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## ***UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> scientific conference on the family – "FAMILY, SOCIETY AND UNIVERSAL VALUES" – November 18, 2023.***

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The Universal Peace Federation in partnership with the Committee of Academics for Peace concluded in the premises of the Peace Embassy in Tirana, on November 18, 2023, the third scientific conference on the family. The first conference took place on November 19, 2022 and the second on April 15, 2023.



This project marked an innovation in the field of activity of the Universal Peace Federation in Albania, which, in addition to its educational, training, promotional, entertaining and peace & security activities, will keep genuine scientific activities on its agenda.

This project was designed as a cycle of conferences on one of the most essential issues of individual, social, national and global life, with theoretical and practical importance "Family, Society and Universal Values".

Each of the conferences had its own focus:

- I. In the first conference, we dealt, in a comparative perspective, with the most recent problems of the family during the political, economic and social transition of the Balkan countries mainly, but also of the European family; trying to find answers to the existing dilemmas on the family crisis.
- II. In the second conference, the internal dynamics of families were addressed; the influence of values and traditions on the functioning or dysfunction of the family.
- III. In the third conference, the focus were the external factors with a wide and deep impact such as the capitalist market economy, democracy and the technological revolution, most recently the digital one as part of it.

There were 25 researchers, professors and doctors of social sciences who presented their researches and papers at these conferences, of which 6 from Albania and 19 from Kosovo, North Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the United Kingdom, France, America, Japan, South Korea, Turkey and Hungary. Among them, 12 of them were women and girls researchers.

### **Why was this activity necessary?**

It is known that about the family, *there are written so many books that the library shelves are breaking under their weight*, as a well-known political scientist of today has said, referring to books on democracy. But, just like him, we believe that it is always necessary to write and lecture about an existential issue such as the Family, which must be protected from the dangers brought by the development and its consequences, not always controlled, if science and politics do not precede them with vision, ideas, legislation and active supporting policies.

## Here are some of the results of these conferences:

1. We already have a set of scientific papers, based on researches, statistical data from the latest, interpretations, analysis and especially useful recommendations.
2. We have a more complete picture of the situation of the Albanian family, thanks to the contribution of researchers from Albania and Kosovo, but also of the Balkan family thanks to the contribution of researchers from Serbia, North Macedonia and Bosnia & Herzegovina.
3. The bilingual (Albanian and English) publication of the papers in a special booklet by the Universal Peace Federation Albania, will make them the property of a wider range of interested people, but will also become a reliable reference source for researchers.
4. There are more than 150 citations in these papers, which indicate the scientific rigor of the authors, but will also serve as a source of information on social scientists of the past and contemporary ones, being an orientation aid for younger researchers.
5. The creation of a network of academics, especially from the Balkans, is another important result, which creates opportunities for other collaborations in the future for the benefit not only scientifically, but also of solidarity, neighborly understanding and peacebuilding.
6. Increasing the number of researchers, who are already part of the network of Ambassadors for Peace. The expectations are, and will certainly happen, that the researchers, in the new role of Ambassador for Peace, will contribute with their new ideas, studies and experience, to the mission Universal Peace Federation has.



The two sessions of the conference on November 18<sup>th</sup>, were moderated by Prof. Dr. Lekë Sokoli – Executive Director of the Albanian Institute of Sociology and university professor, and Prof. Assoc. Dr. Eva Allushi - professor and former deputy Rector of the Durrës University.





The conference was greeted by Dr. Eva Çipi – Chairwoman of the Universal Peace Federation Albania and professor at Vlora University, and Mr. Jacques Marion – Chairman of the Universal Peace Federation for Europe and the Middle East.



The speakers at the conference were:

- Mr. Gëzim Tushi, Sociologist, researcher, Grand Master, Albania
- Dr. Jelena Tanasijević, Professor, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad, Serbia
- Dr. Sofija Georgievska, Professor, Faculty of Philosophy, UKIM, North Macedonia
- Dr. Denis Celcima, Dean and Professor, Faculty of Psychology, UBT University, Kosovo
- Dr. Sarina Bakić, Professor, Faculty of Political Science, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Mr. Gabor Vasmatics, Information Technology Engineer, Hungary







The conclusions of the conference were presented by Dr. Saemira Pino, Chair of the Committee of Academics for Peace. At the end, the professor from Serbia, Dr. Jelena Tanasijevic was given the title of “Ambassador for Peace”, since all other panelists were already part of UPF.



Reported by UPF Albania