

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Washington DC) - **'Women, Arts and Social Responsibility'** was the theme of the social gathering that brought Washingtonians together at the Warehouse Gallery on April 20th not only to view the award winning "For Women By Women" photo project from Turkey, but also discuss women's issues in a creative environment and support a shelter that provides services for victims of abuse.



Arts For Global Development, Inc (Art4Development.Net) curated the second exhibition of the 'For Women By Women' Photo Project in the Washington DC area and organized the '*happy-hour with a cause*' event in support with the American Turkish Association of Washington DC (ATA DC) , Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association US (TUSIAD US), and Kardelen Turkish Dance Ensemble.

Natasha Marks, *Director of Global Leadership Institute from Vital Voices*, was the guest speaker of the social event who focused on women's issues from a global perspective. She emphasized that gender related problems are global and need immediate

attention. The *Founder and President of Art4Development.Net*, Nil Sismanyazici-Navaie talked about the mission of the program and the correlation of women, arts and social responsibility, while Demet Cabbar, *Cultural Events Co-chair of ATA-DC*, highlighted issues concerning women in Turkey and addressed the importance of helping underprivileged women in achieving development. Belmin Soylemez, a documentary film director and a contributing photographer of the 'For Women By Women' project, joined the event from Turkey and informed the audience/guests about the photo project and the shelter in Urfa.



The international crowd at the Warehouse Gallery enjoyed the evening while supporting the women's shelter in South East Anatolia region of Turkey. Almost half of the exhibited photos were sold during the silent auction raising funds for the shelter that offers supportive services for victims of abuse and individuals at risk.



The 'For Women By Women' photo exhibition will continue to be on display until April 30th at the Warehouse Gallery on 1021 Seventh (7) Street, NW. Washington DC.

For more information please contact
Art4Development.Net at Email:
fbw@art4development.net Tel: 1 877 580 6670.

The first FWBW exhibition in the USA was launched in March at the 'Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission Center' to celebrate the 2006 International Women's Day. The award winning "For Women By Women" photo project from Turkey has found its second home at 'The Gallery at Warehouse' since April 4th. The exhibition will continue to be on display until April 30th!

For Women By Women (FWBW) is an initiative founded by an independent voluntary group of professional and amateur female photographers who came together to help create a change in the status of underprivileged women in Turkey. The photographers' goal is to **create awareness about the issues of violence against women, foster positive change in the lives of women at risk, and help provide funding for women's organizations and shelters.**

Since its launch in May 2005 FWBW initiative exhibited in numerous cities in Turkey (Istanbul, Diyarbakir, Duzce, Canakkale, Kars, Urfa) and London, UK; shared their photographs at the 'Women and Folk Songs' concert co-organized by the United Nation's Population Fund (part of the Stop Violence Against Women national campaign of the General Directorate of Women Status of the Turkish Republic Prime Ministry); and raised grants for the *Independent Women's Support Association* in Mersin and *Women Solidarity Association* in Urfa.

For Women By Women Initiative started with 111 female photographers but now the participant number reached more than 200 and each everyday interested individuals are joining the group. Due to all its efforts thus far IFSAK (Istanbul Photographers and Cinematographers Association) granted "**For Women By Women**" Initiative the **2005 Annual Photograph Award**.

In pursuing their goal **to create awareness of the issues, domestic violence and harassment in particular, faced by underprivileged women in Turkey and around the World, the FWBW project** uses art - photographs - as a medium. The photographs included in the exhibit reflect all shades and colors of life. They are vibrating, witty, and stimulating. For more information about the project please visit <http://www.kadinlaricin.org/engdc.html>

FWBW exhibitions in the Washington DC metro area are curated by the Arts for Global Development, Inc (Art4Development.Net). The exhibition and the fundraising event at the Warehouse Gallery are organized in support with the American Turkish Association of Washington DC, Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association US (TUSIAD US), and Kardelen Turkish Dance Ensemble. Communication Sponsor: Mezun Callingcard.

For more information please contact Art4Development.Net at Email: fbw@art4development.net
Tel: 1 877 580 6670.

Exhibition:

April 04 - 30, 2006. **Please note that the closing date has been extended from April 23rd to 30th!!**

Venue:

The Gallery at Warehouse, 1021 7th (Seventh) Street, NW Washington DC
<http://www.warehousetheater.com> . For more information please contact Art4Development.Net at Email: fbw@art4development.net Tel: 1 877 580 6670.

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