

NEWSLETTER

Issue 2

July 2019



Dear friends,

We are happy to present the second newsletter of the Center for Gender Equality and History (KIIF)! KIIF is a non-profitable, non-governmental organization aiming to study and promote gender equality, putting emphasis on the history of gender and gender relations in Cyprus and the world.

Our focus on history derives from the invisibility of women's history, gender history, and social history of Cyprus in general, and also from our desire to understand our present better by comprehending the roots of patriarchy, homophobia and inequality.

KIIF aspires to become a center for the exchange of scientifically and research-based ideas as well as a center for action toward gender equality; a space to reclaim the past as well as the future of gender relations on the basis of knowledge, mutual respect, individual and collective freedom, democracy and equality.

Anyone can become a member of KIIF as long as they agree with the main principles and goals of the organization. KIIF is governed by a nine-person Board of Directors which is elected by KIIF's General Assembly, occurring once a year.



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PUBLISHER

*CENTER for GENDER
EQUALITY & HISTORY*

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SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY: ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018 AND ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

On 13 February 2019, the Second General Assembly of the Center for Gender Equality and History (KIIF) took place with the participation of the members of the organization. The outgoing Administrative Board, represented by its outgoing Coordinator, Thekla Kyritsi, presented the annual report on the organization's activities for the year 2018 and reaffirmed that the primary goal of the Administrative Board in these first steps should continue to be the consolidation of KIIF as a non-governmental organization promoting equality and spreading gender history in the Cypriot society.

The report consisted of an overview of KIIF's activity; from its first steps and its official registration in July 2017—as a non-governmental organization under the legal form of an association—to date. At this point, the outgoing Administrative Board stressed the tremendous importance of voluntary work for the existence of KIIF since for a significant period of time the Center operated exclusively on a voluntary basis.

Aiming to establish strong foundations, the Administrative Board explained that the priority of the previous year was the financial sustainability and functionality of the Center by claiming and ensuring funding. This effort, which was accompanied by the employment of the first salaried staff of KIIF, was crowned with enormous success, since within a year the Center earned funding for three projects, setting the foundations for further establishment and development.

In the discussion that followed the annual report, the participants made questions and interventions which focused mainly on the need for a further, and more organized, engagement and cooperation with immigrants and Turkish Cypriots in the future activities of the Center. The Financial Annual Report of KIIF was also presented, by the Financial Officer of the Board, Yiota Panayiotou, and was approved by the members present. The General Assembly concluded with the election of the new Administrative Board of KIIF.



NEW ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

Co-coordinators:

*Andria Kyprianou
and
Evi Tselika*

Members:

*Marianna
Dimosthenous*

Eirini Kyritsi

Elena Neophytou

Yiota Panayiotou

*Panayiotis
Stavrinides*

Vasiliki Farao

*Sotiroula
Charalambous*

KIIF
**CENTER for
GENDER
EQUALITY &
HISTORY**

CENTER FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND HISTORY: 2018 AT A GLANCE!

During 2018, KIIF organized three historical walks, in Old Nicosia, focusing on women's history in Cyprus. KIIF also launched its official website (www.kiif.com.cy) which will be continuously updated with all the news, events, announcements and actions of the organization. Furthermore, in cooperation with other stakeholders, the organization began the implementation of three long-term projects which are enlisted below:

"WORKING WOMAN: A Gendered View to the Past and the Future of Work". The program was initiated in September 2018 and is expected to be completed in February 2020. It is implemented by the Historical Labour Museum of PEO in collaboration with KIIF and PAOK Klirou and is funded by the European program Erasmus +. For more information, the public can visit KIIF's website and / or the website of PEO <https://kiif.com.cy/working-woman-a-gendered-view-to-the-past-and-the-future-of-work/>.



"A Women's History Archive: Cyprus Library Online for Gender". This program was launched in December 2018 and is expected to be completed in December 2020. It is implemented by the Research Institute PROMITHEAS in collaboration with KIIF and the University of Cyprus, and is funded by the Research Promotion Foundation under the European RESTART 2016-2020 programs. For more information, the public can visit the facebook page and website of the project (CLIO for gender - Cyprus Library Online <http://www.clioforgender.com/>).

"Young People on Gender Equality in the Family: The Importance of the State and the Social Institutions". The project is funded by the Cyprus Youth Organization within the framework of the European Program ERASMUS + (Key Action 3 - Structured Dialogue). The program was initiated in January 2019 and is expected to be completed in December 2020. It is implemented by KIIF (which, for the first time, has the role of the leader organization in an externally funded project) in cooperation with the Cyprus Family Planning Association. For more information, the public can visit KIIF's website <https://kiif.com.cy/the-young-for-gender-equality-in-the-family-the-importance-of-the-state-and-the-social-institutions/>.



CREATING AN OPEN ONLINE ARCHIVE ON THE MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY HISTORY OF CYPRIOT WOMEN

«Each time a girl opens a book and finds a womanless history, she learns she is worth less».

Myra Pollack Sadker

A press conference was held on Tuesday, April 23, on the launch of the research program **"A Women's History Archive: Cyprus Online Library for Gender"**. The project is implemented by the Promitheas Research Institute, in cooperation with the Center for Gender Equality and History, and the University of Cyprus. The project is implemented in the framework of the Program Restart «Social Innovation 2016 – 2020» of the Research Promotion Foundation, and is co-funded by the Republic of Cyprus and the EU Regional Development Fund.

The main objective of the project—as indicated by the project's title—is the creation and preservation of a historical archive on the history of Cypriot women. The archive will operate as an online database, which will be free and accessible to all. At this phase, the archive will cover the period 1878-1960 and the data will include mainly primary sources such as interviews, newspaper and magazine publications, private and personal archives and others. It will also include links and information regarding secondary sources and relevant bibliography.

As pointed out by Dr. Sotiroula Yiasemi, on behalf of Promitheas Research Institute, this effort aspires to contribute toward bridging gender inequalities and improving the role of women in Cypriot society. By making women's contribution visible, the ultimate purpose is to break historical myths related to women and gender that deter contemporary societies and individuals from overcoming gender stereotypes and becoming positive agents of change.

Andrea Neophytou, on behalf of the Center of Gender Equality and History, mentioned that the idea of creating a historical archive on women's history originated from the observation that the female presence is nearly absent in the mainstream historical narratives. The invisibility of women in history-writing forms a distinct discipline which preoccupies researchers at the international level. The project attempts to cover part of this gap in terms of Cyprus, where the absence of women is traced on multiple levels such as in school textbooks, historical monuments, academic historiography, street naming and others.

CLIO
FOR GENDER
CYPRUS LIBRARY ONLINE

DURATION:
2 YEARS

PARTNERS:
3

FUNDING:
INE

Dr. Miranda Christou, Assistant Professor at the University of Cyprus, referred to the educational part of the project, which aims at the development of an effective pedagogical approach for change in regard to gender stereotypes. The final outcome will be the creation of an educational kit, open to the public, so that teachers and trainers will have an easily accessible and ready-made educational material in terms of the history of women in Cyprus.

During the press conference, the project team announced the address of the project's webpage which will host the online archive that will operate via a data search engine. For further information please visit the project's website (www.clioforgender.com).



KICK OFF PRESS CONFERENCE

CLIO

FOR GENDER

CYPRUS LIBRARY ONLINE

23/04
2019

11:00 a.m.

streaming live...

INE ΚΙΠ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΙΣΤΟΡΙΑΣ & ΓΥΝΑΙΚΕΙΑΣ ΙΣΤΟΡΙΑΣ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΚΥΠΡΟΥ

ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗ ΈΝΩΣΗ Ευρωπαϊκό Ταμείο Περιφερειακής Ανάπτυξης

2014-2020 RESTART SEARCH

ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΤΑΜΕΙΟ Ανάπτυξης, Ανάπτυξης, Ανάπτυξης

ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΤΑΜΕΙΟ Ανάπτυξης, Ανάπτυξης, Ανάπτυξης



The creation of the *Women's History Archive – Cyprus Library Online (CLIO) for Gender* is the first coherent and systematic effort toward collecting, gathering and organizing data about the contemporary socio-political history of Cypriot women at an organized database. We invite anyone who obtains or has information regarding the social, political, economic and other spheres of women's history during 1878-1960 to contact us, either via clioforgender@gmail.com or by calling at 22432111. From women's personal correspondence and old photos to dowry agreements and other historical documents related to the history of Cypriot women during 1878-1960, the project team will digitalize material and will upload it on the online database, always in consultation with the proprietors and always respecting copyrights and intellectual rights, by either adding a watermark on relevant documents, mentioning the name of the individual or of the organization that holds the property of the material etc.

Help us save historical sources and keep women's experiences alive in the collective memory. Help us make the history of women, and of women's struggles, visible!

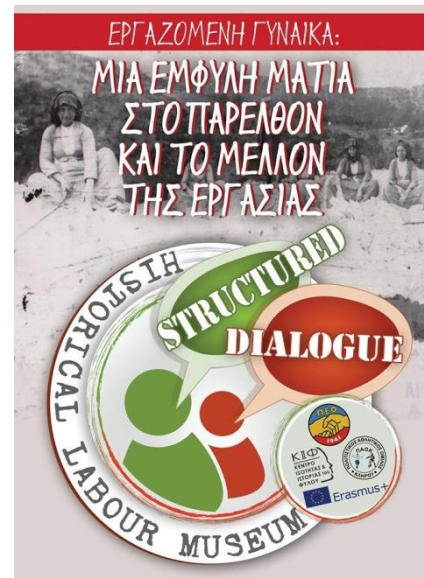
WORKING WOMAN: A GENDERED VIEW TO THE PAST AND THE FUTURE OF WORK

In the framework of the project «Working Woman: A Gendered View to the past and the future of work», a workshop on the history of women in Cyprus was held on Friday, 10 May 2019, at ΠΑΟΚ Klirou Association.

The workshop included two presentations. The first one, presented by Thekla Kyritsi on behalf of the Center for Gender Equality and History, referred to the history of women's movement in Cyprus focusing on the first steps of working women's movement. The presentation introduced the participants into the milestones of the history of Cypriot women, such as the history of women's suffrage and the first steps toward women's organization including the first women's clubs at the end of 20th century, and led to the massive movement of working women during the 1940s. The second presentation was given by Polina Stavrou—on behalf of PAOK Klirou—who dealt with the issue of gender stereotypes. The purpose of the presentation was to highlight the way in which gender stereotypes are integrated into the dominant narratives and how these narratives influence and reproduce the way women themselves perceive their role and their contribution to the wider social and political context today.

The participants showed special interest when they were asked, in the framework of the workshop, to create a historical album which would present the history of the women of Klirou. This way, the participants had the opportunity to write down names of individual women from their history and to tell stories they heard from their grandparents about women's lives in Klirou and the struggles of peasant and working-class women for the improvement of their lives.

At the end of the workshop a small reception took place, where participants exchanged views and ideas on the subject.



DURATION:
18 MONTHS

PARTNERS:
3

FUNDING:
ERASMUS+

In the framework of the program «Working Woman: A Gendered View to the past and the future of work», the Center for Gender Equality and History organized on Saturday, 8 June 2019, a walking tour in the walled city of Nicosia titled «Reviving the invisible history of women: A walk in another Nicosia». The participants were members and friends of the club PAOK Klirou. During the journey, emphasis was put on the history of working women, which is the subject of the program, and on issues such as women's working conditions, the development of the working women's movement, the first time that Cypriot women played in theatres, the struggles of pioneer women, such as the director of the first school for girls, Eleni Christou, the trade unionist Kyriakou Pavlou and others. At the end of the walk, the participants exchanged their thoughts and concluded that despite the improvement of women's working and social conditions, a lot of their demands remain unfulfilled.

**Ζωντανεύοντας την αόρατη ιστορία των γυναικών
Οδοιπορικό σε μιαν άλλη Λευκωσία**

Σάββατο | 8 Ιουνίου

Αναχώρηση με λεωφορείο από ΠΑΟΚ Κλήρου, ώρα 7:30 π.μ.
Αφετηρία διαδρομής από το round about του ΟΧΙ, ώρα 8:30 π.μ.

Ο ΠΑΟΚ Κλήρου σας προσκαλεί να συμμετέχετε στην ιστορική διαδρομή με θέμα την ιστορία των γυναικών στην παλιά Λευκωσία, η οποία διοργανώνεται από το Κέντρο Ισότητας και Ιστορίας του Φύλου (Κ.Ι.Ι.Φ).



Το Γυναικοπάζαρο

* Λόγω περιορισμένου αριθμού θέσεων, η κράτηση θέσης είναι απαραίτητη.

📞 Κρατήσεις στα τηλέφωνα : 99520270, 99959750, 99783436



For further information
visit our website
www.kiif.com.cy



THE YOUNG FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FAMILY: THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STATE AND THE SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The Center for Gender Equality and History (KIIF) and the Cyprus Family Planning Association (KSOP) are happy to announce the implementation of the project *The Young for Gender Equality in the Family: The Importance of the State and the Social Institutions*. The project is funded by the Youth Board of Cyprus within the framework of the European Programme ERASMUS+ (Key Action 3 - Structured Dialogue) and will last for two years. It began in January 2019 and is expected to be completed in December 2020. The project is a structured dialogue between young people and stakeholders. At the initial stage, the project includes the implementation of a quantitative and qualitative research—undertaken by the Hypatia Foundation Promoting Equality—aiming to capture the views of the young. The next stage refers to the organization of a series of workshops which will end with an island-wide general conference (more information regarding the dates of the workshops and the conference will be announced soon in the websites of the two organizations). Finally, a youth committee that will be elected by the conference will participate in a round of meetings with policy makers and stakeholders to convey the results of the conference.

The need for the implementation of this project by the two organizations derives from recognizing that gender equality in the family has not yet been achieved despite the progress that has been accomplished during the last decades. Gender stereotypes continue to define the distribution of family roles and tasks while gender prejudices dominating the wider social environment—along with the lack of a functional welfare state and social policies which would protect and support parenting—lead to inequalities in and out of the family, and maintain conditions of oppression for both women and men.

As examples of this we mention that mothers face stereotypes and real difficulties in regard to their work and professional life, their active participation in social and political life, their socialization outside the private sphere etc., while fathers face stereotypes and difficulties linked to “masculinity” which can be discouraging in respect to quality time with their children and family, and their relationship with various levels of family and private life that were traditionally seen as “female”.

In this context, the project deals with issues such as the welfare state; the facilities and infrastructure for the social care of children or other dependents; the active participation of parents—and especially mothers—in political and social life; paternity and maternity leave; new forms of family; reconciliation of family and professional life as well as the family law and the legal framework concerning gender equality.



DURATION:
1 YEAR

PARTNERS:
2

FUNDING:
ERASMUS+

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



The aim of this project is to offer space to young women and men to construct their opinions and to express them to stakeholders, urging them to apply good policies for gender equality in the family. The organizers aspire this way to contribute to the empowerment of the youth on issues of equality and give young people the opportunity to construct their own concrete proposals to society towards the goal of gender equality in the family.

Research on gender equality in the family and the role of the state and the social institutions.

In the framework of the project “The young for Gender Equality and History: The Importance of the State and the Social Institutions”, a research study is currently in progress regarding young people’s opinions about gender equality in the family. Through a relevant questionnaire and the organization of four focus groups, the study puts emphasis on the role that the State and the social institutions have, or should have according to the point of view of young participants, toward the support of equality in the family. The research is undertaken by the Hypatia Foundation for Promoting Equality. The results will be presented to the public during the workshops which will take place next year in the framework of the relevant project. More information can be found in our website <https://kiif.com.cy/the-young-for-gender-equality-in-the-family-the-importance-of-the-state-and-the-social-institutions/>



Photographs from a meeting of the three organizations for the signing of a contract and the preparation of the survey.



Bi-communal Action

In cooperation with the UNFICYP branch in Famagusta—as part of their efforts to bring together Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot organizations—a delegation of KIIF visited on 20 April 2019 the walled city of Famagusta. During the visit, the delegation had the opportunity to meet with Koral Ozkoraltay, a Turkish Cypriot historian and member of the Turkish Cypriot non-governmental organization FEMA (Feminist Atelier) who guided us to the old city presenting some of its most characteristic spots. During our visit, we had the opportunity to exchange thoughts on our common vision for the reunification of our country and discuss about the activities of our organizations. We put emphasis to the history of Cypriot women and to our common interest for promoting this aspect of history. At the end of our meeting, we discussed the possibility of future cooperation and common action.



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GRAPHIC DESIGN

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