

**SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE
ARMENIAN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

*Armenian Women in Action:
Building Communities across the Globe*

October 9-12, 2014

In association with

**Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia
&
American University of Armenia**

PROGRAM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2014

18:30 - 21:00 Opening Gala Reception
Sponsored by RA Ministry of Diaspora
Valensia Hotel & Restaurant Complex, Yerevan
Welcome The Honorable Hranush Hakobyan, RA Minister of
Diaspora
Artistic Program

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2014 — ELITE PLAZA BUSINESS CENTER

9:30 - 10:00 Registration
Conference Hall, Elite Plaza Business Center
15 Khorenatsi
10:00 - 11:00 Opening Plenum
Welcome: The Honorable Hranush Hakobyan
Addresses: RA President Serzh Sargsyan
Catholicos Karekin II
Carolyn Atinizian, Vice President, AIWA

- International
Silva Katchiguan, AIWA Conference Planning
Committee
U.S. Ambassador John A. Heffern
Ambassador of the French Republic, Henri Reynaud
- Keynote:** The Honorable Valerie Boyer, Deputy, National
Assembly of the French Republic
- 11:00 – 12:00 Presentations**
- Moderator:** Chiara Megighian-Zenati
- Speakers:** Fethiye Çetin & Ayşe Gül Altınay
*Women's Memories: Uncovering the Silence about
Islamized Armenians*
- Speaker:** Antonia Arslan, *The Cross of Mush*
- 12:00 – 13:15** Lunch
- 13:15 – 14:30 Panel I: The Roles of Women During and After the
Armenian Genocide**
- Moderator:** Barbara Merguerian
- Panelists:** Doris Melkonian, *The Armenian Genocide: Women
Resisting Cultural Erasure*
Arda Melkonian, *Resourcefulness of Armenian
Women during the Genocide*
Rubina Peroomian, *A Journey through the Armenian
Genocide Literature*
Anaide Nahikian, *Continuing Effects of Genocide:
Syrian Armenians Today*
- 14:30 – 16:30 Departure to Tsitsernakaberd Genocide Memorial
Placing of the Wreath**
- Speaker:** Hayk Demoyan, *New Perspectives on Women and
the Armenian Genocide*
Tsitsernakaberd Armenian Genocide Museum
- 17:00 Free evening

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2014 — A U A

- 9:00 **Registration**
American University of Armenia, Manoogian Hall
- 9:30 – 10:15 **Opening Plenum**
- Speakers:** Armen Der Kiureghian, AUA President
Alexandra Pittman, *How NGOs in Armenia Advance*

Women's Rights

Sarah Leah Whitson, *Women's Rights in the Middle East and North Africa*

10:15 - 10:45 Opening of the AUA Student Lounge

Ribbon-cutting: Alice Navasargian
Toast: Armen Der Kiureghian
Address: Elizabeth Agbabian

10:45 - 11:45 Panel II: The Role of Armenian Women in a Globalized World

Moderator: Arpie Balian
Panelists: **Alvina Gyulumyan**, *Women in Policy Making*
Gayane Ghandilyan, *Gyumri Reconfigured*
Hrachuhi Barseghyan, *The Challenges of Entrepreneurship for Women in Armenia*

11:45 - 13:00 Panel III: Meeting Challenges in Women's Health for Women in Armenia

Moderator: Judy Norsigian
Panelists: **Khachanoush Hakobyan**, *Best Practices in Women's Reproductive Health*
Karine Saribekyan, *Armenia's Fertility Problems*
Neli Abrahamyan, *Selected Attitudes Towards Sexual and Reproductive Health in Armenia*
Lara Aharonian & Nina Roma Agvanian, *From Denial to Action: Violence Against Women in Armenia*

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch, AUA Cafeteria

Speaker: Vahan Zanoian, *A Place Far Away*

14:00 - 14:45 Panel IV: NGOs in Action in Armenia

Moderator: Silva Katchiguian
Panelists: **Armenia Tree Project**, *Dedicated to Environmental Protection and Tree Planting*
Alla Sahakyan
Fuller Center, *Building Homes, Communities and a Homeland*
Gohar Palyan
Hanganak NGO, *Medical & Social Support for the Elderly in Stepanakert*
Gohar Hovhannisyan
Homeland Development Initiative Foundation,

Creation of Jobs for Women in the Regions of Armenia
Timothy Straight
Mer Hoops, Full-time Residential Educational Center
for Young Women from Underprivileged
Backgrounds
Noune Geghamyan
Near East Foundation, *Women's Economic
Empowerment & Advocacy Project*
Arpine Baghdoyan
**Women's Entrepreneurship Promotion &
Empowerment Center**, *Empowering Women
Entrepreneurs*
Anahit Ghazaryan

- 14:45 - 15:45 Panel V: Women in Literature**
Moderator: Judith A. Saryan
Panelists: **Jennifer Manoukian**, *Zabel Yessayan as Mother and
Activist*
Samvel Muratyan, *Armenian Writers since the
Genocide*
Siobhan Nash-Marshall, *A Tale of Two Women:
Heranoush and Halide Edip*
Naira Hambardzumyan, *Contemporary Armenian
Women Writers*
- 15:45 - 17:45 Reading of *Women of Ararat*, AUA faculty and
students**
Discussion with Judith Boyajian, author, *Women of
Ararat*
- 17:45 - 18:45 Dinner at AUA**
Film: Suzanne Khardalian, *Grandma's Tattoos (47:22)*
- 19:30 - 21:00 Free evening**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2014 — A U A

- 9:15 - 12:00 Departure to Etchmiadzin**
**10:00 - 10:30 Meeting with the H.H. Karekin II, Catholicos of All
Armenians**
- 12:30 - 14:30 Lunch & Conference Wrap-up**
**AIWA Organizational Meeting (open to non-
members as well)**
Report from affiliates

18:30 – 24:00 Closing Banquet
Latar Restaurant & Hotel Complex
Fourth Street, Building #58
Silikyan District (Yerord Gyugh)

CONFERENCE OPTIONAL EVENTS

Wednesday, October 8, 2014 [*reservations handled by AMAA*]

Opening Reception for the Avedisian School

Thursday, October 9, 2014, 16:00-17:00 — Guided Tour of the Armenian-American Wellness Center, 5 Mekhitar Heratsi Street, Yerevan

Thursday, October 9, 2014, 17:00-18:00 — Peace of Art Exhibition by Daniel Varoujan Hejinian, National Art Museum, Republic Square, Yerevan

Thursday, October 9, 2014, 17:00 — Opening of the “Colors from Armenia and Beyond” Watercolor Paintings Exhibit, Akian Art Gallery, American University of Armenia [Gallery is open Monday through Friday, 10:00-17:00 hrs.]

Friday, October 10, 2014, 17:00-18:30 — The Dawn of the Sea of Van [Վանա ծովու արշալույսը] Movie (1:20), Moscow Theater
Advance reservation is required

Friday, October 10, 2014, 19:00-20:00 — Cocktail reception hosted by ArtBridge, Abovyan 20, Yerevan
Advance reservation is required

Saturday, October 11, 2014, all day — An Exhibit of Products by Syrian Armenian Women, AUA Manoogian Hall Foyer

Monday, October 13, 2014, 9:45-13:00 — Bustrip and Guided Tour of an Armenia Tree Project Nursery
Advance reservation is required

Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 9:45-14:00 — Guided Tour of Tierras de Armenia, Armavir vineyards *Advance reservation is required by e-mail*

to acschirinian@aa2000.com.ar

- 9:45 departure by bus [pick up from Ani Hotel, then pick up from Marriott Hotel]
- 11:00 arrival at Tierras de Armenia lands in Armavir marz
- 11:00 to 12:00 noon tour of the vineyards and winery where Karas wine is produced and bottled
- 12:00 noon to 2:00 lunch hosted by Tierras de Armenia (including a voshkar barbecue)
- 14:00 departure to Yerevan or connect to the next event

Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 14:00-16:30— Guided Bustrip to two COAF Villages [pick up from Tierras de Armenia]

Advance reservation is required

Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 11:00— Visit to Mer Hooys, Nakashian Children's Support Center, Yerevan

Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 11:00— Open Talk with Drs. Mihran Aghababian and Vartan Grigorian, AUA Manoogian Hall

Friday, October 17, 2014, 18:00— Public Lecture sponsored by AIWA San Francisco, AUA Manoogian Hall

Speakers: Kohar Der Simonian, MD; Hasmik Arzumanyan, MD; and Ani Tejirian, MD

Topic: "Prevention in Healthcare through Knowledge Advancement"