

The wars in the former republic of Yugoslavia have demonstrated that incredible acts of violence are possible even in the heart of Europe.

Women and children were amongst those most affected by the war, by human rights violations and by sexual violence.

This year, the international negotiations on the future of the Kosovo started in Vienna. Although women of the Balkan area are essential in the process of reconciliation and in securing a lasting peace, there are sadly no women represented at these negotiations. In this panel discussion, the future of the Kosovo is highlighted from the perspective of UN Security Council Resolution No 1325, stressing the impact of women on the peace process.

PROGRAM

Welcome:

Barbara Prammer

Deputy Speaker of the Austrian National Council

Introduction:

Helga Konrad

Former Minister for Womens' Affairs and Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings OSCE

Key note address:

Noeleen Heyzer,

Executive Director of UNIFEM

Panel:

Wolfgang Petritsch

Former High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sonia Biserko

Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Belgrade

Edita Tahiri

Democratic Alternative for Kosovo

Chair:

Melita H. Sunjic

Senior Humanitarian Expert with the UN

The panel discussion is organised in cooperation with the Dr. Karl-Renner-Institute and will be held in English.

Refreshments will be served after the discussion.

Barbara Prammer, Deputy Speaker of the National Council

and

the Austrian National Committee for UNIFEM

cordially invite you to attend a panel discussion on

WOMEN'S IMPACT ON SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN THE BALKANS

on Friday, September 8th 2006, 2 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.
in the MP conference room of the Austrian Parliament.

Access and registration:

Please use the main entrance, Dr. Karl Renner-Ring 3.

The Parliament Directorate kindly request that you confirm your attendance using the enclosed fax reply form or by calling +43-1/40110-2249 (recorded message).

This invitation and a government-issued ID will authorize you to enter the Parliament building.

Please present this invitation at the main entrance and, as the event will start punctually, keep in mind that the security procedure at the entrance will take some time.