

WOMEN

CIVIL

INITIATIVES

Over the last years in Russia the scope of cooperation and coordination between the government institutions and gender-oriented public and political forces striving to ensure and protect women's rights has grown considerably, despite multiple hardships. Today, most non-governmental organizations are refusing to follow the obsolete pattern of relationship between authorities and non-governmental groups, that is, a "belt-drive model". Women's organizations are now working independently and seeking for more productive dialogue with the State, in which their role would not be limited to that of "a subordinate", but that of an equal partner. It was women's organizations who promoted the idea of a "need demanded by society", a very promising form of cooperation between authorities and non-governmental organizations. After the range of such social needs is identified and formulated by a regional government or the federal government (which is more rare a case), women's organizations begin their activities to address the problems of employment, professional training of women, promotion of women business initiatives, prevention of drug abuse, alongside with dedicatedly fighting violence, setting up shelters and crisis centers and pushing for reform of the Russian army.

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WOMEN

MOVEMENT

OF RUSSIA

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«Russia is our homeland, our roots are here. So we must make this country a civilized one where freedom, dignity and personal safety should be unconditional values and norms of life.» That was a shared position of women who joined a nation-wide social and political movement of Russia's women five years ago. Today the Movement has branches in 54 regions of the Russian Federation. The Movement also includes collective members like the Journalist Women Association, Kaliningrad non-governmental organization «Businesswomen», «Conversion and Women» non-governmental organization, All-Russia Women Organization «Rural Women», independent human rights organization «Lyubava» and many others.

The Women Movement of Russia is a nation-wide association with a solid level of grass-rooting and networking; its members share common ideas and abide to collective decisions focused on a strong protection and defense of Russian women's rights and social interests.

The current key objectives of the Movement's social and political activity include:

- Protection of human rights and liberties.**
- Protection of women's rights as a inalienable and integral part of universal rights of a human being.**
- Protection of the interests of family as a social unit called for providing most favourable environment for the life of an individual.**
- Advocacy and support of civil initiatives aimed at consolidating the Civil Society.**

**THE WOMEN MOVEMENT OF RUSSIA
IS OPEN TO EVERYBODY WHO WANTS TO JOIN IT!**



Ekaterina Lakhova,
Chairwoman
Women Movement of Russia

Ekaterina LAKHOVA, Ph. D. (Political Sciences), author of more than 100 studies on the role and status of women in the Russian Federation. Pediatrician by professional background with more than 10 years of practical experience in healthcare system of the Sverdlovsk region. She was elected deputy of the RSFSR's Soviet Supreme, where chaired the Committee for the affairs of women, protection of family, mother and child. She is an experienced parliamentarian with over 10 years of legislative activity. In 1993-95 she chaired «Women of Russia» fraction in the State Duma of first convocation. In 1991 - 1999 she was the chairperson of the Commission for the affairs of women, family and demography under President of the Russian Federation. Presently, she is Deputy Chairperson of the State Duma Committee on public associations and religious organizations, and member of «The Fatherland - All Russia» fraction.

– I am deeply convinced that the true equality of rights, freedoms and opportunities for men and women will be not achieved with decisions “from above”, but predominantly through joint efforts of women's organizations in defending their interests in both the every-day life and the big politics. Women should take a more active part in the implementation of civil initiatives, in local self-governance, in the work with political parties, governmental structures and institutions.

WE STAND FOR GENDER ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION IN SOCIETY

This area of the WMR's activity is a priority concern. Numerous workshops, roundtable discussions and seminars were held with the aim to advocate for the pressing need for changes in the social and economic status of Russian women.



Svetlana AIVAZOVA
Member of the WMR Coordination Council,
Chief Researcher, Institute for Comparative
Political Studies of the Russian Academy of
Science, Ph. D. (Political Sciences). Author of
more than 200 publications on problems of
women movement and gender education.

– At a slow pace, but consistently, gender knowledge and expertise are gaining terrain within Russian society. The Movement was perhaps the only social grouping which has been consistently lobbying and pushing for societal changes in the patriarchal attitudes towards women. Situation and case analysis and evaluation have been another important area of the Movement's activity. Research and studies organized by WMR have addressed problems of the transition from a declarative recognition of equity of rights between men and women to a policy of actual provision of equality, rights, freedoms and opportunities.



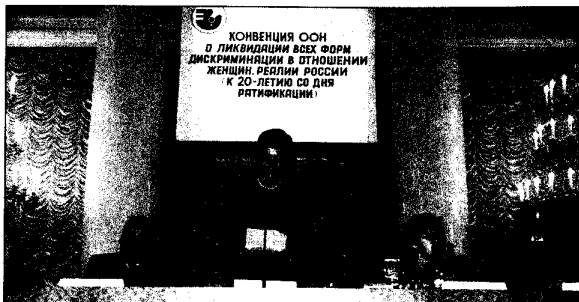
Olga KHASBULATOVA
Head of the WMR Ivanovo regional branch, Vice-
Rector on Research of the Ivanovo State
University, Ph.D (History)

– Gender education is a key activity of our branch. As part of such activities we publish an analytical bulletin «Woman in Russian Society», we also organize workshops and roundtable discussions. Gender education programmes have been developed to target various groups of population.

OUR ACTIVITIES



In November 1998, an all-Russia women conference entitled «From Equal Rights to Equal Opportunities» was held in Moscow as part of commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the First All-Russia Women's Congress. The Conference brought together over 1,200 delegates from 65 regions, who analyzed historic experiences and discussed present-day tasks of the women's movement and problems to solve in order to ensure real equity and participation of women in the election campaigns. The Conference also reviewed questions of women's employment and training, protection of mother and child. By number of participants and depth of analysis of the status of women in Russian society the Conference proved to be similarly representative as it was 90 years ago, and might be regarded as another all-Russia congress of women. The motto of the Conference – «from equality of rights to equality of opportunities» – has clearly identified the women movement's goal in the short run.



In December 2000 Moscow hosted an national forum dedicated to the 20th anniversary of ratification by this country of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

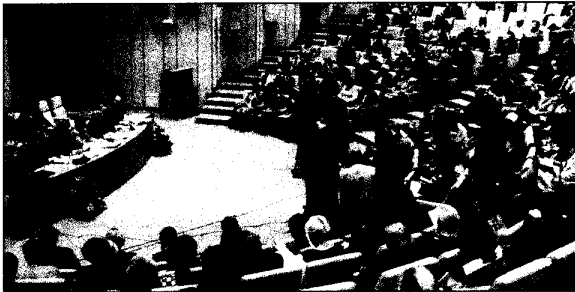
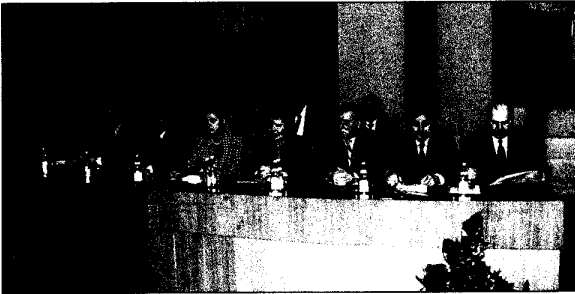
The Forum was attended by over 1,500 representatives of 66 Russia's regions, including 130 non-governmental organizations (85 women's organizations), as well as government officials, human rights activists, leaders of political parties represented in the parliament, prominent politicians, academics and mass media workers. Of particular relevance was the attendance of leaders of all major political parties and parliamentary groups. The Forum formulated and approved a Statement to the President of the Russian Federation.



In May 2000 the Women Movement, supported by the State Duma Committee on public associations and religious organizations, initiated parliamentary hearings into measures needed for the implementation of the principle of equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men stated by Article 19 (3) of the Constitution of the Russian Federation. Over 100 NGO leaders from 45 regions, alongside with executive and legislative authorities, researchers, experts and political analysts, took part in the hearings.



FROM EQUALITY OF RIGHTS TO EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITIES



In March 2002 a «Women and Authorities» dialogue was held at the State Duma. V. Matvienko, A. Pochinok, M. Zurabov, V. Vasiliev, A. Surinov, G. Raikov, V. Volodin, V. Pekhtin, A. Lotariov, E. Lakhova, E. Ershova, as well as over 200 leaders of women NGOs from 48 Russian regions attended the gathering.

The Women' Movement has become one of the most active subjects of law-making process. During the last five years the Movement's participants have been emphasizing the need to adopt a federal law that would provide state guarantees for implementing equal rights and equal opportunities for men and women. Now a draft bill is in place.

Among other things, the draft law contains guarantees for equal rights and equal opportunities for men and women in the following fields:

- in exercising the electoral right, that is, the right to elect and be elected to the organs of state power;
- in having access to the state service, including formation of government and other authorities;
- in the field of labour, including cases of massive dismissal of workers;
- in the field of social security; employment contracts; staffing policies in the enterprises of all forms of property.

The final say rests now with the legislative authority.

WE STAND FOR COOPERATION WITH WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS



Partnership with other non-governmental organizations is an area of particular importance for the WMR. The Movement takes an active part in shaping a common network of interaction between non-governmental organizations. The need to do that is obvious: coordination of joint efforts to achieve equality of opportunities for men and women, improve the social status of Russian women, protect the interests of family and children. The Charter of Women Solidarity, which approval was initiated by the WMR, has become a basic document for cooperation. Today the Charter was signed by 300 women's organizations of Russia and many women's organizations from Ukraine, Belarus, Poland, Bulgaria and Germany acceded to it.



Tatyana SHIPULO
WMR International Programme Coordinator, Ph. D. (History), author of over 50 publications on international women movement. Presently she holds the position of Vice-Rector in the International Institute for Advertising.

– Following the principle of partnership and cooperation, the Movement is expanding international links through establishing contacts with the Conservative Party's Women Group (Britain), female-parliamentarians from Germany and France. In recent years the WMR has established close contacts with the Germany's Association of Educational Institutions, a major organization addressing the problems of political education. WMR delegations made several visits to the European Parliament and the European Commission to brief the legislative and executive authorities of the European Union on the status of women in Russia.



A WMR delegation attended sessions of the European Parliament.



SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP

Our society lately has undergone through radical changes which lead to the emergence of challenges which was never dealt with before, so their solution requires completely new approaches. The government, restrained by budgetary limitations is incapable to cope alone with such challenges. The Women Movement of Russia was among the first organizations that promoted the idea of social partnership as a tool of efficient cooperation with legislative and executive authorities in the solution of many social problems. Social partnership advocacy and search for adequate implementation mechanisms are taking place simultaneously on various levels. The regional level is characterized by the conclusion of agreements between the Movement and legislative and executive authorities or through the establishment of advisory and consultative groups under regional and municipal administrations.



Olga SAVASTYANOVA

Head of the WMR branch in the Republic of Komi. She is educator by professional background. Currently she manages the local Women's Resource Center and chairs the Civil Parliament of the Republic of Komi. In 2000 she was named «woman of the year» of the Republic of Komi.

– The Branch has repeatedly demonstrated its willingness to cooperate in resolving social problems. In our activities we attain to a basic principle, namely, governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations should avoid overlapping and each side plays its particular role. In this respect a Republic's forum «For Social Health» was a remarkable event. The forum helped support those non-governmental organizations that are already addressing such problems, regrettably alone, insofar. The Forum designed and approved recommendations detailing specific forms of organization and development of social partnership between all sectors of society. The event was preceded by another very significant activity, that is, a fair of socially relevant NGO projects which started as a result of our initiative last year. Twenty project proposals were presented and five were recognized as the best ones. Those projects address specific and substantial social problems.



Albina SHIROBOKOVA

Head of the WMR branch in Irkutsk. She is Associate Professor, Ph. D (Economics), Department of Economics and Management, Irkutsk Technical University. Participated in the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing. Initiator of the Women for the Survival of the Planet International Forum.

Authored more than 50 publications on women's problems. Her contribution to the consolidation of democracy in Russia was acknowledged by the President of the Russian Federation.

– It is important to understand that everything the State is disposing of, has been created by our labour and intellectual efforts. So, we are capable to assume a substantial part of taking care about ourselves. This is the way we are doing in Irkutsk and our region. With minimum funding, but through active and disinterested involvement of women of all age and profession and the youth we deliver social services of nearly half million dollars worth. As a result of our activities we have tried out certain social technologies which we regard as our «know-how». We applied them for organizing the action of good deeds that helped raise funds to equip a local narcological center and collect clothes, shoes and medicines for ill and poor people. Our Christmas Tree actions for children living in orphanages and boarding schools. A crisis center for women – victims of domestic violence has been working for several years. Psychologists and lawyers provide counseling to the victims. Our Branch maintains close contacts with Business Women Association and the local Employment Service in solving problems of professional training and re-training of women and helps them find employment.



Vera MARKOVA

Head of the WMR branch in Ulyanovsk. Teacher by professional background, and social worker by vocation. She has been dealing with social work for 17 years. The last seven years she works as deputy head of the Zaslvyazh Municipal Districts (Ulyanovsk). She enjoys a high reputation in the region because of her dedication and strong motivation in promoting women movement; was awarded with distinction of «Emeritus Teacher of the Russian Federation».

– In our work we follow the principle: «All together to solve a social problem». The Regional Administration supports us. Two years ago and to make the work more efficient a coordination council made up by leaders of non-governmental organizations was set up with the help of the Administration. Our Movement is also represented. Nowadays the Council takes active part in the development of regional social and economic programmes, being a key contributor in designing social policy towards women.



Lyudmila DUROVA

Head of the WMR branch in Samara regional branch. Member of regional parliament.

– There are no conflicting views between women's non-governmental organizations and regional authorities, while examples of fruitful cooperation are many, like a charity action for children whose parents died in Chechnya. The action was initiated by two women's non-governmental organizations and supported by dozens others with substantial contributions by banks and commercial firms. A charity marathon to protect children was another joint activity. Together with the Samara Children's Fund a charity action was organized to help children of an infant house in the territory of a correctional institution. We also participate actively in the development of regional legislation.

FIGHTING FOR A LIFE FREE OF VIOLENCE

Violence against women is a disgraceful violation of human rights. This phenomenon cuts across geographical boundaries, cultural and social layers. In Russia the scope of violence is increasing at alarming rates. That is why nearly all regional branches are actively engaged in activities to prevent multiple forms of violence against women, including domestic violence. The Movement provides assistance for the crisis centers that are now successfully operating in Karelia, Kalmykia, Buryatia, Kemerovo, Murmansk, Irkutsk, Kaliningrad and Stavropol.



Ljudmila BAYEVA

Head of the WMR branch in Murmansk. Ph. D. (Sciences), Associate Professor of the Murmansk State Technical University.

– Today, violence manifests itself in lots of forms: domestic violence, trafficking in women, prostitution, pornography. Over the past decade violence against women has acquired scale of epidemic. Despite the fact that the State regards violence against women as an unacceptable phenomenon that goes in detriment of universally recognized norms of law and ethics, in practice there is no adequate legislation and enforcement mechanisms to help women in a difficult position. Women are left to the mercy of the fate and face to face with their misfortunes. As a popular saying goes, the salvage of those in wreck lies into their own hands. That is why it is women (including many who work with our branch) who are giving hand to women in need.



Larissa BOICHENKO
Head of the WMR branch in the Republic of Karelia, Deputy Chairperson of the Commission on Improvement of Status of Women in the Republic of Karelia, Member of the St. Petersburg Union of Scientists, Ph.D. (History). Author of more than 80 studies on history, gender, women's rights. Ms. Boichenko was named among 100 best citizens of the city of Petrozavodsk.

– When we speak of how to fight this evil, we should realize that it cannot be done by the public alone – the economic and social roots of the phenomenon are too deep. This does not at all mean, however, that we should sit still and do nothing. Our WMR branch, for example, does everything possible to familiarize the public with the problem. We speak on the radio, we try to get on TV, we hold seminars and roundtables. We organize 'hot lines' and 'support lines' for the victims; we talk to women who, by their own wish or foolishness, have got in this horrible prostitution industry and commerce and the women trade. In this work we collaborate with all those who wish to render real assistance to the victims of violence. We have established contacts with a shelter and a crisis center for women in Petrozavodsk; we receive much help from the Karelia Center for Gender Studies. All these activities help to form public opinion, which in the end will force the government to respond.



Lidia MAZITOVA
Head of the Kemerovo branch of the Women Movement of Russia. Professional background – economist. Adviser to the Representative of the Kemerovo region in the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

– With the support of our branch a Public Reception Center and a Centre for Social and Psychological Rehabilitation for Women – Victims of Violence have been established and now operate

actively. Women can receive free legal and psychological consultation; in some cases we also involve the staff of law enforcing and social bodies. Only during the last six months we provided assistance to more than 300 women.



Zoya KOTCHUBEI
Head of the Yaroslavl branch of the Women Movement of Russia, Chairperson of the Yaroslavl Municipal Committee on Labour and Social Protection, Ph.D. (Soc. Sc.)

– This year a Crisis Centre for Assistance to Women Victims of Violence was opened on the initiative of our movement and with the active support of the city administration. We are only in the beginning of a very complicated and sometimes delicate work. Today in our center one can receive legal assistance. In the near future a medical prevention room will be opened, where women will be able to visit a highly qualified gynecologist, undergo necessary examination, and consult a psychologist.



OUR SOCIAL PROGRAMS

The **MOVEMENT** actively participates in the elaboration and implementation of social programs in the field of women employment, health protection, family, children and young people issues, in the charity activities. More than 10 000 pairs of shoes have been sent to children's homes and low-income families; 700 libraries throughout the country have received newspaper Women of Russia free of charge. Practically each regional branch has contributed in practical terms to the poverty eradication.



Olga TARLAKOVA

Head of the Vologda branch of the Women Movement of Russia. After the graduation from the Leningrad Electromechanical institute, was assigned to Vologda where she worked at the construction of the automatic multi-channel telephone stations. She contributed to the installation of dozens of thousand telephones throughout the Vologda region. Currently Ms. Tarlakova works as a chief engineer at the Elektrosviaz Joint-Stock Company.

– I am deeply convinced that only a woman, with her natural sense of responsibility and diligence, can bring peace and accord to the country, can lead the county's economy from the crisis, ease social tension, and put an end to the social and economic anarchy.



Galina TSERKOVNAYA

Head of the Novgorod branch of the Women Movement of Russia. Professional background – economist.. Worked at all levels – from a worker to a factory director. For more than 15 years has worked as a director of the 'Progress' shoe factory. Chairperson of the Women City Council.

– Our branch pays special attention to the self-employment of women, to the protection of the interests of low-income families and families with many children, of the unemployed, disabled children and

parents. For this purpose we organize workshops for women – future entrepreneurs, exhibitions and presentations 'Women Project of the Year', 'Wonderful Creation of Women's Hands'. An annual regional contest 'The Best Youth Farm' has been designed to support young women farmers. Our branch has initiated the creation in Novgorod of a psychological and pedagogical centre 'Trust' and of a city centre for assistance to families and children. We help widows of soldiers who died in the Second World War. We have studied their living conditions and every year provide targeted assistance to them.



Anna NAZAROVA

Head of the Penza branch of the Women Movement of Russia. Professional background – engineer. Head of a public reception room, which was created two years ago and where everyone can get free legal consultation.

– With much effort we have managed to open a sewing workshop to provide free training for unemployed women, with their future employment. Our regional branch has developed a program 'Generation Connection'. Its objective is to help single elderly people and the disabled. For the young people the program offers hobby clubs, photo training, aesthetic clubs.



Ljudmila SALIMOVA

Head of the Pskov branch of the Women Movement of Russia.

– Women employment is not a simple issue. An average job-seeking period for women in our region is around eight months, and in some districts even longer. That is why our branch has decided to concentrate our efforts on women employment. We have proposed the Department of the Federal Employment Service to cooperate in this area. The result of this collaboration were special training programs, aimed first of all at self-employment, retraining in profes-

sions that are in demand on the labour market.. Within the program framework a job fare was organized. The fare was visited by 3,5 thousand people, mostly women of course. Many have found a new job, others become better oriented in the process of choosing a new profession.



Nadezhda BOLTENKO
Head of the Novosibirsk branch of the Women Movement of Russia, Deputy Chairperson of the City Council of Deputies. Professional background – medical doctor. Worked at all levels of district health service – from pediatrician to director of the Zayaitsovsky district health department of Novosibirsk.

– On the initiative of our branch, women councils started to operate at the city enterprises, and their patronage of children's homes has become more active. Special emphasis has been made on the work with 'difficult' teenagers at the places of their residence, on the social assistance to vulnerable families and women in difficult situation. Together with other organizations we have analyzed the process of the preparation of the regional laws and special-purpose programs related to family, women and children, and we have submitted out proposals to supplement the existing legal and normative base.



Tatiana KATKOVA
Head of the Kaliningrad branch of the Women Movement of Russia. Professional background – historian. Currently gives lectures at the international institute of Tourism.

– Our movement in the Kaliningrad region has thousands of members – teachers, medical doctors, entrepreneurs, housewives. Many social problems in the region are being resolved with the participation of our movement activists. Their assistance varies from the financial support to simple human help. For example, our branch in the city of Sovetsk took an old people's home and a shelter under its patronage.



Svetlana PARFENOVA
Head of the WMR branch in the Republic of Bashkortostan, Deputy of the Legislative Assembly of the Republic of Bashkortostan.

– In our work we pay much attention to the professional retraining of unemployed women. For three years now a Women Employment Fund has operated under the WMR auspices. The fund provides consultations on small business and organizes retraining for women. During the last period more than 400 women have been employed, and more than 300 have been retrained. Our special concern is women with disabled children.



Ljudmila TIKHONOVA
Head of the WMR branch in the Republic of North Ossetia – Alania, Deputy of the Parliament of the Republic of North Ossetia – Alania.

– On the initiative of our movement and in cooperation with the Parliament New Year celebrations are organized every year for orphans whose fathers died in the armed conflicts, and children from vulnerable families. We exercise control over the provision of guaranteed secondary and higher professional education for orphans, as well as over the organization of their vacations.



Galina GAVRILOVA
Head of the Tcheliabinsk branch of the Women Movement of Russia, Director of the Tcheliabinsk Department of Social Development, Ph.D. (Psychology)

– We try to help everyone who asks for assistance. We have developed a social adaptation program for unemployed women, which is now being successfully implemented. Many of our initiatives are also aimed at the improvement of the social and economic situation of households and at changing the status of family in our region.



Nadezhda SOUCHKOVA

Head of the WMR branch in the Stavropol krai, Educational background – historian-bibliographer. For ten years worked in the Young Communist League (Komsomol). Currently heads the Stavropol branch of the Russian Charity and Health Fund. For the significant contribution to strengthening friendship between peoples Ms. Souchkova has been awarded Order of Friendship Between Peoples.

– Due to the specific features of our region, namely its multinational population, its close location to the border areas and hot spots, and the resulting social and economic tension, in our work we pay much attention to the problems of refugees and temporary migrants. For this purpose a program of their rehabilitation and adaptation has been developed and is being implemented now. Apart from that, we work hard to help establish peace and accord in the Caucasus. A women forum of the South Caucasus 'For Peace and Prosperity of Indivisible Russia', initiated by WMR, has contributed to this process. As a result of a very productive and well-coordinated work of the forum, a decision was taken to give it a status of a permanent organ.



Prof. Klara SEREBRENNIKOVA

Head of the WMR branch in the Republic of Udmurtia. Dr.Sc. (Med.), Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

– Poverty and daily economic problems have inevitably affected women health. Our department is actively involved in the NGO network on advocating reproductive health. The work is conducted in several directions: the collection and analysis of data on reproductive health; a dialogue with politicians; contacts with mass media. By now we have prepared an information bulletin on reproductive health; we also work on a program entitled 'Safe Maternity'.



Marina KHABAROVA

Head of the Tambov branch of the Women Movement of Russia. Professional background – Gynecologist, Ph.D (Med.). Initiated the creation of the 'Woman and Health' center.

– Women' health is a basis of the health of the nation. It has been long calculated that it is much less expensive to prevent a disease than to treat it. That is why our main objective is to unite various women organizations, working in the field of women health prevention. Apart from that, our center renders various social and psychological assistance to women with breast cancer; we also consult young mothers, organize regular lectures on sexual education for teenagers.

WE ARE WITH ALL THOSE WHO ARE AGAINST NARCOTICS

Three years ago the WMR members, activists of other NGOs and those who are not indifferent to other people's troubles, united in a movement entitled 'Mothers Against Narcotics'. Since the very beginning they have committed themselves not to criticize others, not to assess other people's work but to make their own, even small, input to save Russia's children. Today the movement has gained successful experience in fighting against drug addiction.



Vera ANTONOVA

Head of the Riazan' branch of the Women Movement of Russia. Historian. For more than 18 years worked in the regional legislative bodies. Twice was elected a deputy of the district soviet of the city of Riazan' and a secretary of the executive council of the district soviet. Currently works in the board of directors of the municipal commercial bank.

– We were the first in the region to sound the alarm. In 1998 an NGO 'Mothers Against Narcotics' was created. In the beginning it was just a group of seven activists. They had no funds, no premises, no experience. But very soon they were joined by many people who were not indifferent to this problem and who wished to fight against drug addiction. We have organized regular release of leaflets and brochures for parents, teachers and teenagers. Most parents know by hearsay about drugs and do not know how to identify this disease at the initial stage. Now we are starting a new experiment. We are forming groups of volunteers among schoolchildren, who organize 'role games' in the schools of the city. In the course of the game schoolchildren become psychologists, teachers, narcologists. Our volunteers are very convincing in talking to their peers about the harm of the drug addiction. Thus, through the joint efforts of activists, par-

ents, representatives of health services, medical doctors, teachers and the church we try to create a common anti-drugs front. As a result of our intense joint work – seminars and roundtables with the participation of the legislative and executive bodies – an Interdepartmental Commission on illegal drug trafficking and drug prevention has been created.



Svetlana YAROSLAVOVA

Head of the Tiumen regional branch of the Women Movement of Russia. Professional background – engineer. Author of more than 20 publications on social psychology. Director of information and Analytical Center.

– We understood the complexity and acuteness of this problem for our region, and we planned our work in several directions. They included information and public awareness activities; direct work with the young drug addicts and their parents; and of course the creation of conditions for their adaptation. We have compiled a database of the diseased, and we maintain lists of those who are in need of immediate help. Apart from that, we collect information on who, where and on what conditions treats this drug addiction not only in our region, but in Russia and the CIS. We actively collaborate with the mass media. We find many allies. We need them especially in the field of social adaptation of children. It is vital to take a drug user from the vicious circle of his former contacts. We are trying to create farms and communities. It requires funds, and we look for sponsors and find them. We also help parents of the diseased children, because they also become dependant on their child's disease. Many parents cannot stand the stress, accumulated for many years. They fall into depression, which may cause mental problems. On our initiative a parents' club has been created and it works successfully. We supply the club with various materials; its meetings are attended by psychologists and narcologists.



Tatiana LYSENKO

Head of the Tula regional branch of the Women Movement of Russia. Historian-politologist. Ph.D. (Sociology). Head of the Regional Committee on Women, family and Demography. Took part in the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. By the Decree of the President of the RF Ms. Lysenko was awarded a medal of the order (?) 'For Services for Fatherland', Second Class.

– A year ago we created an NGO 'Family Against Narcotics'. We realized that it was not longer possible to wait and do nothing. All healthy forces in the society must unite; otherwise there will be no future for us. Among the NGO members are parents, medical doctors, researchers and representatives of interior bodies, journalists. We are involved in the prevention activities and of course in the promotion of healthy life style. Only through the moral reorientation of the people and the development of their creativity we will be able to successfully resist drug addiction.

FOR THE REFORM OF THE RUSSIAN ARMY



Svetlana MISHATKINA

Head of the Volgograd branch of the Women Movement of Russia. Head of the City Department of Education.

– WMR has always attached great importance to the issues of the army and the military reform, to the status of servicemen and their families. One of the most significant actions in this field was the collection of signatures under the appeal to the President of the Russian Federation (1998). In the appeal we not only insisted on the necessity to speed up the military reform; we also proposed a number of concrete measures to improve the situation of soldiers even before the reform starts. The appeal was considered by the Security Council. Some of our demands have been reflected in a number of legal and normative documents. However, our main demand – moving to the formation of the army on a contract basis – has not yet been met.

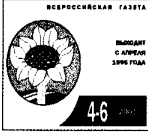


Elmira POLUBESOVA

Head of the Perm regional branch of the Women Movement of Russia. With the beginning of the market reform in Russia started her own successful business.

– Our movement has always defended and will defend the interests of servicemen and their families. Mothers who send their sons to the army in time of peace must be confident that their children will return home alive and healthy.

ЖЕНЩИНЫ РОССИИ



СВОБОДА ДОСТОИНСТВО БЕЗОПАСНОСТЬ ЧЕЛОВЕКА

Women Movement of Russia publishes an all-Russian cultural and educational newspaper 'Women of Russia'. On its pages we discuss the most important problems of the women movement in Russia and abroad; we publish essential information on gender education; we tell about the history of women movement and today's civil initiatives.



Tatiana GRANTSEVA
Editor-in-Chief, newspaper 'Women of Russia'. Professional background - Journalism, graduate of the Lomonosov Moscow State University. For more than 20 years worked in various newspapers and magazines. Six years ago devoted her life and professional activities to the women movement.



Rosa NAZMETDINOVA
Executive Director, Women Movement of Russia For almost 40 years worked in the healthcare system of the Russian Federation, including 18 years as Deputy Minister of Health of the Republic of Bashkortostan. In 1990 was elected a People's Deputy of the Russian Federation. Honored Medical Worker; was awarded a medal 'Excellent Medical Worker of the USSR'.

— Today the organizational structure of the movement and its public and political influence are being further strengthened; the number of its collective members and regional brunches is growing; local brunches are being formed; the number of individual members is increasing. Only this year new territorial brunches were established and registered in the Altai krai , headed by N.S. Sereda, and Komi-Permiatsk , headed by S.M. Aristova.

— В настоящее время происходит дальнейшее укрепление организационной структуры движения, увеличение общественно-политического веса, расширяется круг комитетских уполномоченных АЖР и структур региональных отделений, формируются местные отделения, растет число инициативных членов. Только в этом году созданы и зарегистрированы в Алтайском краевом отделении, руководимыи ныне — Алтайское краевое отделение, руководимое которым стала Н.С. Середина и Кomi-Пермиатский отделение, которое возглавила С.М. Аристова.



РОСА НАЗМЕТДИНОВА,
исполнительный директор АЖР. Около сорока лет работала в Башкортостане. В 1990 году была избрана Народным депутатом Российской Федерации, Заслуженный врач Российской Федерации, имеет медаль отличника здравоохранения СССР.



Татьяна Грантсева, главный редактор газеты «Женщины России». По профессии журналист, выпускница Московского государственного университета им. М.В. Ломоносова. Более 20 лет работала в различных газетах и журналах. Шесть лет назад связала свою судьбу и профессиональную деятельность с женщинами.

Движение женщин России расширяет свое сотрудничество с другими организациями. Наиболее значительные успехи достигнуты в Российской Федерации по линии образования, расширяется активная женского движения, особенно в области женских общественных инициатив.

ЖЕНЩИНЫ РОССИИ

