everything and even showed her photo pictures. That woman committed suicide, she could not bear that disgrace. But what was her fault?!

*(please do not name me)*



Alma BEKTURGANOVA-ANDERSEN,  
Denmark

## in one boat

# PROTECTING NATION FROM MIGRANTS WITHOUT FALLING INTO NATIONALISM

as planned by the leader of Danish People's Party

*Migration is especially challenging for women. Migration to the European countries has women's face almost entirely. And every new step of the European countries' governments on protection of their borders, challenges women first of all, confronting their rights and opportunities.*

*All European countries have political parties focused on 'the purity of the nation.' But Danish People's Party is the only one in Europe that is included into the ruling bloc and makes the government and the society follow its rules. Today's migration legislation of Denmark is the strictest in Europe; it repeatedly caused criticism of human rights organizations. According to some experts, Pia Kjersgaard, the leader of the Party, is the third most influential politician of the country. Her rating is even higher than that of Margareta II, ruling queen of Denmark, beloved by the majority of Danish citizens. Pia Kjersgaard agreed to answer our questions.*

**Do you feel uncomfortable, when your party is dubbed as nationalist?**

I disagree with alike epithets. We simply demand from immigrants to follow those rules we have in Denmark. We are a small country, and we don't want to lose identity in the era of globalization.

**You emphasize on the immigrants with Muslim background. Why?**

Islam causes problems. Of course, there are plenty of examples of successful integration of Muslims, but general situation is troublesome, and not only in Denmark. It is completely different culture, different religion, different attitude. Our cultures are far from each other. The simple example is that Muslim children can not participate in school activities along with Danish children, as they are not allowed by their traditional parents. Their women stay at home all the time, they are not allowed to interact with the society they live in. I think that women are highly discriminated in Muslim religion.

**And you are not afraid of speaking about it in such an open manner?**

In the middle of 1980-es, I was the first politician, who voiced this problem. And I will continue speaking about this problem, just as I always did. This is my opinion and my position. Today other politicians have also begun expressing their anxiety, back in 1980-es, it was hard to imagine. Some people have just realized it recently, that this issue is on the agenda and that the problem needs to be discussed.

**Have you ever thought about possible negative consequences of the new rules for receiving Danish citizenship? These new rules mostly challenge women, who get absolutely dependent on their husbands for seven years. In the case of any dissatisfaction of the husband, a woman can be deported from Denmark**

It is necessary to accept the price one has to pay for immigrating into a different country.



*some of them had to pay twice for daring to move abroad...*

*photo by Umida Akhmedova*

**In the list of the Danish Peoples Party candidates, there are no foreigners. Is it the principal position of your party?**

First of all, you should ask this question foreigners. Besides this, only Danish citizen can become the member of our party. I admit that someday a foreigner might become our candidate.

**Do you feel okay, when it is said that only people with low education vote for your party? In particular, I mean the data saying that within Danish Peoples Party there are only 3 percent of people with higher education degrees.**

It is possible that we have many people with lower education degrees. What's wrong with it? I think it's snobbism, when people try to limit other people. For example, it is difficult to place DPP in the political specter - should it be on the right, on the left or in the center. Our policy in immigration field is very strict, but it is rather moderate in the social field. We can not be considered as a rightist party, as rightist parties are focused on a liberal idea, but we support social guarantees.

**Have you ever had situations, when being a woman was an obstacle for you?**

I have to admit, that I used to be suppressed and humiliated in my political career. I think, I would not face all that if I'd be a man. There were no limits about saying negative things to me and about me. I think, a man would be treated differently.

**Is it difficult to combine politics with family life? If it is, is it equally difficult or both genders?**

I started my political career when my kids were comparatively big. I think it is extremely hard, to live active political life, for a woman with little children. My husband has always been supporting me. But I would not be able to do what I managed to do, if my children were little. Some people are quite successful in this, but I don't realize how they manage to organize it all.

**Do today's Danish women have problems different from that of men's?**

I don't think so. We live in the developed liberal society, we have an absolute equality between men and women. I think they treat each other adequately.

**What would you tell us about your family?**

I am the first politician in my family, and I became one quite late. My parents support me. I have two adult children and three grandchildren. Oftentimes, when I get criticized, it affects them as well. But my children will never become politicians, they have different interests. It is useful and pleasant for me, to discuss completely different problems with my children. My family is another big and important part of my life.



she is not all that scary,  
the danger of all foreigners of Denmark

photo by Alma Bekturganova-Andersen

## ...NOT VERY SERIOUSLY

*Overheard dialog at Turkmen village wedding:*

"You know, Sheker, this world turned on its head! A Turkmen girl marries a foreigner, can you believe it?"

"That's right, Altyn. When we were young, a girl would not marry a guy from another district. But now they go to Germany and America! Do you know how Maya met her Hans? In the internet, people say."

"What does that mean?"

"I don't know exactly, but my nephews said internet is something like TV, but you can talk on it, just like on the phone."

"And they spoke on it, huh? I would feel so embarrassed if I'd be her parent..."

recorded by Altyn Akhmedova,  
Ashgabat

# WITNESS

has extended  
the application deadline  
for inaugural  
Video Advocacy Institute (VAI)  
to April 5, 2007

**About the VAI: The Video Advocacy Institute, our newest initiative and the first of its kind, is an innovative program that will train human rights defenders to successfully integrate video advocacy into their social change campaigns. The VAI will be held in association with Concordia University's Communication Studies Program and Documentary Centre**

**When: July 15 - July 27, 2007**  
**Where: Montreal, Canada**

The VAI grew out of WITNESS' resolve to meet the rising demand for training in the use of video for human rights and social justice advocacy. Over the last 15 years, WITNESS has worked to provide video equipment and training to human rights defenders across the globe. We have become experts in providing specialized instruction in video advocacy to the increasing number of NGOs and individual advocates who use digital media in their social change campaigns. These intensive trainings give activists the skills they need to bring unseen images, untold stories and seldom heard voices to the attention of the audiences who hold the power to create lasting change.

VAI participants will learn key video advocacy skills including how to:

- Plan the strategic use of video as a targeted tool for change in a human rights campaign, and apply this learning to their own work;
- Plan and shoot on Mini-DV video cameras, and learn the basics of editing;
- Make appropriate decisions on safety, security and consent;
- Craft effective advocacy narratives - 'storytelling for action';
- Distribute their video to key audiences;
- Use video as evidence; and
- Use online video for advocacy.

During this training there will be focused sessions to apply the learning to planning for a video project that participants will implement upon completing the VAI.

Dear C@ucAsia,

I am writing to ask if you would share the below Call for Applications for WITNESS' 2007 Video Advocacy Institute (VAI) with your network and include it in your magazine! Should you have any further questions about this new project, please do not hesitate to email me at: [kelly@witness.org](mailto:kelly@witness.org)  
All the best and thank you for your assistance,

Kelly Matheson,  
Coordinator, Video Advocacy Institute



This training will provide an immersive introduction in video advocacy for a group of 25-30 dedicated human rights advocates from across the globe working on some of the most challenging human rights issues facing our world today. Specifically, the VAI is aimed at human rights activists that are:

- Staff members positioned within a human rights organization to develop a project during the VAI and to implement the project by completing production, editing and strategic distribution after the course; and
- Individual activists with a record of successful collaboration with human rights organizations.

**To Learn More:** Please go to [www.witness.org/vai](http://www.witness.org/vai) <<http://www.witness.org/vai>> and click on **Institute Information and Guidelines** for detailed information about the VAI:

**VAI Application** to download an application  
For Information about Course Fees: Please go to [www.witness.org/vai](http://www.witness.org/vai) <<http://www.witness.org/vai>> and then click on **Institute Information and Guidelines**. Financial assistance to cover course fees and travel expenses is available based on the organization's or individual's need.

If you would like further information about the VAI not answered at [www.witness.org/vai](http://www.witness.org/vai) <<http://www.witness.org/vai>>, please write to us at [vai@witness.org](mailto:vai@witness.org) <<mailto:vai@witness.org>>

Sincerely,  
Sam Gregory  
Program Manager Strategic Networks  
and  
Kelly Matheson  
Video Advocacy Institute Coordinator



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