

Women Peace-builders from the South Caucasus

(Pre-conference webinar)

Date and time: 12 February 2021, 15:00 – 17:00 CET

Host: RPFAA Europe

Venue: Zoom event (we will use one of our accounts and registration if possible)

Registration link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0rfu6gqjgiG9DByWI9DK3fAxwRnpauqnLK>

Note: the event will not need any registration costs, or any budgetary requirements that involve the RPFAA

Are you curious about the South Caucasus region and peace-building efforts in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan? Would you like to meet and learn from expert female peace-builders in the South Caucasus region? Please join the European Chapter of the Rotary Peace Fellowship Alumni Association for an online session 'Women Peace-builders from the South Caucasus' on February 12, 2021, from 15:00 to 17:00 CET. This interactive webinar explores women's roles in conflict transformation in the South Caucasus region through discussions with a panel of female peace-building experts. It is inspired by Nino Lotishvili's recent research conducted with Georgian-Ossetian ethnocultural mixed family members living in Administrative Boundary Line villages, Gori, and two Internally Displaced Persons' (IDP) settlements. Though the study was not gender-based, there was a high percentage of female participation (99%). Because conflict transformation processes often exclude women in the South Caucasus, this finding may suggest women want to participate in peace-building activities but feel powerless, marginalized and disempowered to become involved on a larger scale. Considering this, the panel of experts will share their experiences on women and peace from their communities.

Webinar will be moderated by:

Nino Lotishvili is an intercultural communication specialist (University of Lugano, Switzerland) and Rotary Peace Fellow (Chulalongkorn University 2017). Nino's life-changing peace path inspired her to unite inner and outer peace concepts and launch an initiative of Peace Research Centre Tbilisi and Mindful Georgia to promote well-being and inner resilience throughout Georgia and the South Caucasus

region.

Speakers (confirmed):

Milena Abrahamyan (Armenia) is a feminist, activist, researcher and seeker of peace. She believes that we will have a better chance of obtaining peace by being and staying in conflict with patriarchy, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, nationalism and the history of colonization. She is the founder of Beyond Borders: Linking Our Stories, a project aimed at building trust and solidarity between Turkish, Armenian and Kurdish women. She has a Master's Degree in Peace and Conflict Research from Uppsala University where she studied as a Rotary Peace Fellow from 2013-2015.

Nina Tsikhistavi-Khutsishvili

Director and elected Chair of the Board of the International Center on Conflict and Negotiation (ICCN). She is involved in many large-scale projects that focus on CSO's participation in negotiations (Track 2 and Track 1,5), women's participation in mediation, and positive peacebuilding. She also works on projects that develop the legal mechanisms to combat domestic violence, promote gender equality. In her work, she aims to work alongside governmental agencies and SCOs to create tools to effect change in Georgia. Ms. Tsikhistavi-Khutsishvili is a PhD candidate at the Tbilisi State University (TSU) (2014), working on the thesis: "The Role of Leader Women in Conflict Resolution".

Arzu Abdullayeva is an activist of the democratic movement in Azerbaijan, one of the pioneers of peace-building efforts in the resolution of Karabakh conflict. Co-chair of the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly (HCA) International from 2000 to 2012; chair of the National Committee of HCA (ANC HCA) in Azerbaijan since 1992. The HCA is an international network of non-governmental organizations and individuals working for peace, diversity, and human rights in Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia. The Olof Palme Peace Prize (1993) and The United States-European Union Marshall Prize

for Democracy Building (1998) winner, Netherlands Helsinki Committee Civil Society Award winner (2015)

Helen Tanner is a peacebuilder, forgiveness coach, speaker, trainer, and qualified psychotherapist. She has an extensive portfolio of working in the UK - including seven years as Charity Director - and internationally including in Botswana, Tunisia and war-affected Libya, Myanmar, South Sudan, Kosovo, and Belfast. She is a Rotary Peace Fellow and Global Peace Index Ambassador. She holds a Master's Degree in Conflict Resolution and a first degree in Law. Helen is passionate about living fully aligned to her purpose, working with integrity and Peace - in harmony with the self, others and the planet.