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 Katchiguian, 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 Altinay
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 Abrahanyan, 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 Zanoyan, A Place Far Away

14:00 – 14:45 Panel IV: NGOs in Action in Armenia
Moderator: Silva Katchigian
Panelists: Armenia Tree Project, Dedicated to Environmental Protection and Tree Planting
Alla Sahakyan
Fuller Center, Building Homes, Communities and a Homeland
Gohar Palyan
Hangank 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 Hooys, 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
**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 [Վանածուների առարկան] 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 Hooy, Nakashian Children’s Support Center, Yerevan

**Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 11:00** — Open Talk with Drs. Mihran Aghbabian 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”