

The Center for the Development of Civil Society (CDSC)¹ has organized a conference entitled “The Role of Women’s NGOs in Civil Society”. This will be a one-day conference to be held on September 20, 2002 in Yerevan, and will be a follow-up to the already existing project, “Village Women in Civil Society”

The conference will bring together women’s NGO leaders and members from Yerevan, as well as the ten marzes of Armenia; representatives of international organizations, which cater to women and their needs (UN agencies and others); interested representatives of various ministries; and others associated with the development of women (particularly from rural areas). The estimated number of

¹ The CDSC is a non-governmental, non-profit organization founded in 1996 (originally founded in 1988 as the Ghevond Alishan Cultural Education Association). The mission of the organization is to promote ideas about democracy and civil society, women’s and national minority’s rights, pluralism and diversity. The CDSC has implemented more than 30 different projects involving the promotion of women’s participation, including lobbying, awareness-raising campaigns, educational activities and others

participants is 100 (including the organizers and support staff). The conference will initiate establishment of the “Armenian Women’s Network”, which will provide new perspectives on women’s personal development and work that will strengthen previous achievements gained from the first phase of this project

The conference will have a plenary session and three panel presentations. The panel presentations will be given by rural women, women from NGOs located in Yerevan, and by international organizations, respectively

The purposes of the panel presentations given by the rural women will be as follows:

- To discuss current problems of the movement of female NGOs in civil society in Armenia;
- To present the problems facing rural women today, and to provide ideas on how to overcome hardships of the transition period
- To discuss the perspectives of the engagement of rural women in the development of their community

The purposes of panel presentations given by women’s NGOs located in Yerevan will be as follows:

- To share with their experiences in setting up NGOs
- To discuss specific pitfalls – what to watch out for
- To discuss how to gauge success and failure

The purposes of the panel presentations given by international organizations will be as follows:

- To inform the other participants about their current and past activities
- To share certain fundamental aspects of effective methodologies and proper ethics in running an NGO
- To familiarize themselves with the local organizations in Armenia, in an effort to better understand their activities and learn from them

The beneficiaries of the project will include:

- The conference participants, as well as Armenian women and members of women's NGOs, both from urban and rural areas, who will learn new skills and gain knowledge and information about the importance of participation in rural life through their participation in the discussions
- Rural communities, who will gain knowledge about the development of the third sector in their communities
- Armenian society as a whole, which will have strong a NGO network



*The CDCS is looking forward to
establishing contacts
and to collaborating with both local
and international organizations*

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