

In March 2012, IOM has facilitated 2.5-days Women in Policing Conference that was initiated by INL in which 10 international experts from US law enforcement agencies were invited to share their experience and knowledge with female police staff from different regions of Georgia.

The project aimed to assist women working in police in strengthening their capacities through an awareness-raising conference. The conference conceived by the US Embassy in Georgia, specifically by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) provided an opportunity for Georgian female police professionals to meet other colleagues from the United States and learn through experience sharing, how to fulfil their duties in a more effective manner as well as to advance their career to assume greater responsibilities. The project contributes to raising the role of women in police and empowering them for career development, while also nurturing the initiation of female police officers' networks at national and local levels.

Power Point Presentations and speakers:

Breaking the Glass Ceiling by Connie Sampson, Vice President and Chief of Police, Georgia State University;
Leading Using Your Emotional Intelligence by Dawn Diedrich, Georgia Bureau of Investigation;
Domestic Violence Investigations by Detective Jennifer Samson, Seattle Police Department;
Sexual Assault and Crimes against Children by Detective Donna Stangeland, Seattle Police Department;
Combating Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace by Viki Thomson, Director of Human Resources and Nata Tsnoriashvili, Senior Staff Attorney, Department of Justice, U.S. Embassy;
Strategies for Success by Michael Turner, INL Senior Police Advisor;
Positive Public Image through Skilled Communication by Stacie Summerhill, INL Legal Instructor, U.S. Embassy.

The feedback received was extremely positive and the event was highly appreciated by all.

As a result of the successfully completed conference INL plans to initiate regional Women in Policing Conference in much bigger scales in March 2013 that will be implemented with the help of IOM. It is envisioned that together with Georgian women police officers, the regional conference will bring female officers from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Ukraine.

This year conference will build on the experience of the previous conference that will allow expansion into the regional dimension and cooperation among the Ministry of Internal Affairs of these four countries. Within the framework of this project, IOM will provide the necessary support for the organization of the experience sharing conference, adding a more gender sensitive approach to capacity building initiatives for the Armenian, Azeri, Georgian and Moldovan law enforcement agencies, while putting a specific focus on the particular role of women in police in combating gender sensitive crime such as child abuse, trafficking of human beings, violence against women, domestic and family related abuses, etc.

The Conference will be a good opportunity to strengthen the regional cooperation among law enforcement agencies, especially among female staff that will build grounds to initiate dialogue and exchange experience among the structures of these four countries.

PHOTOS FROM THE CONFERENCE HELD IN MARCH 2012

