



## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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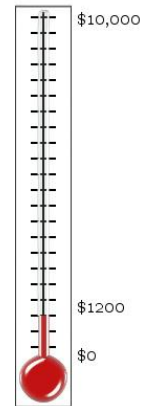
- *Becka shares her thoughts on Romania's EU Accession*
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## Message from the Board of Directors

*Greetings ARPGE Supporters!*

We have had an exciting and busy couple of months, filled with fundraisers and presentations; we have forged innovative partnerships. We simply could not have done any of it without our supporters from Washington to Bucharest and beyond!

Each and every time we get together to discuss our mission and our goals in promoting gender equality and putting an end to gender-related violence and discrimination, we inch closer to supporting specific initiatives, such as the construction of a domestic violence shelter that we are constantly working towards. Help us meet our goals, and help us advocate against domestic violence and promote gender equality throughout our communities! Thank you for your support!



*-ARPGE Board of Directors*



*Political Counselor at the Embassy of Romania, Mr. Mihai Dorian, offers ARPGE and our guests a warm welcome and extends support to our ongoing advocacy efforts.*

## ARPGE receives support from the Embassy of Romania

The American-Romanian Partnership for Gender Equality held an awareness-raising event and fundraiser at the Embassy of Romania in Washington, D.C. on April 19, 2007. The event intended to raise support for our forthcoming initiatives to promote gender equality and an end to gender-related violence and discrimination in Romania. Specifically, we sought to support for the construction of a shelter for victims of domestic violence.

The event was a great success and we thank all those that came to support the organization. In addition, we wish to thank the individuals that could not be present, but made a contribution in lieu of attending.

Your support allows us to move forward in our agenda and programming initiatives. We plan to host many more exciting events, so please stay tuned for upcoming events.



*ARPGE President, Rebeka Fergusson-Lutz, presenting to our guests the organization's initiatives and fundraising efforts at the Embassy of Romania.*





*Baia Mare, an industrial city in northern Romania*



*Long gone are the days where the Dacia is the only car Romanians can purchase*



*Supermarkets are springing up, but most Romanians still do their shopping at the outdoor public market.*

# EU Accession for Romania Means Still Work to Be Done for Growth and Gender Equality

*By Rebeka Fergusson-Lutz*

In the past six months, whenever the subject of Romania comes up in conversation, people ask me, “So, Romania is part of the European Union now, right?” They have that twitch in the corner of their mouths and that arch of the eyebrow that suggests, “So why are we still raising money for Romania?” They are, of course, too polite to ask this question, but I know it’s coming because I have had this conversation so many times.

It’s a valid question. Why is it that we’re still begging for money and still fighting the good fight? In 17 years, Romania has gone from the Warsaw Pact to the European Union. The European Union sets standards for countries to become members. The European Union, taken as a collective, represents an economic superpower rivaled only by the United States and China, perhaps. EU-member countries have some of the highest standards of living in the world. Isn’t it time for ARPGE to bow out and say “goodbye and good luck”? The answer is NO, and I’ll tell you why.

- 1) The European Union is an economic union. While many of the member countries have excellent social welfare policies, the EU’s domain is not social services. The EU’s goal, first and foremost, is to foster trade among member nations. Addressing issues of gender equality (i.e. rape, intimate partner violence, “the glass ceiling,” trafficking) is not of primary importance to the leadership of the EU.
- 2) High GDP is not an indicator of gender equality. A nation can be highly industrialized and highly developed and highly organized, but this does not mean that women’s issues are addressed in an appropriate way. Despite the post-WWII economic boom that launched the U.S. as a capitalist superpower, the first rape crisis center in the U.S. did not open until 1972. The first domestic violence shelter opened two years later in 1974. Like MTV and the Internet, facilities to protect women in vulnerable situations are a relatively recent development.

Although Romania’s accession to the European Union bodes well for the job market, no one should assume that gender inequity is out the window for good. There’s still work to be done and room for growth, not only for ARPGE but for gender organizations across Romania. Stick with us!

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## ARPGE Supports the International Violence against Women Act

*By Dina Scippa*

Violence against women and girls is a global issue. Violence in the home devastates the lives, homes, and communities of millions across the globe. Through the promotion of women’s economic opportunities and community engagement to work to change public attitudes, we can act to have a lasting impact on preventing future generations from continuing the cycle of violence. Violence against women worldwide is a gross human rights violation including rape, domestic violence, female genital mutilation, dowry deaths, acid burnings, honor killings, and human trafficking.

The United States could stand to have a major impact on existing programs. Most foreign assistance programs focused on health reform and have guidelines to address violence against women and girls, but they do not place an emphasis on legal reform. More importantly, there are not systematic measures to integrate best practices and support survivors to implement long term prevention efforts.

The [International Violence against Women Act \(I-VAWA\)](#) is a groundbreaking bill that, if passed, could reduce violence against women and girls worldwide. The I-VAWA was drafted in consultation with more than 150 groups, including U.S.-based NGOs, U.N. agencies, and 40 women’s groups across the globe. The I-VAWA would make the U.S. a global leader in promoting non-violence against women. [Support overseas organizations fighting to end violence against women and girls!!!!](#)

## ARPGE Celebrates Women's History Month

March was Women's History Month, the month designated to highlight the contributions of women to events in history.

ARPGE decided to celebrate the accomplishments of Romanian women by profiling several Romanian female artists, poets, scientists, and politicians and describing their tremendous contributions to Romanian society. We celebrated the accomplishments of such famous Romanian women, including

Nina Cassian, famous Romanian poet, journalist, film critic, and classical composer, and Queen Marie of Romania, also known as the Warrior Queen. ARPGE hopes to keep this a tradition of the organization. If you would like to see certain Romanian featured next year during Women's History Month, and would like certain Romanian women recognized, feel free to contact the American-Romanian Partnership for Gender Equality at [info@equality-romania.org](mailto:info@equality-romania.org)



*Nina Cassian*



*Queen Marie*

## Two Men Get "On Board" With ARPGE

*The Board of Directors recently appointed two new board members*

**Tadd Eakin** has been an international development program manager and training specialist with 15 years experience in business/organizational promotion, human capacity development, gender issues, media development and independent foundation relations. He is a native of Florida and a graduate of Rollins College and Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

**Michael Martin** has always had a strong interest in the culture and history of Romania. He graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a degree in economics and a minor in international relations. After attending university, he lived in London and Dublin for over a year. He has spent the better part of his professional career in the airline industry working in a variety of sales and marketing roles, most recently for US Airways at their headquarters in Arlington, VA. His career has enabled him to travel extensively to Europe, including Romania, where he visited Bucharest, Brasov, Sinaia, Sighisoara, and Sibiu. He is currently the manager of industry affairs for a travel association in Alexandria, VA and is working towards getting his masters in European Studies.

## Currently Recruiting New Board Members!!!

The American-Romanian Partnership for Gender Equality is currently looking for new members to serve on the Board of Directors. Specifically, we are looking for someone to serve as the Communications Chair, but are very eager to have other new additions to serve on the Board of Directors as well.

If interested, please send your CV and letter of interest to [info@equality-romania.org](mailto:info@equality-romania.org)



*Downtown Timisoara, a city in southern Romania*

*ARPGE wishes to thank all of our supporters for their contributions of support to the organization, particularly in the specific fundraising initiatives and events we have sponsored to work towards our goal.*

*We look forward to further collaboration and looking forward to a busy year! To all of you, we give a heartfelt "Multumesc!"*

# And you thought Urban Outfitters had hip t-shirts!



These shirts can be yours for a donation of \$35!

Shirts come in traditional and “baby” tee styles in sizes M, L, XL, and XXL

When you make your donation, either online or via check or money order, indicate to the ARPGE treasurer whether or not you would like a t-shirt, what style you would like, and in what size. Please also designate a mailing address where the shirt can be sent!

Special thanks to Diana Onet, professional graphic designer and ARPGE friend and supporter, for her pro bono design work. If you have any graphic design needs, please contact her at [dia\\_onet@comcast.net](mailto:dia_onet@comcast.net)!



*ARPGE has recently upgraded to make giving easier; by using PayPal - a fast and secure way to make an on-line donation.*

## Shop for a Cause! – New Ways to Support Us

Next time you shop online please consider making your purchase on [www.buyforcharity.com](http://www.buyforcharity.com). With every purchase you make, BuyForCharity will donate a percentage of the order to ARPGE. The items for sale at [www.buyforcharity.com](http://www.buyforcharity.com) will list the exact percentage that will benefit ARPGE. Up to 35% of the purchase price can support our cause! You can purchase apparel, jewelry, books, gifts and so much more! Also, you can purchase items from stores like Barnes & Noble and Macy's but the key is to shop via [BuyForCharity.com](http://BuyForCharity.com).

Thank you in advance for your support!

### A small donation can go a long way in Romania.

- \$25 can pay for a day for one girl at a GLOW camp
- \$70 can pay for the phone line of a domestic violence hotline for a month
- \$70 can pay the salary of a domestic violence counselor for a week

Your support allows us to continue to work with our Romanian partner organizations, we are working to curb domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and gender discrimination in Romania.

Please send your donations to P.O. Box 34374, Washington, D.C. 20043. Checks should be made out to American-Romanian Partnership for Gender Equality. Contact Becka Fergusson-Lutz, president, at [info@equality-romania.org](mailto:info@equality-romania.org) with any financial or donation-related questions.