



Forward Global Women

Third Convening: October 14-17, 2014

Berlin, Germany

FINAL PROGRAM REPORT

November, 2014

Introduction

Forward Global Women (FGW) is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization that fosters and nurtures the development and growth of women leaders to become active peacemakers promoting co-existence. Senator Sandy Pappas of St. Paul, Minnesota, Rina Bar Tal of R'anana, Israel, and Rula Quawas of Amman, Jordan founded the organization in 2011. The two previous convenings were held in St. Paul, Minnesota; the first at St. Catherine's University and the second at William Mitchell College of Law. The third convening was hosted by the Allianz Forum in Berlin, Germany.

The Third Convening October 14-17, 2014 | Berlin, Germany

Strategic Planning

The three founders, the chair of our board, a new participant from Israel and our program manager met with a facilitator, Pat Davis, on Tuesday, October 14.

Outcomes from the session included:

- Newly articulated mission statement and vision
- Narrowed objectives
- Action items for program development, communication and outreach, diversified funding sources, enhanced administrative tactics, and improved program evaluation.

The revised mission and goals statement can be found in the Appendix, item 1. The full strategic plan can be found in the Appendix, item 2.

The Convening

The convening took place from Tuesday evening, October 14 - Thursday evening, October 16th. Objectives included:

- Outline and identify strategies for implementing 1325: creating discourses/ awareness-raising with aim of community mobilization.
- Conduct country level assessments and identify one or two priorities in countries that can be tackled by this group.
- Familiarize and update participants on 1325 and related resolutions and developments at UN.
- Provide overview of a variety of legal frameworks that can be drawn upon to build peace and promote women's rights and participation.
- Provide examples of localization efforts of 1325.

The full agenda of the convening can be found in the Appendix, item 3. Pictures of highlights from the convening can be found in the Appendix, item 8.

The Facilitators

We hired three knowledgeable conveners with extensive experience in the area and on the issues.

- **Susan Tahmasebi**, *Co-founder*, International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)
- **Julie Arostegui**, *Women, Peace, and Security Policy Director*, Women's Action for New Directions
- **Helena Gronberg**, *Co-founder*, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

Complete biographies for each facilitator can be found in the Appendix, item 4.

The Participants

We had repeat participants from the US, Israel, Jordan and Morocco and new participants from Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Israel and Jordan.

Complete biographies for each participant can be found in the Appendix, item 4.

Action Plan

The participants set goals and formed teams around two action agenda items.

1. Each country will be asked to conduct surveys on the definition of "**Personal Security**." The complete outline for this action item can be found in the Appendix, item 5.
2. FGW will establish a database of women actively engaged in related issues: **Women on Board**. The complete outline for this action item can be found in the Appendix, item 5.
3. Participants will submit **Reflection Blogs** to be posted on the FGW website. The complete outline for this action item can be found in the Appendix, item 5.

Convening Logistics

Location, Hotel, and Accommodations

The group stayed at the **Arcotel Velvet** hotel, on Oranienburger Straße. The hotel was in a perfect location, within walking distance of the Allianz Forum. Breakfast was served next door, the **Berlin Theke**. The staff at the hotel and the restaurant were accommodating and the service was wonderful.

Meal locations for the group dinners were adequate.

- Tuesday dinner was held at an Italian restaurant, **Due Fratelli**, within walking distance of the hotel. At this first dinner, participants and facilitators introduced themselves and the conveners welcomed everyone.
- Wednesday dinner was held at **Oranium**, just down the street from the hotel. The food here was excellent, but service was slow and the space was noisy.

- The final dinner on Thursday was held next door to the Allianz Forum at **Tucher am Tor**. This location was ideal; service was excellent and the group had a private room. During dinner, the conveners wrapped up the event and presented each participant with a certificate of recognition.

The Festival of Lights was taking place during the convening. On the final night, we were able to watch the light show at the Brandenburg Gate. We also walked to the memorial for the 6 million during the lunch break on Thursday.

Convening Facilities

The **Allianz Forum** was an ideal location for the group. The setting was impressive and the facilities were outstanding. The strategic planning team met in a room on the first floor on Tuesday. The convening group met in the conference room on the seventh floor. This space was the perfect size for the group. The staff was accommodating to all requests and delivered wonderful service.

Program Management

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has elected new executives and set an agenda for the coming year. They will write Board bylaws, nominate new members, work to expand funding opportunities, and facilitate the planning of the 2015 convening.

Staff

The program manager joined us for a second year. She will work throughout the year 2014-2015 part-time to help with the follow-up and to begin planning next summer's convening, which will likely be held in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Budget

The proposed budget for the 2014 convening was \$68,475.00. The actual expense was \$69,100.99. Funders included the Allianz Foundation and individual donors who contributed at the September fundraiser in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The remaining balance from 2014 will be put toward staff and program development expenses for 2014-2015 and the 2015 convening, to be held in St. Paul, Minnesota. The Board of Directors will compose a program budget for 2015 at the upcoming January meeting.

The complete budget and profit and loss statement can be found in the Appendix, item 7.