



Svetlana Jovanova

President of "Lydia – A Beating Heart", Macedonia

Svetlana Jovanova je predsjednica Centra "Lydia – srce koje kuca" od njegova osnivanja 2012. godine. Ima sveučilišnu diplomu iz francuskog jezika i književnosti. Prije nego što je započela ovu organizaciju, predavala je makedonski jezik strancima i radila kao prevoditeljica. Sudjelovala je na mnogim treninzima i konferencijama s organizacijama "Heartbeat International" i "CareNet", a obje su je organizacije certificirale za savjetovanje. Zahvaljujući organizaciji "Heartbeat International" ima certifikat za provođenje njihovih tečajeva LAS.

2013. godine makedonski je parlament koji je sačinjavala konzervativna većina izglasao donošenje zakona koji je stavio nekoliko restrikcija na abortus. Prije toga je pobačaj bio legalan bez ikakvih restrikcija. U vremenu prije samog njegova izglasavanja, Svetlana i Daniela bile su aktivne u javnim saslušavanjima u Parlamentu kao jedini glasovi za život. Kao jedine dvije članice prve pro-life organizacije u Makedoniji, koja je dotad bila otvorena samo otprilike devet mjeseci, iskusile su pravi sukob Davida i Golijata. Sjedile su u skupštini tijekom javnog saslušavanja, čekajući sate i sate na svoj red za obraćanje, u strahu da ako odu popiti vode ili na toalet da će izgubiti svoju priliku za govorenje. Međutim, ona je ipak došla i Svetlana je dobila mogućnost da iznese svoje stajalište za život. Odredba je prošla i doneseni su novi zakoni koji su zahtijevali da svaka žena koja zatraži pobačaj u prvom tromjesečju prvo ima savjetovanje, ultrazvuk i vrijeme čekanja od 72 sata. Oni su također određivali da žena ne može imati više od jedan pobačaj u kalendarskoj godini i da ako njezina trudnoća prelazi prvo tromjesečje da tada mora dobiti pismeno odobrenje triju liječnika. 2019. godine, pod novom i liberalnijom vladom, ti su zakoni odbijeni, a novi je zakon dopustio ženama neograničen i izravan pristup pobačaju sve do 24. tjedna. Nakon 24. tjedna žena samo treba odobrenje na temelju liječničkog savjetovanja dvaju liječnika i socijalnog radnika. "Lydia" je opet bila uključena u javna saslušanja, a ovaj su je put zastupali Svetlana (ravnateljica), Alexandra (savjetnica i psihologinja) i Marino (član

odbora). Usto su Svetlanu i Alexandru intervjuirali različiti televizijski i internetski mediji u svezi s temom pobačaja.

Svetlana Jovanova has been the President of “Lydia – A Beating Heart” since she founded it in 2012. She has a University degree in French Language and Literature. Prior to starting this organization, she taught the Macedonian language to foreigners and worked as a translator. She has attended multiple trainings and conferences with Heartbeat International and CareNet, and is certified in peer counseling by both organizations. Through Heartbeat International she is LAS certified, allowing her to teach their courses.

In 2013, a conservative-majority Parliament voted to enact a bill that put in place several restrictions on abortion. Prior to this, abortion was legal without any restriction whatsoever. During the time leading up to this vote, Svetlana and Daniela were active in the public hearings in Parliament as the only voice for life. As the only two members of the first pro-life organization in Macedonia, which had only been open for about 9 months, it was a true David and Goliath moment. They sat in the assembly during the public hearing, waiting hours and hours for their turn to speak, afraid to get up for water or a bathroom break for fear they would lose their opportunity to speak. Finally it came, and Svetlana had the opportunity to share the pro-life view. The bill passed, and the new laws were enacted, requiring any women seeking a first trimester abortion to first have counseling, an ultrasound, and a 72-hr waiting period. It also stated that a woman could not have more than one abortion in a calendar year, and if she was past her first trimester, she had to get written approval from 3 physicians.

In 2019, under a new and more liberal government, these laws were repealed and a new law enacted allowing a woman unrestricted, immediate access to an abortion up through 24 weeks gestation. After 24 weeks, she just needs approval from a medical consultation with 2 doctors and a social worker. "Lydia" was once again involved in the public hearings, this time represented by Svetlana (director), Alexandra (counselor and psychologist), and Marino (board member). In addition to this, Svetlana and Alexandra were both interviewed by various television and internet media regarding the topic of abortion.