

Annual Report 2012

The first half of 2012 was all about elections and turmoil of power change. Parties' campaigns and dragging in establishing parliamentary majority and the government were eating public space. Heating debate among voters, reminiscences of atmosphere of 90-ies, political blurring of boundaries regarding neighboring states, deepening of economic crisis and poverty without structural way-out, all were disturbing, leading citizens into unclear and potentially dangerous near future. Our director of National Library Sreten Ugricic was politically fired in January. Previously he wrote a book about future year 2012: "Serbia is marvelous, pity it does not exist. Serbia is creepy, good that it does not exist. "

Women's groups gathered together around writing Shadow report for CEDAW (the state was supposed to stand before the Committee in October). Voluntary self-organized engagement of feminists started in January with drafting List of critical issues for CEDAW (for the preparation process of the Committee), and in August they sent full compiled report entitled "Shadow over Serbia". Specific two shadow reports were written as well, by Roma women and women with disabilities activists. A team of activists was prepared to go to Geneva to represent the shadow reports. Meanwhile the State report was regularly processed by the Committee. In mid September the alarm came that Serbia's participation was canceled. Activists' investigation showed that the state did not write the platform and did not organize governmental team. Activists' demand was sent to the government that it is a must to fulfill its international obligations etc.

After months of dragging, Gay Pride which was scheduled for October 6, was banned. During the summer, the news came that Russian judges banned Gay Pride for 100 years. It was a legalistic comedy, including hard trail to Pussy Riot. In public advocating against Gay Pride in Serbia, Ukrainian Parliament's initiative for criminalization of homosexuality was quoted. Finally the Pride was banned, the program had to stay indoors. Final conclusion of the President of Serbia was that violence against LGBT population would occur in Serbia EVERAFTER. Serbian Orthodox Church was very active, with improved skills to send demands for the ban. The youngest expansive political party "Dveri" (church language for the doors), became prominent opinion makers. Perfect mechanism is now constructed: right wing, fascist, football fans and other groups send threats and the government (after some "analyses) ban the manifestation on bases of security reasons. No one has to bother any more. That IS alarming.

Concerning fascism, Serbia rides on the high wave of rehabilitation of collaborators of the Third Reich and Tchetniks sentenced for war crimes in WWII. Srebrenica genocide

and status of Kosovo are debated by the highest officials on the national public scene by suborn populism and demagogy and by international show-off, reminding very much of Milosevic time and himself personally.

Some economists claim that Serbia is “in the zone of informal bankruptcy” with economic “metastasis of public sector”.

In November the Serbian Populist Movement “Nasi” launched “a black list of anti-Serbian NGOs”. Among the 18 organizations there are Women in Black, Autonomous Women’s Center and Reconstruction Women’s Fund.

In late December there was an attempt of Ministry of Justice to lessen penalties for crimes of rape, pedophilia and human trafficking crimes which was stopped (for the time being) in the last moment.

So we work in an aggressive political environment. How would we call it: challenges, crisis or an intentional going backwards? Activists will have to conclude what energy investment has sense and a way; How to protect themselves from attacks and bans; Who is receptive audience and genuine partner; To fight against marginalization and erasure, or to invent and reconcile own deliberate outsiders’ position; To work further on the language and comprehensive political statements; To care about human and financial sustainability; To protect from political corruption etc. RWF is among them. We believe we could respect our own experience, judgments and political history. It was our way of opening future, thinking beyond the present fear and depression, relying on our value system and on historically defined and proved feminist political platform. The only way to decide about meaningful practices of protection of women’s human rights in Serbia is to acknowledge the root causes of derogation of WHR. As explained above, the roots are deep and quite lethal. Hence we consider the collective of antimilitarist activists who claim that confronting the past does not harm future, active women citizens who believe in their own responsibility, social justice activists who understand intersectionality of injustice, racism and war consequences, anti-VAW activists who see continuity of war violence in post-war institutions, activists and academics who produce knowledge and cameos of political theory...

Grantmaking in 2012

Grantmaking was a dynamic field. RWF issued 31 grant in Women’s Initiatives program, 9 stipends *Zarana Papic*, 7 Rapid Response Grants and 30 grants in Special Focus program. Grantmaking amount in 2012 was 113.775 euro.

More on our grant making activities is shown on extended list of the grants we awarded through our four principal programs on our website.

When thinking the future 2011/2012, our vision for the fields was sketched in a couple of lines:

- Growth of civic agency with production of knowledge politically alert, new alliances and wider circles
- Social improvement
- Political side of the issues clear

After the two years’ work we could summarize the overall outcome of RWF’s work which did fit the vision: New experiences opened new paths. Activist/academic space,

grassroots and engaged art, this is where our community works and we have been widening it and going deeper in the way to protect, perfect and keep growing our knowledge/experiences and to open, invite and mix our partners and audiences. This is our legacy, our mission and future. This is our constructive approach to Serbia progressing backwards.

Areas of interest of RWF deepened and empowered with partners and allies

RWF's annual collective actions/campaigns which are written in our mission and Special Focus program progressed in numbers of participants, locations and agents. For the third time **8th of March Map** (printed and virtual) was organized by RWF, collecting and publishing women's groups' activities all over Serbia, including promotion of Month of Roma Women's Activism. Activities in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia were presented in our GPRS map for the first time, based on mutual political trust and popularity and respectability of the format. March of 8th of March was organized with RWF's conceptual assistance by Women in Black network with the slogan **Neither Redundant, Nor Obedient - Both Rebellious and Fostering Solidarity**. On its way, the march fixed memorial plaque for Ksenija Atanasijevic, PhD philosopher, feminist, pacifist, anti nationalist, the first woman professor hired and fired by Belgrade University. The plaque was produced from solidary feminist organizations' contributions, including RWF. This 8th of March was all with strong and clear points. It was a rich process of learning, compiling, comprehensive peer collaboration on messages and practices as a precious inner process shared with various audiences.

Complexities of Roma women activism: RWF's Commitment to Roma women activism is politically motivated.

Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights (2012) *Post-war justice and durable peace in the former Yugoslavia:*

...Despite efforts and progress achieved, impunity for war-related crimes has not been eliminated, and there are still some 13 500 missing persons whose fates have not yet been clarified.

...Despite the efforts made to date there are still about 438 000 refugees and other displaced persons, including many stateless Roma, due to the wars in the 1990s.

...Deep-rooted prejudices against Roma and lack of political will have prevented the finding of durable solutions to the serious, long-standing human rights issues concerning this population in the former Yugoslavia, as in the rest of Europe.

Roma Girls Solidarity & Pasarela: RWF invited Roma girls from our new **Roma Girls' Solidarity program** and Roma girls and young women from some other organizations – altogether they were coming from 7 towns in South Serbia to work with engaged Colombian artist Patricia Ariza who asked for diverse participants, including acting experienced and total beginners, age etc. RWF invited couple of non Roma feminist activists who have been supporting Roma Girls Solidarity program, and the artistic group from Belgrade, ACT Women with whom we cooperate for years. After a week- long work in a resort place, opening of the performance **Pasarela** was in Nis in July, a 60 minutes theater composed of 20 solo, couple and massive acts developed genuinely by the girls and the artists, facilitated and directed as a whole theater performance by Patricia Ariza. The audience was also diverse, Roma families, activists from Nis and

Belgrade, journalists, artists. The performance was brilliant, the reception too, in spite of the risk for audience to be faced with direct girls' talking and dancing through tough issues. For all of us involved this experience was impressive, based primarily on trust in genuine girls' voices and power of artistic expression. **The moment in Pasarela when general Serbian taboos - to put them in most palpable words - war rape and lesbianism, appeared, was unexpected and precious.** Roma girls from this generation have not been faced with issues of war, in spite of the facts that their families (especially from South Serbia) suffered forced military drafts, some lost their lives and others became refugees and IDPs without political recognition. On the other hand, Roma and LGBT persons and communities are the most exposed to violence in Serbia and both suffer high level of ostracism, but mostly are not meaningfully represented in wider political platform, save some exceptions like feminism. The girls met both issues with surprise and processed them into a common scene. Ariza's method of permanently producing small catharsis from within, instead of "deus ex machina" interventions, made an on-going emotionally engaging performance, where coherent elevation and numerous scenes became a sort of political consciousness raising stream. **It turned out that RWF's way of dealing with "diversities" led to a big picture.** Pasarela was also performed in Belgrade within the campaign 16 Days against Violence against Women. RWF used that opportunity to engage in making film on Pasarela to be finished in March 2013.

Sharing the comprehensive platform clear to all and open to new groups is RWF's task. We believe in right to knowledge of the marginalized and the need to build and create knowledge. Marginalized groups belong to the political existence, responsibility and power as feminists.

Critical Issue – Violence against Women

In consultative meetings and by following the complex process of women's groups positioning towards the new Law on social services, Protocols, Standards etc. it was clear that institutions only normatively recognize civic groups and have internal interests to occupy and marginalize the field of violence against women. One of major strategies was to think about the future and to join, follow and support the process. Recognizing our strategy to support local women's groups and our inputs on activism and its capacity, Autonomous Women's Center invited RWF as a partner in EU application (EIDHR). The project was selected, and from this program and the money, two extensive and in-depth trainings were organized: *Methodology of monitoring human rights* (July 24-26) and *Advocating rights of women as beneficiaries before centers for social work and police – provinces of institutions and complaining mechanisms* (September 26-29). Presenters/educators were selected from women's organizations, human rights organizations and from institutions, led by AWC's policy agenda and our shared clear politics towards VAW, with participation of women's groups' activists from all over Serbia including a number of younger volunteers. RWF also committed support if needed for all kind of initiatives coming out of the seminars.

Lesbian activism

For years now Gay Pride issue in Serbia has been draining energy, focusing LGBT organizations on advocacy and lobbying, with legalistic approach and negotiations with political parties and authorities. Labris and lesbians were the most exposed in attempts to organize Pride 2009 which was banned. In 2010 controversial Pride occurred, to be banned again in 2011 and 2012.

RWF have committed to support lesbian activism in all forms and directions widening the breathing space. *FemSlam*: sport group was formed in September 2011, gathering lesbians, bisexual, trans and friendly women. It started as an independent initiative, becoming soon an autonomous section of Labris. They approached RWF and we supported their participation in Queer Sport Weekend in Zagreb in October 2011. RWF also met the group's basic needs at home to pay fees to a sports hall and to acquire necessary equipment. The group persists in gathering and trainings, newcomers joined, and in June 2012 they asked for RWF's support to participate in *LGBTIQ* 14th Eurogames in Budapest. FemSlam is "the first and only sport group from Serbia ever to participate in Eurogames" and they were very welcomed. 13 FemSlam girls traveled to Eurogames to compete in basketball, ping-pong and athletics. One girl won the gold medal in 3 km race, the basket team was forth. Fun and solidarity, inclusion, self-initiative, cooperation and mutual support, openness... courage and expression, regional and international space – so many roads were cut by pure energy and mutual trust. **Recognition and archiving:** *Deve - LGBT cultural center* who used to have extensive publishing and art exhibitions is closing. They approached us to discuss opportunities of saving their books and collections. We helped them with public libraries contacts and provided resources for distribution and for simple archiving art objects. **All Over:** "Decent Life", Collection of Lesbian short stories from ex-Yugoslavia (21 authors from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia) was published in October. The initiator/editor Dragoslava Barzut contacted RWF and together with Labris we made strategic decisions about distribution of the book, and RWF financially supported all the costs. The book goes to libraries in Serbia, travels to the region handled by authors who volunteered to promote it. It is not only the first lesbian regional collection, but also a mutual update on new authors and good work of the gifted anthologist.

These initiatives and our support led us to think about further steps and attempts for opening space for lesbian activists. Planning and thinking about lists of interests started recently as a new step of Learning Bridges cooperation with Slovak-Czech and Georgian women's funds. We are creating space for learning, we learn on the way which is not fixed.

Four political seasons and our public statements

8th of March (continue)

The march settled from the street in Cultural Center Rex, with further indoor program with participation of women labor rights activists and Roma women's rights activists, followed by film "marathon" in cooperation of RWF and Free Zone festival. As a genuine supporter of Free Zone festival for some years, RWF inspired their team to work on women/feminist program line. As partnership and trust grew, we have been sharing our insights and information on documentary films. Vice versa, inspired and informed by Free Zone and film agenda of cultural center REX, **RWF wanted the 2012 film marathon to mirror feminist antimilitarist and rebellious political platform.** The film program for the march participants and free for audience, was open with a confronting the past, antifascist documentary *THE GOOD FATHER - A DAUGHTER'S INDICTMENT*. (*Beate Niemann came to Belgrade for the first time in 2000, searching for the truth about the past of her father, Bruno Sattler, head of the Gestapo in Belgrade,*

directly responsible for the killing of Jewish women and children in the Staro sajmište concentration camp. Her year-long investigation of her father's crimes was carefully documented by Yoash Tatari and the film The Good Father - A Daughter's Indictment was made. This documentary introduces the viewers to a woman who is ready to reveal her father's dark past in an uncompromising way and shows that her attitude has not always met with approval.) The whole program was announced in various media. In the prestige TV cultural program RWF PR Manager and Free Zone Selector came together talking about the celebration, our cooperation and the films.

Direct confrontation with a myth of loyalty in crime due to blood relationships, especially of daughters, myths of Germany's denazification and Serbian clean hands was a straightforward claim of mission of 8th March and its antifascist history as important resource for celebrating International Women's Day with Rosa Luxemburg in its foundation.

Joyfulness Craziness III

July 7, the annual event Joyfulness Craziness was announced as: "... In the moment in the country when we have little space for joyfulness we choose craziness..." The gathering was in the outdoor/indoor space of "self-organized collective action of revitalization of Inex film building". ("Expedition Inex film explores possibilities of self-organizing, solidarity and Do It Yourself philosophy in Belgrade at the beginning of 21st century.")

It was in high summer heat, in the times after elections, in the ruined yard as the stage. RWF's and Inex collective estimation vary from 200 to 300 young people who circulated, greeted by acrobats and dissimilar very gifted young musicians announced as "music for all of us" - Stray Dogg, Verglspiel and Midica & The Absent Friends, ending with fire dance and drawing of light contours by young artist Bojana Petkovic. Mirjana Miroslavljevic set a fundraising puzzling game, and people were curious and surprised with such a combination as RWF played in that moment. It was fresh air to breath, as someone said: the only human moment around. The audience was completely new, they learned about RWF for the first time, they themselves were not a close group of friends and the artists themselves met for the first time and were delighted with RWF. What we got: a moment that all these people will remember, including RWF. (Numerous new friends joined RWF's facebook. Total number in October was 941 and 2.210 searched photo album on Joyfulness Craziness.) The young artists have been invited to various audiences since this happening. It was to confirm that we are a/live and sound, creating an atmosphere to last. All those RWF's public events were intentional and instinctive/intuitive reflexion of the political situation.

Legacy

(When structuring our programs we decided to establish "Stipends Zarana Papić" and to announce as a front statement Zarana's summery on continuity and political potential in feminism as she witnessed and concluded. In eight years of RWF's work we granted 79 stipends Zarana Papić for women's and peace studies and promoted her statement on all occasions.)

September 10th "Fascism is, in fact, a very active process, a co-operation constantly invoked for the normalization of its codes, an untransparent but powerful demand for each and every individual, for each and every political subject, to share its norms up to the point of no return when consensus/silence of the annihilation of the Other is reached,

and the collaboration becomes "forcefully voluntary" (forcement volontaire)." That was the quotation by Zarana Papić we put on the gate of the Center for Cultural Decontamination. Zarana was feminist anthropologist and political activist who had deepest impact in feminist and political history in Serbia on which RWF seriously relies, promotes and protects. 10th anniversary of Zarana's death was not a commemoration. We wanted to let new audiences hear Zarana's own voice, analyses and political statements, definitions and diagnoses.

We also wanted to make a statement that Zarana's political legacy has been already transferred to younger generation. Belgrade Women's Studies Center prepared a book of Zarana's texts (1977-2002), with the symbolic collective publisher WS, RWF and Women in Black. RWF conceptualized and produced 12' experimental film "This is My Report to You", based on animation of Zarana's written and audio quotations, (DVD and Serbian/English booklet). The book and the film were introduced and shared publically in the atmosphere created as clear and relaxed. From our photo documentation we could clearly count presence of over 150 people, from Zarana's old friends to unknown diverse youth, and applause was unanimous. RWF's facebook marked 333 people who watched the film online and 295 who downloaded the booklet.

Zarana's legacy has been part of RWF's statement and programs since the beginning. We also supported Belgrade Women Studies Center to catalogue and put in order Zarana's books, papers and documents as Legacy within WS library. Now new-new people learned what Zarana is all about and that RWF is committed to permanent work matching Zarana's ideas and feminist political platform, which is our shared legacy to be shared.

Available for downloading:

http://rwwfund.org/sites/default/files/zarana_web_1.pdf - booklet

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBB0GN1dx7Y> – film

Processes and outcomes of "Zarana" and "Pasarela" showed RWF's maturity to conceptualize, recruit and organize numerous participants and audiences to come to brilliant public expression and personal and group growing.

16 Days central action of the national campaign

Mass performance on November 25th *We Remember Them* – was devoted to women in Serbia who were killed by their partners and families. In 2011 in Serbia 29 women were killed in domestic/partnership violence. One third of cases of femicide globally were committed with guns. Partners of the campaign Autonomous Women's Center, network Women against Violence, Act Women, Women in Black and RWF demanded from the state to ratify European Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and laid the symbolic plaque to commemorate the victims within a mass performance of actors and 400 people, with assistance of artists and musicians from Škart/Proba. Cult ex-Yugoslav songwriter Jadranka Stojaković granted the campaign rights to play her old famous moving song on loss of life. Roma girls participants of Pasarela were within the performance, so all aspects of our work were exposed and cooperated.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQLBv_ls33s&list=PLT9C7VJ0OPutX3ghCsHKtXPJycOzBCaTh

With all our dissatisfaction with poor institutional understanding and their performance, we could say that the issue was pushed publically, which we could judge by the increase of women asking assistance and protection. Important was high turnover and enthusiasm of women activists from all over Serbia. RWF was facilitated coming of over 100 women

from 13 towns to the mass performance in Belgrade. Without local women's enthusiasm, we would not succeed to handle the organization of the arrival.

The end of this chapter:

Public acceptance: RWF's facebook grew to over 1000 members (nearly doubled in a year). Their active support increased and they now widely share RWF's material. Our facebook and website became rich resource of info on our activities: Uncorking Action with all dates connected celebrating women's rights, antiracism, Roma rights, antifascism and antimilitarist women's day; Map of 8th of March actions, Pasarela, Joyfulness Craziness, *This is My Report to You*, *We Remember Them*. RWF's website also enabled further e-reading in the serial Disobedient to History (Odri Lord: Sister Outsider and three stories concerning our experiences, by Serbian and international feminist writer and political activist Jasmina Tesanovic) and it was (regionally) shared by our fb members. Next to its basic function of transparency of money, our website developed a feature of a feminist resource archive as well: of our activities, of common activities, of media reporting, in words and pictures. Serious contribution to the improvements and new opportunities in publicity RWF gained from developing cooperation with engaged/refined/politically friendly graphic and web designers. With both of them and with inclusion of young artists in Joyfulness Craziness, we go in the proper direction of our aim to build the ground of art activism and its audiences. Hence, when volunteers are invited, they come into a space/issue for learning – in 2012 we had 20 volunteers. Good news is that some of them were engaged through our partners (AWC, WS, Act Women). It became clear that both to volunteers and RWF's stipendists it is important to explain and to schedule a plan, sometimes individual, of their engagement.

Fundraising

Uncorking Action RWF launched the fundraising campaign UNCORKING ACTION (8th March-24th May). We tried to comprehend our politics, to present our values and to highlight what is our motive to talking money. In the 77 days campaign we connected five dates we consider important for feminists: International Women's Day, International Day against Racism, International Roma Day, Victory Day over Fascism, International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament. Each date of the campaign had its own pattern within the communal design, with clear political messages and the overall no-misery slogan BEZ-BEDNO.ST about human security and safety. The information was sent widely, in Serbian and English, by e-mail and through facebook, developing with each milestone date to reveal the whole message as the presentation of RWF's politics and commitments. It was the result of PR Manager's hard thinking and RWF's talking how to comprehend fundraising messages accurate for RWF and in tune with our language. Now we are relaxed seeing it possible and us capable to manage, so we could plan, rehears and improve a lot. With the campaign we fundraised a little money. We knew that election campaign has been going on and that public, mental and media space would be flooded by parties' talk, but we decided to follow our plans. We learned about some pitfalls like small international contribution heavily charged with bank fees and we are finding solutions. We are very pleased with reactions to our campaign, people loved it and understood. We are proud that we got a small contribution and praise from feminist writer and activist Joan Nestle, our brilliant guest from last year. Concerning the media and both parties' and RWF's campaigns, after participation of our PR Manager in a TV

show, in February RWF was invited to show our documentary “Women in Activism”. Excellent coincidence was that we produced the film in the tense pre elections times in 2008 and concerns and demands expressed by the women activists mirrored the current 2012 situation as a perfect message and intro to Uncorking Action.

Joyfulness Craziness had a touch of presentation of RWF as a foundation and of fundraising. In the open atmosphere which was a fair, a concert, a socializing spot, a political meeting, there was a space talking about RWF’s fundraising function and the guests were invited to participate in a game where when they win they give. This paradox was an intriguing non patronizing message and fun under a tree and in the grass with RWF’s promo. Some money was raised, not much, but with satisfaction. We concluded that annual “Joyfulness Craziness” gathering will continue with strengthened link with “Uncorking Action”.

To represent our voice, Zoe Gudovic, PR Manager has been participating in **Philanthropy Forum** and the impact has to be seen. Common mission within **International Network of Women’s Funds and Foundations for Peace** network is clear, and we all benefit from that participation. In September we were invited by **Kosova Women’s Network** for a two day experience sharing meeting with initial team for establishment of small grant-making program, hopefully to develop as the first women’s fund in Kosovo.

In 2012 RWF participated in three **applications to EU funds** as partner to different organizations with common politics. Application of women’s funds on regional concern of funding women’s groups was turned down. The other two were approved. The application led by Autonomous Women’s Center on capacity building of women’s groups on institutional responsibilities and HR monitoring, inspired by RWF’s consultations on women’s groups positioning and RWF’s inputs on the program, turned out very useful and contributed to insight and dynamic of local women’s groups. On our initiative, CFNI applied to Youth in Action program with RWF as the partner. The program was approved, the field trip to Youth Banks in Northern Ireland was organized and the experience settled in RWF as a pool of opportunities and knowledge for the development of our youth program.

In two years RWF fundraised from **new donors**: Oak Foundation (one part of the grant goes to Special Focus), Balkan Trust for Democracy (Roma Girls’ Solidarity), OSI Arts and Culture (contribution to Pasarela).

In the networks and among partners

Mirjana Mirosavljevic was heavily committed in structuring and developing programs of International Network of Women’s Funds in capacity of member of the board. She involved RWF in participation in INWF’s Monitoring and Evaluation program and implementation of the network’s European Women’s Funds’ Platform.

Slavica Stojanovic stayed as liaison of RWF with members of Foundations for Peace and she has been participating in the networks’ new case studies/analyses of youth programs .

Zoe Gudovic as PR and local fundraiser was the leading and learning/sharing person in Mama Cash's capacity building program Strengthening Local Philanthropy Initiative. For further planning of Roma Girls Solidarity program, Mirjana Mirosavljevic (also involved in INFW's research program Community of Practice, on youth programs' support) and one of the trainers from RGS program, Roma activist Jelena Savic have been visiting for 10 days the Youth Bank program of CFNI to see possibilities of adapting it within RGS or other programs and/or to commit more to thinking about specific grant making dedicated to girls.