

**Year of Foundation:**1991

**Contacts:**Blv " Bajram Curri", Rr "Irfan Tomini", Pall Jon2002, HY25, K5, AP18, Tirana, Albania

**Legal status:**Non-governmental non-profit organisation

**Countries of action:**Albania, Montenegro, Macedonia, Greece, Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France.

**Mission and aims:**□

**The mission of IFAW is to defend the women rights through strengthening the social, economic, political status of the Albanian women.**

**The IFAW's general goals are:**

- The defence of women's rights in the framework of the human rights;
- Promotion of Equal opportunities between women and men;

- Women participation in all the levels of the policy-making institutions;
- Social inclusion of socially excluded people,
- Participation of women in the labour market as equal citizens;
- Regional cooperation between women NGOs, to develop good understanding and better relations;
- Culture, information, education and communication – ways to Europe.

### **Members**

Our organization is a network present in 17 districts of Albania and we count 900 members.

### **Governance (organization chart)**

The highest body of IFAW is the General Meeting of the Representative Members, which elects the members of the Executive Board, the President and decides the main strategies of the IFAW.

Actually, the staffs of IFAW are composed by eight persons and several part times and volunteers. The number of the part time and some of staff changes according to the number of the projects, their duration and their demands.

## Projects, activities (accomplished missions and ongoing actions)

### The main components of IFAW activity are the following:

- Information and Counseling Services
- Professional Training and Opportunities of Employment
- Training on capacity building
- Awareness Raising Campaign
- Lobbying
- Publications

IFAW has 17 branches in all Albania and 5 Women's Centers. The centers give services to women: counseling, advocacy; legal problems, health, etc. The centers organize activities and develop relations and cooperation with the local public institutions.

Recently through the *IPA Adriatica Program* IFAW in collaboration with Municipality of Ulcinj Montenegro and WOMEN - Women of Mediterranean, east and south European Network, Italy has opened two **centers for orientation and professional qualification of socially excluded women in Albania and Montenegro**.

The activities of IFAW are emphasized by an important **social and gender oriented dimension**. IFAW has developed different advocacy programs in collaboration with other NGOs, local power and Parliament in order to push for improvement of legislation regarding the women issues.

*IFAW has been the national coordinator in the process of writing the Shadow Report on CEDAW*

(Convention on the Elimination of all kind of Discrimination against Women), which outlines the situation of Albanian women based on some important articles of the CEDAW.

IFAW has its Publishing Center “Dora d’Istria” that publishes researches, posters, leaflets, and the IFAW magazine “Women’s Pen” and other materials related to the issues of its activity.

The collaboration with media is an essential element of the IFAWs strategy. IFAW considers the media involvement in its projects as an integrated part both as beneficiary and as mediator of the information to the public.

IFAW is member of :

- Interbalkanik Women Association – Thessaloniki, Greece,
  
- Women Network of Mediterranean – Bologna,
- Albanian Women in Leadership Coalition,
- Euclid Network.

In 1998 IFAW has been awarded from the European Union and the USA with:

**DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY AWARD**

In recognition of achievements in promoting democratic values and civil society, signed by Bill Clinton, Tony Blair and Jacques Saunter.