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21st-Century Security: Women Building a Resilient Society From Care to Leadership: The Female Perspective on Security

National Forum of the DSB Women's Club – Celebrating 10 Years together

Organized jointly with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Bulgaria

Location: Sofia, Rosslyn Central Park Hotel Sofia, Thrace Hall

Dates: 19–20 September 2026

Saturday, 19th of September

12:30 – 13:00

Registration

13:00 – 13:30

Opening

Mariana Zaharieva

Chairwomen DSB Women's Club

“A New Understanding of Security – From the Home to the State”

Radan Kanev

Chairman DSB

“A New Understanding of Security – From the Home to the State”

Zlatozara Stoilova

Project Manager Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Bulgaria

13:30 – 14:30

Panel 1: Education – The First Line of Security

Topics:

- Education in values, civic responsibility and democratic culture.
- Development of digital competencies, media literacy and critical thinking.
- Prevention of violence, aggression, hate speech, radicalization and xenophobia in the school environment.
- Building a safe, inclusive and supportive school environment.
- The teacher as a leader, educator and guarantor of the security of the school community.
- Partnership between schools, families and institutions to prevent risky behavior among students

Speakers:

Assoc. Prof. Lachezar Tomov

New Bulgarian University

Reni Velcheva

Psychologist

Moderator: Margarita Ignatova

DSB Women Club / Deputy Director Second English Language School

14:30 – 15:30

Panel 2: Social Policy and Family Security

Topics:

- Demographic sustainability and support for families.
- Attracting and retaining young people
- Affordable housing and support for young families
- Access to childcare, education and healthcare
- Support for vulnerable families and children at risk
- Foster care, adoption and social integration of young people leaving care
- Dignified and sustainable pensions
- Support for low-income and vulnerable older people
- Encouraging longer, active working lives and voluntary pension savings
- Active ageing and intergenerational solidarity

Speakers:

Hasan Ademov

Minister of Labor and Social Policy
(2013 – 2014, caretaker minister 2026)

Zheni Shier

Project manager National Network of Children

Moderator: Margarita Ignatova

DSB Women Club / Deputy Director Second English Language School

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee break

16:00 – 17:00

Panel 3: Health Security as a National Priority

Topics:

- Prevention and preventive healthcare
- Children's mental health and the effectiveness of local support and early-prevention mechanisms
- Do local communities and institutions have effective mechanisms for early identification and support of children at risk?
- Maternal and child health
- Access to healthcare services in small towns and settlements

Speakers:

Assoc. Prof. Mihail Okoliyski

Public health expert in mental health and international health policy

Former caretaker Minister of Health (2026)

Katya Paneva

Member of Parliament DSB

Moderator: Marina Ivanova

International Secretary DSB Women's Club

17:00 – 17:30

**Inspirational Session:
“10 Years of DSB Women - Stories of Leadership”**

Speakers:

Prof. Ekaterina Mihaylova

Professor of Law, New Bulgarian University
Former Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (2005)
Chairwomen of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) (2001-2002)

Nadezhda Neyski

Minister of Foreign Affairs (1997 – 2001, caretaker minister 2026)

Evdokia Maneva

Former Minister of Environment and Water (1997-2001)

Lyudmila Ilieva

Deputy Chairwomen DSB

Kristina Petkova

Deputy chairwomen DSB

Katya Paneva

Member of Parliament DSB

Eng. Greti Stefanova

Member of the Sofia Municipal Council

Marta Georgieva

Member of the Sofia Municipal Council

Bonka Vasileva

Chairwomen of DSB–Sofia
Member of the Sofia Municipal Council

Moderator: Marina Ivanova

International Secretary DSB Women’s Club

19:30

Official Dinner – 10 Years of DSB Women

Place: Rosslyn Central Park Sofia

Sunday, 20th of September

9:30 – 9:45

Keynote:

Europe's New Security Reality: Challenges, Choices and the German Perspective

Norbert Beckmann-Dierkes

Director Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Bulgaria

9:30 – 10:30

Panel 4: Security and Foreign Policy

Topics:

- National security in the context of the changing geopolitical environment.
- Bulgaria's role in the EU and NATO – challenges and opportunities.
- Hybrid threats, disinformation and protection of democratic institutions.
- Migration, border management and international cooperation.
- EU enlargement and the stability of the Western Balkans as a factor in European security.
- Energy security and strategic resilience.
- Bulgarian diplomacy in the context of global crises

Speakers:

Nadezhda Neyski

Minister of Foreign Affairs (1997 – 2001, caretaker minister 2026)

Gen. Atanas Atanasov

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria

Former Chairman of DSB

Dimitar Katsarchev

Political analyst

Martin Tabakov

Political analyst New Bulgarian University

Moderator: Ivaylo Koev

Member DSB

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee break

11:00 – 12:00

Panel 5: International Security

A broader perspective on the topics:

- Predictability of crises: Can we build a sustainable concept for crisis management, and what does it depend on? Definition of a crisis.
- The war in Ukraine and its impact on European and regional security.
- The conflict in the Middle East and its consequences for international stability.
- The changing world order and new geopolitical balances.
- The role of the EU and NATO in the context of growing conflicts.
- Hybrid warfare, cybersecurity and disinformation as elements of contemporary conflicts.
- Defence capabilities, deterrence and the resilience of states.

Speakers:

Ruslan Trad

Journalist

Mohamed Halaff

Journalist and Professor at Sofia University

Moderator: Ivaylo Koev

Member DSB

12:00 – 13:00

Roundtable – “What Kind of Bulgaria Do We Want to Leave to the Next Generation?”

Moderated discussion among representatives of all panels

Adoption of a Forum Declaration –
“Women for a Secure Future”

A document containing specific proposals in five areas:

- Education
- Social policy
- Healthcare
- Information environment

13:00

Closing

Mariana Zaharieva

Chairwomen DSB Women’s Club

Organisational team and concept

Norbert Beckmann-Dierkes

Director Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Bulgaria

Mariana Zaharieva

Chairwomen DSB Women's Club

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