



Media Release

Celebrating International Women's Day 2020 in Kosovo

We are delighted to be celebrating International Women's Day 2020 alongside our friends and colleagues from Kosovo and other colleagues from across Region 15 (Central and Eastern Europe) as we visit the Balkans for the first time in our 105-year history. The International Association of Women Police (IAWP) Board of directors are travelling to Kosovo from all over the globe, the following countries will be represented, Bangladesh, Canada, Ghana, Indonesia, New Zealand, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Our Board of Directors are all volunteers and self-fund all their travel in support of the IAWP, many will be travelling very long distances for the 4 days of activities in Kosovo. The importance of their visit to support and empower women in policing in Kosovo and across the wider region has resulted in one of the largest attendances for our two-day Early Board Meeting, for many years. The Board will meet for two days from the 7th March followed by an evening reception on Sunday 8th March to celebrate International Women's Day. This will be only the 5th time the IAWP Board of Directors have travelled to Europe to attend an Early Board meeting, previous hosts being Belgium in the early nineties, UK (2003), and Germany (2011 and 2013).

On Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th, the Board of directors, and other members of the IAWP, will attend a regional training conference, again the first time Region 15 has hosted such an event. Kosovo is leading the way regionally; this is only the 3rd time such a Regional IAWP conference has taken place in Europe. This conference will enable the Board of directors to share good practice, learning and experiences from the international perspective with our colleagues in this region. We know we will also learn from our colleagues here too.

President Deborah Friedl *"The Board of Directors of the IAWP is very pleased to conduct our business meeting in Kosovo. We have enjoyed a long, close relationship with the women of the Kosovo Police and have watched them prosper since our first meeting in 2004. We will spend the coming days together working, learning, networking and planning for the future."*

The IAWP are extremely grateful to our hosts the Kosovo Police in extending an invitation to us, adding to the long history of our organisation. We are also very grateful to the Organisation for Security Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), for their generosity in assisting Kosovo Police to host these events. Support to Kosovo Police has also been provided by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs – US Department of State (INL), and the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) – US Department of Justice.

IAWP are very proud that the Association of Women in Kosovo Police (AWKP), established in 2013, is an affiliate member of our organisation, demonstrating the commitment of Kosovo Police and its female staff to engage internationally for the benefits it brings to themselves, the Kosovo Police and Kosovo as a nation.

About the International Association of Women Police

The International Association of Women Police (IAWP) is a richly diverse and growing organization with global reach. We have Members, Affiliates, Friends and Strategic Partners in countries 72 countries around the World.

Our **Mission:** To strengthen, unite and raise the capacity of women in policing internationally.

Our **Vision:** IAWP envisions a world where police reflect the diversity of communities they serve and human rights are protected. Our mission is to strengthen and raise the capacity of women in policing internationally.

- Web site: www.iawp.org
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/iawpinfo>
- 2020 Annual Training conference 6th to 10th September 2020, Yogyakarta, Indonesia; <https://www.iawp2020indonesia.org/>
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