



August 4 2009

### **International Association of Women Police Helps Create Network in South East Europe**

The President of the International Association of Women Police has visited Serbia to advise on the creation of a new policewomen's network in South East Europe.

Chief Insp Jane Townsley was among a number of representatives from international law enforcement organisations invited to Belgrade for the two day meeting, which was held by the South East Europe Police Chief's Association (SEPCA), in conjunction with its nine member countries.

Chief Insp Townsley said: "Women police officers bring unique and invaluable skills to criminal justice agencies around the world and I am delighted to have this opportunity to assist in the creation of a new policewomen's network.

"The meeting in Belgrade enabled me to highlight the work of the IAWP and to share our organisational expertise in the sound benefits of providing support, training opportunities and networking for women in policing.

"One of the expected outcomes of the meeting was to build a network that will bring together women representatives from law enforcement agencies in the region and to promote women in policing by focussing on efforts such as equal career opportunities."

The region covers Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Bosnia Herzegovina and the Republic of Srpska, Albania, Macedonia, Romania and Moldova.

Chief Insp Townsley added: "I have given a commitment that the IAWP will continue to support and help in any way we can in the creation of a South East European Police Women's Network. I am really looking forward to being able to witness the formation of the network. There is an obvious need within this region for a women's network and the passion and commitment demonstrated to me by those attending the meeting should be embraced and supported."

*More...*

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The next meeting is due to take place in Sofia, Bulgaria, in December, when the emphasis will be to raise the profile of work undertaken in support of creating the network and to gain high level support in each country in the region.

Ends

**Notes to Editors:**

The International Association of Women Police represents the interests of policewomen throughout the world, with members in 57 countries. The organisation's mission is to strengthen, unite and raise the profile of women working in law enforcement. The IAWP is committed to further enhancing its' members skills through professional development, training, recognition, mentoring, networking and peer support.

For further information about the IAWP please visit the website: [www.iawp.org](http://www.iawp.org)

**For further information and interview requests please contact Melanie Hill at Integrity PR on 07527 847423 or by email at [mel@integritypr.co.uk](mailto:mel@integritypr.co.uk)**

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