



# International Seminar

“enGender Peacebuilding:  
1325 reasons to do so!”

March 28-April 1, 2011  
Baku, Azerbaijan



## Concept Note

It is assumed that peacebuilding is a long-term process that occurs after violent conflict has slowed down or come to cessation of hostilities and understood as the phase of the peace process that takes place after peacemaking and peacekeeping. A number of inter-agency and civil society organisations recognize peacebuilding as a comprehensive concept that encompasses not only long-term transformative efforts, but also peacemaking and peacekeeping. In this view, peacebuilding includes not only the nation building (governance and rule of law) but a cross cutting early warning and response efforts, violence prevention, advocacy work, civilian and military peacekeeping, military intervention, humanitarian assistance, ceasefire agreements, and the establishment of peace territories.

### Aims and goals:

1. This seminar is meant to critically look at the gender dimension of peacebuilding which is measured by known critics as likely gender blind and does not consider the importance of integrating gender equality and women's empowerment into the peacebuilding progression. In particular, in the context of the regions of Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus, where strong feminine discourse is out of agenda, but severe outcomes of conflicts still exist, this issue needs to be addressed.
2. By this seminar we want to drag attention of youth leaders to the issue that peacebuilding cannot succeed if half the population is excluded from the process and that peace agreements, post-conflict reconstruction, and governance do better when women are involved. Women can make a difference, in part because they adopt a more inclusive approach toward security and address key social and economic issues that would otherwise be ignored. But women remain marginalized in formal processes and under-represented in peacebuilding reconstruction as a whole, particularly in above mentioned regions.
3. In particular, as already name of it mentions, this seminar will examine why the international community speaks a great deal about including women in formal peace-making processes and recognizing their peacebuilding contributions but sadly fails to do so in a systematic, meaningful way. Advances have been made in understanding the links between gender, development, human rights, peace, security and justice. UN Security Council Resolution 1325<sup>1</sup> reaffirmed the role of women in preventing and resolving conflicts and mandates UN member states to take steps to increase women's participation in decision-making. Then again, prevalent discrimination and sexual violence are significant barriers to achieving Resolution 1325's goals.
4. This seminar will also look at the UN response to sexual and gender based violence in terms of prevention, protection and response in peacekeeping operations and in humanitarian settings. It will examine how peacebuilding affects women and men and results in gender specific disadvantages that are not always recognized or addressed by the mainstream, gender blind understandings of rehabilitation and reconstruction. It will look at the context of gender inequality struggle that exists in peacebuilding periods and are exacerbated by armed conflict and its aftermath.
5. This seminar is an introduction to the recognition of women's value and the importance of gender framework in peacebuilding and humanitarian work.

---

<sup>1</sup> UNSC Resolution 1325 was the first Security Council Resolution specifically addressing the disproportionate and unique impact of war on women, and women's special under-valued and under-utilized contributions to conflict resolution and sustainable peace. It urges women's equal and full participation as active agents in peace and security.

6. The project will look at case studies of women's role and participation in peace processes, as well as peace negotiations without the presence of women. This imbalances silenced women's right to be heard on the hard issues of war and peace, and meant that issues such as internal displacement, sexual violence, human trafficking, abuses by government and rebel security forces, and the rebuilding of maternal health care and girls' education are generally ignored.

### **Methodology:**

Our seminar intends to integrate various aspects of non-formal education methods such as workshops, facilitated discussions, daily plenary sessions and etc.

In order to present the participants with different methods, we are planning to organize **daily plenary sessions**, followed by Questions & Answers session (an introduction to the theme, daily gathering of all participants).

We are planning to apply these elements during the seminar:

**Workshops** (participants will be divided into small groups) will provide a platform to exchange experiences and give opportunity to learn new things in an interesting informal way; give a chance to check gained knowledge in the simulation that is very much related to practice. Through different kind of interactive workshops we will seek to bring out prior learning transferable skills through the creative participation of youth workers.

**Practical simulation games**, where participants will be able to transfer their experience into practice and gain other competences on peer to peer learning principle.

**Open Space Technology**, we will offer a space for youth workers to discuss among them different aspects of Gender and Conflict Resolution. As well this method will be used for creating new project and as well for establishing further partnerships.

**Games, intercultural & interactivity games** will give the opportunity to get to know each other better. Games create a situation in which representatives of various backgrounds have to cooperate with each other; games teach participants how to work in the diverse groups.

**Others Non-formal evaluation methods**, which help us to reflect what we have learnt, how we felt and how the program met our needs and expectations.

*The project is prepared by the Azerbaijan Youth Euro-Atlantic Organization in cooperation with Youth Generation (Moldova), My Tutor (Lithuania), Youth Association Droni (Georgia) and Georgian Youth Atlantic Treaty Association and financial support of European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe.*

### **International travel, meal and accommodation costs of the Seminar:**

Organizers will cover the expenses of the local transportation, accommodation, meals and educational materials for the participants. Limited number of scholarships for covering travel expenses of the participants is available.

### **Application and Deadlines, Procedure and Selection of Participants:**

All candidates must apply using the enclosed application form together with their CV. The application form and CV should be sent directly to the email address of office@agaat.az

**not later than 11 of March 2011.**

The Working Group of the Project will make the selection of 25 participants on the basis of the application and experience. In addition, the team will try to ensure a balance between gender, geographical regions, and different types of experiences, cultural backgrounds and organizations.