

Elena Bonner
The Andrei Sakharov Foundation
7112 Wesley Rd, Springfield, VA 22150

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Dear participants of the 2011 International Women of the Mountains Conference,

I am happy to greet you all at this gathering in Orem, Utah and am grateful that the Utah Valley University continues to serve as the host for this conference.

I am particularly heartened by the fact that this is now the second such conference. This proves that the initial idea was the right one and that this conference has a potential to positively influence events in many of the developing countries. The ideas expressed at the first conference are bearing fruit and there is a good reason for optimism that the discussions that take place this time will further advance the development of civil society, enhance the role of the women, and promote respect for human rights in the participating countries.

Women face many challenges in the developing countries and especially in the mountainous countries. But women also have a great opportunity to act to advance their societies.

I wish all of us success in this second conference and hope that the momentum built up in these conferences will continue to grow.

Sincerely,



/Elena Bonner/