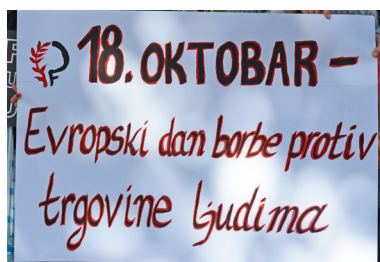


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On the occasion of the International Day against Poverty and the European Day Against Human Trafficking

On October 17th, 2015 in a park near the Faculty of Economics Women in Black organized together with the Anti-Trafficking Centre (ASTRA) and the Autonomous Women's Center, a peace action **Knitting a web of solidarity and peace**, in solidarity with war refugees and asylum seekers.

In this action following banners in Arabic, Serbian and English were highlight:



18th October - European Day against Human Trafficking,

17th October - World Day Against Poverty.

Although it was planned for action to be held in another park, near the bus station, there was an information that there is no longer a single asylum seeker in that park.

Park at the Faculty of Economics was fenced, partially dug and cleaned, and there were more visible police presence. What was left was just a few small tents and a small number of men. There were no women and children.

One of the information that we got at the Info-center was that the decision on cleaning the parks was suggested by the city government because it is cold and it is no longer possible to sleep there, and that there have been introduced buses that drive them from the park to the center for asylum in Krnjaca.

When some activists tried to photograph some of the remaining asylum seekers they were rejected, which had never happened before.

It was found that there was no more Syrian refugees. A smaller number were from Iraq, and a majority were ethnic minorities from Afghani-



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stan, Tajiks. They divided food, as well as socks, hats and scarves that are sewn together from activist of Women in Black Network of Serbia and Montenegro.

After the action in the Women in Black office the talk was organized, which involved activists that were in the park. Most of the participants expressed concern about the changes in the treatment of asylum seekers by the authorities.

Activists from the organization ASTRA argued that although asylum seekers are not officially expelled, that works in the park and bringing the police created an atmosphere that suggests that they are not welcome and that they cannot gather there anymore, nor civil society activists.

Some of Women in Black activist considered that it is especially important for asylum seekers to continue to gather in parks (and when not sleeping in them), as everywhere in the world. Here they can exchange information, help each other talking. With their complete relocation they're becoming cut off from the world and undesirable.

They expressed both concern because of the large number of minors who may be the target of all kinds of exploitation. These are refugees who are in the worst position because they have no one and had no means to escape earlier. They are the poorest, and there is a risk that they will never made it to Europe, and if they even get there they won't have the capacity and ability to cope with adversity there.

They also pointed out the contradiction in the arguments that they were placed in reception centers, and on the other hand, the reception centers although they have the capacity, are mostly half-empty.

They reminded also on early action, when the refugees/asylum seekers joined the activists of Women in Black, talk to them, they drew together, danced and rejoiced.

In an effort to be better informed about the situation of asylum seekers, participants agreed:

- To visit the Reception Center in Krnjaca and determine the condition, and then hold shares and share assistance to asylum seekers at the center, 31 October (Women in Black);
- To go to Sid and Babuska (ASTRA with a group of 484);
- To visit Presevo and the local reception center (Women in Black);
- To constantly monitor the situation on the ground and to act in accordance with the situation;
- To make a list of necessary things, to aid more effective.



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