

Riina Biltekin: Empowering and Educating Women - Perspectives on Gender Equality Around the World

Gamze Newell: The Reign of the Powerful Women of the Ottoman Harem

Riina Biltekin

Riina Biltekin has an undergraduate degree in International Trade from Espoo Commercial College, Finland. She also holds a BSc in Public Law and Administration from the University of Helsinki, Finland and an MSc in Social Policy and Planning in Developing Countries from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Riina Biltekin's work experience includes Embassies of Finland in Rome, Italy and Islamabad, Pakistan, the London School of Economics and Political Science, the World Bank and UNICEF.

Her current main areas of interest include urban poverty including environmental problems and management in poor urbanizing areas, sustainable cities, gender equality and improving the lives of children and young people in developing nations.

She is married with two children.

Gamze Newell

Gamze Newell, a British citizen, originally from Turkey, is married to a British diplomat and has two children. She has been in Ottawa since December 2003 and will be returning to London in August 2007. Gamze has an MA in Teaching English as a Foreign Language from Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey where she taught for four years. With a special interest in refugees and immigration issues, as she worked for UNHCR in Hong Kong to resettle the Vietnamese refugees for a year, she did a research at Carleton University in Ottawa on their integration to the Canadian society and taught English to new immigrants at the same time.

She is presently taking Event Management courses at Algonquin College and organizing two events: a lunch time African Food Fair with entertainment to raise funds for building a school in Tanzania and a dinner-dance and auction for Opera Lyra on 21 April.

She has been a very supportive CATWAO member during her stay in Ottawa.