



EURASIA
PARTNERSHIP
FOUNDATION



Ludwig Boltzmann Institute
Human Rights



universität
wien
Forschungsplattform
Human Rights in the European Context

Österreichische
Entwicklungszusammenarbeit



diplomatische
akademie wien
Vienna School of International Studies
École des Hautes Études Internationales de Vienne

Georgia and Peaceful Conflict Resolution

A seminar hosted by the **Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights** in cooperation with the **Eurasia Partnership Foundation**

The project is funded by the **Robert Bosch Stiftung**

Diplomatic Academy, Vienna, Austria
Favoritenstraße 15a

September 25, 2012

Twenty years after the fall of the Soviet Union, the political and economic challenges in Georgia, resulting from the unresolved conflicts, are still reflected on the ground in a range of obstacles - from roadblocks and closed markets to polarized attitudes. Following the armed conflict of early 90s, and the 2008 conflicts, there has been virtually no progress in either the political dialogue or in transforming the community-level grievances and hostilities underpinning the conflicts. Unresolved conflicts not only stall, but can reverse the democratization processes, as well as having a serious ongoing impact on Europe's security.

In order to ensure peaceful conflict resolution many differences should be addressed at different levels, such as between Moscow and Tbilisi, Moscow and the Western international community, between ruling elites in Tbilisi, Sukhum/i, and Tskhinval/i, between ethnic Georgian, Abkhazian and Ossetian societies, etc. Diametrically opposed views of what "conflict resolution" entails, has effectively stopped efforts to properly address the causes of the conflict, as well as attempts at reconciliation and peace building. At the same time, civil society on both sides of the conflict is weak, engagement is constricted, lacks representativeness, and therefore the space for participation and public debate is very narrow.

Women make a significant contribution to socio-economic life. This might present a window of opportunity for interventions that capitalize on the potential of both genders to contribute to conflict mitigation and peace building.

What conclusions should now be drawn? And how can civil society contribute to a constructive peace-building process? What has to be done to promote cross-divide contact? Will this contact transform the individual participants' perceptions of each other that will later translate into a wider transformation necessary for peace at large? Who are the agents? What is the role of women in this process?

Taking a comprehensive view - looking back to what civil society has been able to accomplish and forward to post-conflict opportunities - the seminar will bring together practitioners in the areas of development and conflict transformation to discuss these dynamics and address the most effective process for building peace.

AGENDA

8:30-9:00 Registration, Coffee

9:00- 9:15 Welcoming remarks

Hannes Tretter, Director, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights

George Zarubin, President, Eurasia Partnership Foundation

9:15- 9:45 Data Presentation

George Zarubin, President, Eurasia Partnership Foundation

9:45 -11:15 Panel 1: Current Approaches

Where are the largest opportunities, and where the shortcomings of the present instruments applied? And is there a win-win strategy for any of the interested parties?

Moderator: Sabine Freizer, Director, Europe Program, International Crisis Group

Speakers:

HE Ambassador Heidemaria GÜRER, Head of Department, Eastern Europe, Western Balkan, South Caucasus and Central Asia, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria

HE Paata Gaprindashvili, Ambassador of Georgia to Austria and Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe (OSCE)

Pavel Baev, Research Professor, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

Rasa Ostrauskaite, Head of the Caucasus Division, CPC, Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe (OSCE), Vienna

11:15- 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 - 13:00 Panel 2: Role of civil society in peace-building

What had civil society been able to achieve prior to the conflict of August 2008?

What is the role since the new modalities? Where are opportunities for civil society actors to become involved in building bridges and/or challenging public attitudes?

Moderator: Per Eklund, EU Ambassador (ret), former Head of the European Union Delegation to Georgia

Speakers:

Nino Kurtsidze, Associate Country Director, Eurasia Partnership Foundation

Christine Sommer, Human Rights & Development Cooperation, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights (BIM)

Liana Kvarchelia, Center for Humanitarian Programs, Abkhazia

Susan Allen Nan, Associate Professor, School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University

13:15 -15:00 Lunch

15:00-16:30 Panel 3: Women's role in peace-building

Moderator: Ulrike Nguyen, Head of Department for International Women's Affairs,
Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria

Speakers:

Tamar Tavartkiladze, Project Manager, "Women for Equality, Peace and Development,"
UNWomen

Sabine Mandl, Researcher on Women's Rights, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human
Rights (BIM)

Lira Kozaeva, Director, Association of Women of South Ossetia for Democracy and Human
Rights

Natella Akaba, Chairperson, Association of Women of Abkhazia

16:30-17:00 Closing Remarks

Sabine Mandl, Researcher on Women's Rights, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human
Rights (BIM)

David Lee, MartiCom Ltd, Georgia, EPF's Trustee

About Eurasia Partnership Foundation

The mission of Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF) is to empower people to effect change for social justice and economic prosperity through hands-on programs. EPF engages citizens in social, economic, and political developments in order to effect substantive and sustainable positive socio-economic change at the local, regional, and national level through both operational programs and grant-making. EPF also houses the Caucasus Research Resource Centre, a network of centres working to improve social science research and public policy analysis in the South Caucasus. EPF has offices in Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, and is a member of the Eurasia Foundation (EF) Network: five local foundations supporting civil society that are based in Russia, Central Asia, the South Caucasus, Eastern Europe, and Washington, DC. EPF receives core support from Eurasia Foundation, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. Additionally, EPF receives project support from the European Commission, BP, USAID, the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other public and private donors.

About the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights

The Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights (BIM) is an independent academic human rights research and service institution. The primary focus is on research activities in the field of human rights, both on the national, European and the international level. BIM staff is also engaged extensively in human rights teaching and training. It is BIM's understanding to offer a link between the academic community and practitioners. Therefore, a considerable part of the work is devoted to empirical research and project implementation along the side with fundamental research. Through co-operation with

international and national institutions and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) the Institute strives to provide relevant studies, analysis and data on human rights issues in areas such as international law, politics, education and the media.

About Robert Bosch Stiftung

Established in 1964, the Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH is one of the major German foundations associated with a private company. It represents the philanthropic and social endeavors of Robert Bosch (1861-1942) and fulfills his legacy in a contemporary manner. The Robert Bosch Stiftung works predominantly in the fields of International Relations, Health and Education. Within International Relations, the foundation has a regional focus on promoting better relations between Germany and wider Central and Eastern Europe. In the South Caucasus, the foundation has been active since the beginning of the 1990s. It provides support through exemplary external projects as well as its own projects in the areas of culture, media, civil society and education.