



NEWSLETTER

CENTER FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND HISTORY

AUGUST 2023

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UPCOMING GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEARN ABOUT OUR ACTIONS. TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS.

KIIF is having the 5th General Assembly of its members on Thursday, 7 September, 7:00–8:00 p.m.

The Assembly will take place online via Zoom. The languages of the Assembly will be Greek and English.

We invite our members to join the Assembly a few minutes before its starting time, through the following link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84034212605?
pwd=T0N2UUhuRi9oZ0FVK3Bta1NKUVFnZz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84034212605?pwd=T0N2UUhuRi9oZ0FVK3Bta1NKUVFnZz09)

The Assembly will start right on time.

It will include:

7:00–7:20 Review of KIIF's activities during the past year and Q&A (Questions & Answers).

7:20–7:35 Review of KIIF's following activities and Q&A.

7:35–7:45 Short presentation and approval of KIIF's Annual Report and Financial Report. (These will be sent in advance to all members who

are encouraged to send their comments in writing before the Assembly, if they have any).

7:45–8:00 Presentation of candidates for one vacant position to the nine-member Board of Directors and election of the new member. (Due to a vacancy on the Board of Directors, a new member will be elected. Because the outgoing member was a Turkish Cypriot, our effort is to have this position filled by a Turkish Cypriot so that the community is represented. If you wish to nominate a person or submit a nomination yourself, please send an email at info@kiif.com.cy).

Ending of the official part of the Assembly.

8:00–8:30 After the end of the official part of the meeting, an open, casual discussion will follow where anyone who wishes is welcome to stay and share their thoughts on potential activities, or ask for clarifications/ information regarding KIIF's activities, or express their opinion about the Center's overall activity, strategy, and vision.

BICOMMUNAL WOMEN'S WORKSHOPS

BUILDING A SOCIETY OF PEACE AND EQUALITY



During the past year, a large part of KIIF's work focused on realising experiential educational workshops, where Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot women, from different backgrounds and ages, got together in

a safe educational space. Here, women's history and gender history met with peace education and peace building.

More particularly, between March and June 2023, KIIF implemented 10 women's workshops in various places, such as Nicosia, Larnaca, Trikomo, Deryneia, and Famagusta, with more than ninety participants in total.

In the workshops, we had the opportunity, through interactive and experiential activities to turn "inwards" and explore our own identities, our own personal stories, and our own prejudices and stereotypes, as well as to turn "outwards" and reflect on how we see others and how we understand our collective past and present.

During the workshops, we also explored various aspects of women's history, spanning from our personal and family history to the broader social history of Cypriot women.

A stop in this journey of empathy and unity was the 25th of June 2023, when KIIF organised an open bicommunal event, at Ledra Palace, in Nicosia. At the event, the participants had the opportunity to present to the public short stories about women and events from the history of Cyprus.

THE STORIES AS PRESENTED BY THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE BEEN GATHERED AND WILL BE PUBLISHED IN A COLLECTIVE WORK UNDER THE TITLE "HERSTORIES FOR PEACE"!

THE PUBLICATION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN GREEK-TURKISH-ENGLISH AND WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE AT KIIF'S [WEBSITE](#) AND [FACEBOOK](#) PAGE.



Examples of subjects that will be touched by the stories:

- > The first women Members of Parliament in the Republic of Cyprus.
- > The story of the approximately 4000 Turkish Cypriot girls who were sold to Arabs as brides against their will during the 20th century.
- > Biographies of Cypriot women such as Lena Melanidou, Maestro of the Bicommunal Choir for Peace, the peasant Loula Stavrou Roti, first woman who was elected in a village council in Cyprus, the sex worker Jemaliye, whose murder along with a man named Zeki, is believed to have triggered the beginning of the inter-communal conflicts, and many others.

The workshops and the event were carried out under the project "[Herstory for Peace: Women's Workshops in Cyprus and Ireland](#)" which is implemented by KIIF in collaboration with the Irish NGO [Herstory Education Trust](#) and is funded by the Erasmus+ and UNFICYP.

TEN MINUTES ON THE HISTORY OF CYPRIOT WOMEN AND WHY IT MATTERS

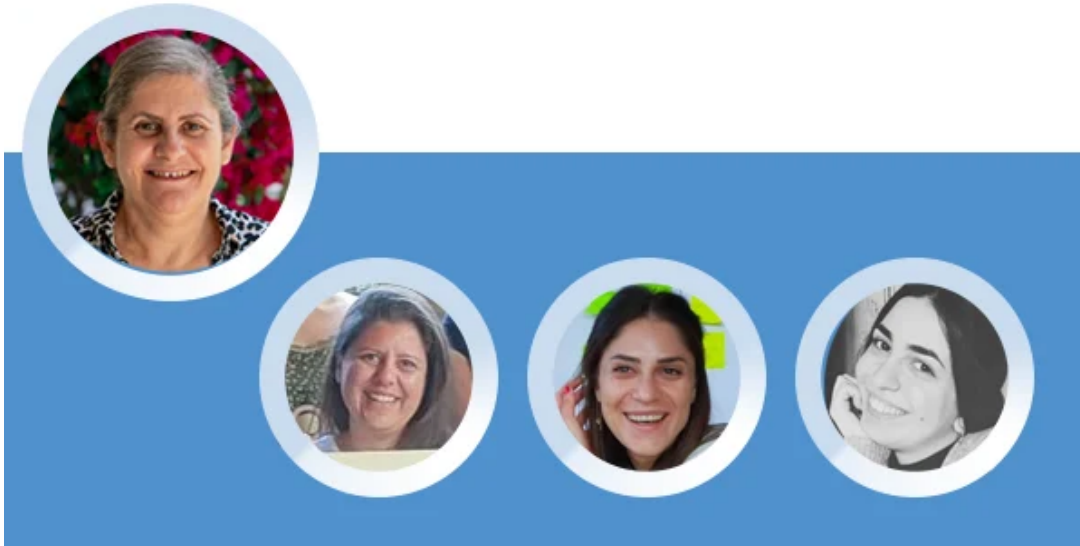
KIIF's project "[Herstory for Peace: Women's Workshops in Cyprus and Ireland](#)" was the topic of the UNFICYP's (United Nations Force in Cyprus) monthly Podcast "Out Loud" this July!

[LISTEN TO THE PODCAST HERE](#)

In a ten-minutes conversation with the podcast host, Ersin Oztocay, our team members, Magdalene Andreou, Angeliki Kourri, and Faika Deniz Pasha, talked about the bicommunal women's workshops which took place in different areas of Cyprus, the history of Cypriot women who fought for peace and gender equality, and their thoughts and feelings while hearing and narrating such stories.



UNFICYP's podcast "Out Loud"



KIIF'S PARTICIPATION AT THE FEMME FEST

A FESTIVAL FOR THE PROMOTION OF GENDER EQUALITY

Our Center has participated for the second consecutive year in the festival that promotes gender equality, [Femme Fest Cyprus](#) (Sunday, 14 May 2023). At our kiosk, we distributed informational leaflets on KIIF's activities, we spoke with representatives of other organisations and individuals, while the Directress of KIIF, Thekla Kyritsi, participated in a discussion panel on "Gender Inequalities Beyond the Dividing Wall: Experiences, Challenges, Good Practices" which dealt with the cooperation of women across the dividing line to build a society of peace and gender equality.



If you are interested in becoming a member of KIIF or to volunteer, send us an email [at info@kiif.com.cy!](mailto:info@kiif.com.cy)

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