

Fierce
WOMEN

WOW
CARDS

Fierce Women to be included in the
Fierce Women WOW Cards extension deck:

1. Dragojla Jarnević (1833 – 1875)
2. Giuseppina Martinuzzi (1844 – 1925)
3. Maude Delap (1866 – 1953)
4. Vita Zupančič (1868 – 1950)
5. Kathleen Lynn (1874 – 1955)
6. Zofka Kveder (1878 – 1926)
7. Rosa Plaveva (1878 – 1970)
8. Estella Solomons (1882 – 1968)
9. Alojzija Štebi (1883 – 1956)
10. Rajna Aleksova (1883 – 1959)
11. Nasta Rojc (1883 – 1964)
12. Vinka Bulić (1884 – 1965)
13. Angela Piskernik (1886 – 1967)
14. Nakie Bajram (1889 – 1962)
15. Diana Budisavljević (1891 – 1987)
16. Kata Pejnović (1899 – 1966)
17. Dušana Šantel Kanoni (1908 – 1988)
18. Marta Paulin Brina (1911 – 2002)
19. Vida Tomšič (1913 – 1998)
20. Mara Bešter (1922 – 2010)
21. Mimoza Nestorova-Tomić (1929)
22. Vera Vesković Vangeli (1933 – 2007)
23. Iskra Grabul (1936 – 2008)
24. Nan Joyce (1940 – 2018)
25. Nuala O'Faolain (1940 – 2008)
26. Christine Buckley (1946 – 2014)
27. Edita Schubert (1947 – 2001)
28. Lydia Sklevicky (1952 – 1990)
29. Liljana Dirjan (1953 – 2017)
30. Lyra McKee (1990 – 2019)

DRAGOJLA JARNEVIĆ (Croatia)

Born: 4 January 1812 November 1883, Karlovac, Austrian Empire (now Croatia)

Died: 6 March 1875 (aged 63), Karlovac, Austria-Hungary (now Croatia)

Teacher, writer, governess, seamstress and mountaineer. One of the first women in Croatia to go beyond the scope of activities limited for women: church, children, and kitchen. Despite at that time uniform opinion that a man is a social and political being, and a woman is reduced to sex and nature, she abolished the gender-conditioned position of a social outsider within the [Illyrian movement](#) with her social, political and literary engagement. From 1849 to 1853 she ran a private girls' school, and later taught village children. She became acquainted with pedagogical problems, wrote professional articles, gave lectures, participated in the work of the Croatian Pedagogical and Literary Association and in 1872 became its member. Her *Diary*, written for 41 years, was partially published in 1958, entirely only in 2000 and is defined by literary theorists as the most intimate self-portrait of modern Croatian literature.

She decided not to marry and was particularly affected by her nephew calling her a "whore" and her sister a "capitalist" because she organized her life in a way to have not only one, but three sources of income, of which writing was certainly the least profitable.

Additional information:

- <https://voxfeminae.net/strasne-zene/dragojla-jarnevic-rusenje-mita-o-maskulinom-19-stoljecu/> (Croatian)
- <https://povcast.hr/buntovnica-dragojla-jarnevic/> (Croatian but Google translate to English is good)
- https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dragojla_Jarnevi%C4%87 (Croatian but Google translate to English is good)
- <http://hbl.lzmk.hr/clanak.aspx?id=132> (Croatian but Google translate to English is good)

Quotes:

"I am a very cheap writer. So be it!"

GIUSEPPINA MARTINUZZI (Croatia)

Born: 14 February 1844, Labin, Austrian Empire (now Croatia)

Died: 25 November 1925 (aged 81), Labin, Italy (now Croatia)

Istrian revolutionary, socialist, fighter for women's and workers' rights, pedagogue, and poet. Her teaching and working with children from the poorest working-class families sensitized her to social injustice and prepared her for later political action. For most of her life she advocated the views of the republican current of Italian national liberalism, but after the death of her parents she accepted the ideas of socialism and became strongly politically active, pointing to the fact that the fight against fascism necessarily includes the fight against capitalism.

Additional information:

- <https://voxfeminae.net/strasne-zene/istarska-revolucionarka-giuseppina-martinuzzi/> (Croatian but Google translate to English is good)
- <http://slobodnifilozofski.com/2018/09/klasna-borba-ne-klasna-suradnja.html> (Croatian but Google translate to English is good)
- <https://www.rabac-labin.com/en/182-visionaries-from-labin> (English)

Quotes:

"My survival as a worker must begin where your existence as an exploiter must end. It is precisely in this that the antagonism of the two classes that clash today throughout the capitalist world lies. Therefore, this is not about proving, convincing, but about the fight that should bring victory."

MAUDE DELAP (Ireland)

Born: 7 December 1866, Templecrone, Ireland

Died: 23 July 1953 (aged 86), Valentia Island, Ireland

A self-taught marine biologist, known for being the first person to breed jellyfish in captivity, and thus observed their full life cycle for the first time.

Delap became increasingly interested in the life cycle of various species of jellyfish, being the first person to successfully breed them in captivity in her home laboratory using homemade aquariums. She bred them in bell jars and published the results, observing their breeding and feeding habits. It was due to this pioneering work that the first identification of the various life cycle stages (medusa and hydra) belong to which species. Her laboratory was referred to as the department which her nephew, Peter Delap, described as a "heroic jumble of books, specimens, aquaria, with its pervasive low-tide smell."

Due to her contributions to marine biology she was offered a position in 1906 in the Plymouth Marine Biological Station, she declined due to her father's reaction, which reputedly was "No daughter of mine will leave home, except as a married woman."

Additional information:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maude_Delap(English)
- [http://www.askaboutireland.ie/reading-room/life-society/science-technology/irish-scientists/maude-jane-delap-\(1866-19/](http://www.askaboutireland.ie/reading-room/life-society/science-technology/irish-scientists/maude-jane-delap-(1866-19/) (English)

VITA ZUPANČIČ (Slovenia)

Born: 21 October 1868, Sela pri Šmarju, Austria-Hungary (now Slovenia)

Died: 25 January 1950, Ljubljana, Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (now Slovenia)

Teacher and surdo-pedagogue. In 1902, Zupančič became a surdo-pedagogue and a teacher in the Institut for deaf and mute in Ljubljana (Ljubljanska Gluhonemnica). She worked there for twenty-three years, leaving a big mark, and the Cultural Section of today's Institute still bears her name today. In one of her scientific articles she wrote that the workplace failure of deaf-mute girls in some jobs is mainly due to the intolerance of listeners. Based on her many years of experience, she emphasized that it is imperative for deaf-mute girls to learn through vocational training to take care of themselves so they would not be sentenced to the lowest jobs or remain a burden to relatives. Therefore, she felt it was imperative that parents take care of their daughters' education after they leave school.

In 1897 she co-founded the Slovenian Association of Women Teachers, and a year later she spoke at the first general assembly about the material position of women teachers. Association fought for the rights of women teachers, especially for equal pay, so they challenged the proposal of the Slovenian Teachers' Association according to which their male colleagues would have a right to higher salaries because they had families, and at that time women teachers were not allowed to marry or were no longer allowed to practice after marriage. As head of the supervisory board of the co-operative Teachers' Centre (Dom učiteljic), she strived to establish a separate centre for single retired teachers.

In 1922 Congress of the National Women's Association (NŽZ) in Ljubljana she participated in the discussion on state protection of illegitimate children. Illegitimate children of state employees received a salary plus special weighting due to soaring prices, until October 1921, when it was abolished. Vita Zupančič sided with illegitimate mothers. She was also a member [General Slovenian Women's Association](#), the first Slovene feminist society.

Additional information:

- <https://books.google.si/books?hl=sl&id=oFYdZ8JA5z4C&q=vita+zupancic#v=snippet&q=vita%20zupancic&f=false> (Slovenian, page 113)
- https://sl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vita_Zupan%C4%8Di%C4%8D (Slovenian, but the Google translate to English is good)

KATHLEEN LYNN (Ireland)

Born 28 January 1874, Killala, Ireland

Died 14 September 1955 (aged 83), Dublin, Ireland

One of the first female medical graduates from University College Dublin and Sinn Féin politician. A campaigner for equal rights for women and the co-founder with her lifelong partner, the equally fearless Madeleine French-Mullen of Saint Ultan's Hospital in 1919, the only hospital in Ireland entirely managed by women.

Lynn was so greatly affected by the poverty and disease among the poor in the west of Ireland that, at 16, she decided to be a doctor. Following her graduation, she went to the United States, where she worked for ten years, before returning to Ireland to become the first female doctor at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital (1910–1916).

She was a member of the executive committee of the Irish Women's Suffragette and Local Government Association (IWSLGA) from 1903 and remained on the executive until 1916. Lynn was a member of the radical British Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) from 1908 and she was also said to be on friendly terms with the suffragist Sylvia Pankhurst.

For her part in the Rising, Lynn was imprisoned in Kilmainham Gaol with her comrades Markievicz, Molony and Madeleine French-Mullen. She remained active in the Nationalist movement; she was elected vice-president of the Sinn Féin executive in 1917, and left politics in 1927, increasingly frustrated by Sinn Féin's refusal to embrace social reform and health care.

Additional information:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kathleen_Lynn (English)
- <https://ifoplayer.ie/kathleen-lynn-the-rebel-doctor/> (documentary: Kathleen Lynn - The Rebel Doctor)

ZOFKA KVEDER (Slovenia)

Born: 22 April 1878, Ljubljana, Austria-Hungary (now Slovenia)

Died: 21 November 1926 (aged 48), Zagreb, Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (now Croatia)

Writer, journalist, socialist and feminist, one of the first to advocate for the emancipation of women, their right to work, to vote and to education in the Slavic region. In her literary work she focused on women's lives of the time, the experiences of pregnancy and childbirth, arranged marriages, the issues of prostitution and rape, but also on women's sexuality and their need for social participation and creativity. In her literary debut *Misterij žene* (*The Mystery of a Woman*), published in 1900, she writes about women's suffering in all its forms - how it is conditioned by social circumstances and the miserable position of women in which she is reduced to biological functions, through suffering due to deviations from given moral frameworks and condemnation of society. She published her first articles on the position of women in society in the magazine *Slovenka*, and in 1917, founded the magazine *Ženski svijet* (Women's world), where, in the very first edition she published an article demanding a right to vote for women. She was the only Slovene woman delegate at the International Congress of Women conference held at The Hague, Netherlands in April 1915, chosen by Croatian women, as part of Hungarian delegation. Conference had over 1,100 delegates and it established an International Committee of Women for Permanent Peace (ICWPP) with Jane Addams as president.

Additional information:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zofka_Kveder(English)
- http://www.womenwriters.nl/index.php/Zofka_Kveder(English)
- https://books.google.hr/books?id=hsgQjbgBOAkC&pg=PA282&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false (English, from page 282)
- <http://repozitorij.ung.si/lzpisGradiva.php?lang=eng&id=2860> (English)
- https://sl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zofka_Kveder (Slovenian, but Google translate to English is good)
- <https://www.rtvsl.si/kultura/knjige/zofka-kveder-kot-dramaticarka-in-publicistka-ki-je-napisala-stevilne-clanke-in-feljtone-o-slovenskih/465739> (Slovenian, but Google translate to English is good)
- <https://books.google.si/books?id=oFYdZ8JA5z4C&pg=PA157&lpg=PA157&dq=kveder+zofka+pozabljena&source=bl&ots=Pazq03rXmF&sig=ACfU3U1-6Anxet4LXGvgJdkV9QKvKMIHpg&hl=sl&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjLi7rapqzpAhUTHMAKHQ6ED9MQ6AEwAHoECAoQAQ#v=onepage&q=kveder%20zofka%20pozabljena&f=false> (Slovenian, page 154)
- <https://repozitorij.uni-lj.si/Dokument.php?id=122443&lang=eng> (Slovenian)

Quotes:

"I am not afraid of death, if I am to die soon, all right. But I love life. Life is something marvelous, wonderful, big, strong. The feeling of life, the great and strong feeling of being, is something elevated and beautiful. . . Do not be afraid of life!" (letter to Vadosa Jalovsek, Feb. 2, 1915)

"All who comprehend the values of other nations will never be chauvinists, will never think of themselves better." (antiwar novel *Hanka*)

ROSA PLAVEVA (North Macedonia)

Born: 1878, Veles (Köprülü), Ottoman Empire (now North Macedonia)

Died: 1970 (aged 91), Belgrade, Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (now Serbia)

Socialist and one of the first women's rights activists in Macedonia. During her education in Veles and Sofia she first met with socialist ideas and activists from the Balkans and Europe. In 1900 she became a member of the first socialist organization on the territory of Macedonia (formed in 1894), and in 1903 participated in the [Ilinden Uprising](#) against Ottoman rule. She keenly followed developments in the international women's movement and, with Nakie Bajram, started organizing actions that were aimed towards emancipation of women and abolition of the coverture in Muslim women, including the first demonstration for equality between the sexes in Skopje in 1908. Next year, Rosa and her husband Ilija Plavev formed a new social democratic organization in Skopje using the Erfurt Program from 1891, from the German Social Democrats, as a political platform. In 1917 she organized and collected approximately 100 women's signatures in support of a petition to liberate Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg with whom she exchanged letters at the time. At the end of First World War Macedonia became part of the newly founded state Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and the Serbian Civil code (1844) came into force, making adult women legally incompetent. In 1920 Plaveva was one of the founders of the Organization of Socialist Women in Skopje, a branch of Yugoslav Organization of Socialist Women, that launched a campaign against the discrimination reproduced by Serbian Civil code, and urged Macedonian women to resist conservative social and patriarchal norms. She continued her activism for women's emancipation in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia and in Socialist Yugoslavia as well. Her house was a meeting point for Macedonian and Turkish women who discussed about feminist topics and women's equality. Today Plaveva is remembered as an important figure, both in the national and international women's movement. She was distinguished by her sharp and bold aesthetics that included dressing in black pants suit and wearing her famous red cravat. Her style symbolized the bold new individual, and a woman wearing pants (exceedingly rare for women in her time) representing changes the future held. Rosa Plaveva is known and remembered as "the Macedonian Rosa Luxemburg", and her local nickname was "Deli Rosa" which translates into "Fierce Rosa".

Additional information:

- <https://www.facebook.com/ZheniMK/photos/pcb.562069270981117/562067720981272/?type=3&theater> (English)
- https://books.google.hr/books?id=hsgQjbgBOAkC&pg=PA442&lpg=PA442&dq=rosa+plaveva&source=bl&ots=8tc2ySEKga&sig=ACfU3U3UMn5qOmlADzgwNpxQ3umFnqe2RA&hl=hr&sa=X&ved=2ahUK Ewi3642vnr3pAhWKERQKHQHMA_gQ6AEwDHoECA4QAQ#v=onepage&q=rosa%20plaveva&f=false (English, from page 442)
- <https://www.kulart.mk/vremeplov/d-r-natasa-kotla-za-makedonkata-koja-vo-1908-se-borela-za-pravata-na-zenite/> (Macedonian, but Google translate to English is good)
- https://mk.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%A0%D0%BE%D1%81%D0%B0_%D0%9F%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%B2%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B0 (Macedonian, but Google translate to English is good)
- <https://duma.mk/region/veles/26874-2019-02-10-03-19-30> (Macedonian, but Google translate to English is good)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_06atF51SkI&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0M2J4y4psiGvEaozrHtnwo7YOhl_pwFQ0dBI2zvvk5RDIIeiOBetydJwQ (Macedonian)
- https://www.opafondacija.org/zaum/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/2005_07_00_Rosa_Plaveva_i_Nakie_bajrami.pdf (Macedonian)

Quotes:

"We also want the sun and the wide world."

ESTELLA SOLOMONS (Ireland)

Born: 1882, Dublin, Ireland

Died: 1968 (aged 86), Dublin, Ireland

One of the leading Irish artists of her generation. She was a member of Cumann na mBan, an Irish republican women's paramilitary organization, and her studio was often raided, leading her to burn portraits of those she harbored, for fear they could be used as evidence against her.

Solomons was a very fine painter and etcher at her best, but she was also a woman at the very nerve-center of Dublin - and Irish - cultural life for half a century. A nationalist and an undogmatic feminist, member of a distinguished Jewish family, wife of a respected poet and man of letters, friend, and hostess to most of Dublin's literati and artists, she was a considerable personality with many facets.

Additional information:

- <https://www.tcd.ie/library/1916/vita-brevis-ars-longa/> (English)
- <http://centenaries.ucd.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Supplement-7-Estella-Solomons.pdf> (English)
- <https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/portrait-of-a-lady-1.248050> (English)
- <https://comeheretome.com/2013/11/07/jewish-community-during-the-revolutionary-period-1916-23/> (English)
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estella_Solomons (English)

ALOJZIJA ŠTEBI (Slovenia)

Born: 24 March 1883, Ljubljana, Austria-Hungary (now Slovenia)

Died: 9 August 1956 (aged 73), Ljubljana, Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia(now Slovenia)

Slovene feminist, educator, and politician. Beginning her career as a teacher, Štebi became involved in women's rights and moved into politics and journalism. Addressing the lack of civic, political, and social equality and she used her writing and political stances to advance an equal society. In 1911 she began writing about women's issues, becoming in 1915 an editor for the women's socialist gazette, *Ženski list (Women's newspaper)*. In 1918, she published an important paper, *Demokratizem in ženstvo (Democracy and womanhood)*, outlining a program to improve women's educational opportunities, grant women's suffrage and protect civil rights. Though supportive of a united Yugoslavia, she was cautious about losing rights that the various states had if they joined, so she founded the Feminist Alliance of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in 1923 to unite women in the newly formed state to advocate for equal pay, civil marriage, protections for children and a social safety net for workers. Štebi also pushed for measures to provide parity between men and women in domestic sphere, proposing that domestic work be evaluated as paid labor, and advocated against child labor and worker exploitation.

Additional information:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alojzija_%C5%A0tebi (English)
- https://archive.org/details/biographicaldict0000unse_u3f7/page/556 (English)
- https://books.google.si/books?id=oFYdZ8JA5z4C&pg=PA196&lpg=PA196&dq=alozija+%C5%A1tebi&source=bl&ots=Pazq03nZsC&sig=ACfU3U1BkheTV7QAHdZMZPw7gBF8utK11Q&hl=sl&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwii3uzhmKzpAhVRQEEAHQ_FAtMQ6AEwCHoECA8QAQ#v=onepage&q=alozija%20%C5%A1tebi&f=false (Slovenian, from page 193)
- <https://www.slovenska-biografija.si/oseba/sbi665283/> (Slovenian, but Google translate to English is good)

RAJNA ALEKSOVA (North Macedonia)

Born: 5 January 1883, Bitola, Ottoman Empire (now North Macedonia)

Died: 23 February 1959 (aged 75), Bitola, Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (now North Macedonia)

The first female pharmacist in Macedonia and the Balkans. She graduated in 1906 from Lausanne University in Switzerland, and planned to start her own pharmacy, but she was confronted by the Turkish laws which did not allow “women to perform the pharmacy profession”. While fighting to get her permit (writing letters to the institutions in Carigrad (Istanbul), explaining the need of pharmacists among local communities), she worked at hospitals in Bulgaria and Turkey, and as a chemistry teacher in Bulgaria. In 1909, after she finally gained her permit to work as a pharmacist, she started working at her brother’s pharmacy in Bitola. She later bought the pharmacy, which made her one of the rare women entrepreneurs in the period of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. She represents the endurance and determination that women in many professions had to stoically possess to succeed and to be fulfilled as professionals. Contemporary local newspapers often presented her as humanitarian and successful pharmacist.

Additional information:

- <https://www.facebook.com/ZheniMK/photos/a.557315418123169/566599867194724/?type=3&theater> (English)
- <http://nuub.hopto.org/greenstone3/sites/localsite/collect/col11/index/assoc/HASHfc68.dir/ZnacajniLicnostiZaBitola.pdf> (English and Macedonian)
- <https://denesen.mk/bitolchankata-rajna-aleksova-i-prvata-apoteka-na-balkanot-vo-bitola/> (Macedonian, but Google translate to English is good)
- https://mk.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%A0%D0%B0%D1%98%D0%BD%D0%B0_%D0%90%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%BA%D1%81%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B0 (Macedonian, but Google translate to English is good)
- <https://www.slobodenpecat.mk/rajna-aleksova-prva-zhena-farmaczevt-vo-makedonija-nejziniot-zhivot-sodrzhi-se-istorija-romantika-idealizam-zhrtva-i-tragedija/> (Macedonian, but Google translate to English is good)

NASTA ROJC (Croatia)

Born: 6 November 1883, Bjelovar, Austria-Hungary (now Croatia)

Died: 6 November 1964 (aged 81), Zagreb, Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (now Croatia)

Nasta Rojc is one of the most important Croatian artists from the turn of the century, best known for self-portraits where she confidently depicts herself. "Self Portrait with a Rifle, 1912" and "Self Portrait with a Horse, 1922" are her most famous works, and the most underrated one is an avant-garde painting "Our Time, 1928", which has an unconventional form and sociocritical ferocity. In 1927 Nasta Rojc co-founded [The Women's Art Club](#) (Klub likovnih umjetnica) which is considered to be the first exclusively women's art association founded in Croatia, and was an important factor of the female artists' emancipation – organizing the first female group exhibitions in Zagreb in 1928 as well as organizing the [exhibition](#) of the [Little Entente of Women](#) held in 1938.

Her relationship with British officer Alexandrina Maria Onslow began in 1918, and from 1923 they lived openly together in Zagreb in a house which Nasta designed herself, until 1941 when due to the suspicion that she was helping the partisans, the fascist Ustasha government took away her house and studio.

Additional information:

- <https://arteist.hr/leonida-kovac-nasta-rojc-nase-doba/> (Croatian but Google translate to English is good)
- <https://kuca.senoa.eu/obitelj-senoa/nasta-rojc> (Croatian but Google translate to English is good)
- <https://www.pinterest.com/veraicono00/nasta-rojc-painter/> (photos)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tKhPKJuBXM> (video from her retrospective in 2014)

Quotes:

"I don't want to sell myself to anyone, but I want to remain a person, have a vocation that will fill my life and earn my own bread."

"At the age of 7, I rejected the science of God as my elders taught me and created my own judgment of the laws of nature, and in that regard I set the program of my life as an intelligent willful creature that I followed all my life: I will not be a blind slave of nature."

VINKA BULIĆ (Croatia)

Born: 27 December 1884, Solin, Austria-Hungary (now Croatia)

Died: 18 October 1965 (aged 80), Split, Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (now Croatia)

A journalist, publicist, feminist, an excellent chronicler of her time and a journalist for the Split daily *New Age* (*Novo doba*), which was published between the two world wars. She was one of the founders of the feminist Women's Movement in Split in February 1926, and its most active members. She was a mountaineer and engaged in humanitarian work, collecting aid especially for poor children in Split outskirts.

Her passport states that she was a housewife by profession, but her work and wide range of interests and social activities far exceeded the housewife's interests. Together with dr. Jelka Perić she participated in the work of the Little Entente of Women in Prague in 1927, a women's organization founded in 1923. founded by women's organizations of the states of Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania, and Greece.

In *New Age* (*Novo doba*) she wrote about feminists and the feminist movement, including the International Feminist Congress in Dubrovnik in 1936, where she was part of a six-member Croatian women's delegation that was not allowed to work at a congress organized by the Yugoslav Women's Movement. The visit of Dalmatian women, the Croatian delegation to Dubrovnik, at the congress where they were undesirable was an expression of the strong determination of women to defend and preserve the Croatian national identity.

Additional information:

- <https://www.domine.hr/?lang=hr&index=111> (Croatian but Google translate to English is good)
- <https://www.crol.hr/index.php/kultura/7528-splitski-dosjei-x-u-hrvatskom-drzavnom-arhivu> (Croatian but Google translate to English is good)

ANGELA PISKERNIK (Slovenia)

Born: 27 August 1886, Bad Eisenkappel, Austria-Hungary (now Austria)

Died: 23 December 1967 (aged 81), Ljubljana, Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia(now Slovenia)

Botanist, museologist and European-renowned conservationist. She finished her studies at the University of Vienna just before the First World War and at the end of 1914 became the first Slovene woman that obtained a doctorate in natural sciences with her dissertation "Plasmoderma in mosses". Later she moved to Ljubljana where she worked in a museum and later as a teacher. She taught natural sciences, mathematics, physics and German language, but also sex education to girls, and when radio was established in Ljubljana, she became one of the first radio lecturers and taught German on the radio. In 1941, she published the important botanical book *Ključ za določanje cvetnic in praprotnic (The Key to Determining Flowering Plants and Ferns)*, where she described 2.222 plant species and subspecies and methods for their determination. After the World War Two, during which she was imprisoned and detained in the Nazi concentration camp Ravensbrück, she was appointed director of the Natural History Museum in Ljubljana where she worked in the conservation service, initiating the protection of the first nature conservation areas in Slovenia and founding the Mountain Guard of Slovenia. She restored the Alpine Juliana Botanical Garden in Trenta Valley, was responsible for the establishment of the Triglav National Park and initiated the adoption of a decree banning the export of birds from Yugoslavia.

Additional information:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angela_Piskernik (English)
- <https://kvarkadabra.net/2019/07/angela-piskernik/> (Slovenian, but Google translate to English is good)
- http://www.inv.si/DocDir/Prispevki/JStergar_APiskernik.pdf (Slovenian)

NAKIE BAJRAM (North Macedonia)

Born: 1889, Vardar Macedonia, Ottoman Empire (now North Macedonia)

Died: 1962 (aged 72-73), Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Turkish socialist, teacher and a women's rights activist. On the wave of political and ideological changes in the final decades of the Ottoman Empire, brought by local uprisings and the Revolution of the Young Turks, Turkish women also started to politically organize on questions concerning their education, economic independence and position in the society. Bajram, an educated woman and a teacher, initiated the opening of these questions for Turkish women in Vardar Macedonia. She was a founder of the Association of Turkish Women in 1907, in Skopje, which gathered around 50 women, mostly wives of Turkish officers, and in 1909 joined the Social Democratic Organization formed by Rosa and Ilija Plavev. The central idea of Bajram's activism was women's education and emancipation. She sought the abolishment of the coverture as a solution of the women's question concerning the position of Turkish women in the society. After the Second World War, in Socialist Yugoslavia and Peoples Republic of Macedonia she was representative member of the educators for women's literacy courses and an advocate for the Law for abolishing of veil and coverture for Muslim women that came into effect in 1951, aiming to accelerate integration of Muslim women in the new socialist society. Contrary to her expectations, the Law provoked resistance from the Muslim population and was seen as an act of violence against the family and personal integrity of the Muslim woman.

Additional information:

- <https://www.facebook.com/ZheniMK/photos/pcb.568269963694381/568268840361160/?type=3&theater> (English)
- https://mk.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%9D%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B8%D0%B5_%D0%91%D0%B0%D1%98%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BC?fbclid=IwAR16xQs5nVdTvqvF_TYULeQh1qAjlrlGaP1nuw_nFSljh1TBQ5UL508xyik (Macedonian, but Google translate to English is good)
- https://books.google.hr/books?id=hsgQjbgBOAkC&pg=PA442&lpg=PA442&dq=rosa+plaveva&source=bl&ots=8tc2ySEKga&sig=ACfU3U3UMn5qOmlADzgwNpxQ3umFnqe2RA&hl=hr&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwi3642vnr3pAhWKERQKHQHMA_gQ6AEwDHoECA4QAQ#v=onepage&q=rosa%20plaveva&f=false (English, page 442)
- https://www.opafondacija.org/zaum/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/2005_07_00_Rosa_Plaveva_i_Nakie_bajrami.pdf (Macedonian)
- https://www.gendernet.info/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Naming-the-bridge_Hristina-Ivanoska_magazine_06-820x574.jpg (**Bajram is highlighted in the picture**)

DIANA BUDISAVLJEVIĆ (Croatia)

Born: 15 January 1891, Innsbruck, Austria-Hungary

Died: 25 August 1978 (aged 87), Innsbruck, Austria

A humanitarian and social activist who lived in Zagreb and organized an action to rescue and take care of Serbian children from fascist Ustasha camps during the Second World War. Her work is considered a forerunner of all significant aspects of the Convention on the Rights of the Child when it comes to children at war and has contributed to the establishment of social work as a profession in Croatia. Out of 15,536 children that she saved, 3,254 children died during the rescue or immediately after leaving the camp, exhausted by torture, hunger and disease.

Additional information:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diana_Budisavljevi%C4%87 (English)
- <https://voxfeminae.net/strasne-zene/diana-budisavljevic-junakinja-drugog-svjetskog-rata/> (Croatian but Google translate to English is good)

Quotes:

"It was the most beautiful gift I ever received in my life - the opportunity to free people from certain death."

KATA PEJNOVIĆ (Croatia)

Born: 21 March 1899, Smiljan, Austria-Hungary (now Croatia)

Died: 10 November 1966 (aged 67), Zagreb, Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (now Croatia)

She was born in a poor peasant family and in addition to farming and taking care of her own early family, Kata read a lot and encouraged others to read - so in 1936 she began to get acquainted with communist literature; it soon adopted the policy of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia and began to carry out party tasks. In the communist party, Pejnović focused on reducing ethnic tensions between Serbs and Croats and women's issues. Working on the political education of peasants, she brought party material in milk buckets and distributed it in the villages of western Lika. To help spread anti-fascist propaganda among the women of Croatia, she helped to found the first women's newspaper, Woman in Struggle (Žena u borbi), in partisan-controlled Croatia in March 1942. Later that year, she was the only woman delegate to the Anti-Fascist Council for the National Liberation of Yugoslavia (AVNOJ) and was elected President of the Antifascist Women's Front (Antifašistički front žena) shortly afterwards. Kata Pejnović was the deputy to Croatia's and federal parliament.

Additional information:

- <https://snv.hr/eng/famous-serbs-in-croatia/kata-pejnovic> (English)
- <https://snv.hr/znameniti-srbi-u-hrvatskoj/kata-pejnovic> (Croatian)
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kata_Pejnovi%C4%87 (English)
- https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kata_Pejnovi%C4%87 (Croatian)

DUŠANA ŠANTEL KANONI (Slovenia)

Born: 1908, Pazin, Austria-Hungary (now Croatia)

Died: 1988, Ljubljana, Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia(now Slovenia)

She finished her studies at Faculty of Architecture in Ljubljana in 1932 and became the first female architecture graduate in Slovenia. After one year of practice with architect Dragotin Fatur, she received a French scholarship and continued her studies in Paris (1933-34) at École nationale supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, at the Decorative Arts Department. In 1933 she presented her designs at the exhibition of the Little Entente artists and at the exhibition of Young Slovenian Architecture in the Jakopič pavilion. Nevertheless, as the society of that time wasn't in favour of employing women in technical professions, she had a hard time finding a real job. For example, even when she led the renovation of the coffee shop *Zvezda* in the basement of the *Kazina* building in Ljubljana in 1935, as a woman and a young architect, she had to fight a quiet but difficult battle against public opinion in order to win the confidence of broader public'. She intensively collaborated with various contemporary women's magazines (for example *Ženski svijet*, for which she designed the cover in 1933) and worked as an interior designer. The magazine *Žena in dom (Woman and home)*, in 1938 published a manual *Kako opremim stanovanje (How to furnish an apartment)* by Šantel Kanoni, an interwar popular manual with practical advice on how to arrange your own home by modest means, in which she included examples of furniture and decorative items of her own design. She was very versatile, and her work includes teaching children decorative drawing, designing toys, working in ateliers, designing furniture, landscape architecture, producing drafts, garden architecture and building adaptations.

Additional information:

- https://uifs.zrc-sazu.si/sites/default/files/dusana_santel_kanoni_0.pdf (Slovenian and English)
- https://books.google.hr/books?id=iJiHDwAAQBAJ&pg=PA141&lpg=PA141&dq=Dušana+Šantel+Kanoni&source=bl&ots=EthYSVOKGZ&sig=ACfU3U0_R7c68N23T5clm9BxKJfO_oeJlw&hl=hr&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjcg_HHlrpAhUBy6YKHfWnD9MQ6AEwBHoECAkQAQ#v=onepage&q=Dušana%20Šantel%20Kanoni&f=false (English, from page 176)
- <http://architectuul.com/architect/dusana-santel-kanoni> (English)
- http://www.centerarhitekture.org/ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ZLOZENKA-2016_pionirke.pdf (Slovenian)

MARTA PAULIN SCHMIDT - BRINA (Slovenia)

Born: 5 August 1911, Ljubljana, Austria-Hungary (now Slovenia)

Died: 30 December 2002, Ljubljana (aged 91), Slovenia

Slovenian dance artist, choreographer, and dance pedagogist, considered to be the first contemporary dancer in Slovenia before the Second World War. She was an active participant in the National Liberation War, where she was given a partisan name Brina. She was one of the founders of the partisan theater, which operated in the XIV. division, and organized improvisational dance points for the fighters at the outposts. Brina famously performed in front of around 2000 partisan fighters on Mašun on 23rd September 1943. After the war, she had to give up professional dancing, because her toes froze during the winter march of the XIV. divisions to Steiermark, so she focused on choreography and pedagogical work, and worked at the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Science and Culture of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia. As a pedagogist she prepared the basic literature and developed the methodology for music and dance education of preschool children.

Additional information:

- https://sl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marta_Paulin_Schmidt_-_Brina (Slovenian, but Google translate to English is good)
- https://books.google.si/books?id=oFYdZ8JA5z4C&pg=PA52&hl=sl&source=gbs_selected_pages&cad=2#v=onepage&q=brina&f=false (Slovenian, from page 482)

Quotes:

“Ko sem kot plesalka stala sama med množico borcev z zavestjo, da bom zmogla s svojim plesnim darom in s šibkim telesom izpovedati, kar nas je družilo, da bom zmogla obvladati tudi neizmerni naravni prostor, sem čutila v nogah moč, ko sem teptala trda zemeljska tla. V našem primeru ni šlo za tako imenovani ‘balet’ v širšem pomenu besede, temveč za več: šlo je za plesni izraz, ki je ukoreninjen v domačih tleh, za človekovo udeležbo pri samem zgodovinskem dogajanju svojega naroda. Za udeležbo v osvobodilnem boju ljudstva, ki ne pozna obupa, ki se zaveda svoje moči in svojega poslanstva. Ples poziva na boj, v boju zmaga; razveže se v radost: zaradi bojevanja, zaradi prestanih naporov, zaradi moči, zaradi samega zgodovinskega dejanja.”

VIDA TOMŠIČ (Slovenia)

Born: 26 June 1913, Ljubljana, Austria-Hungary (now Slovenia)

Died: 10 December 1998 (aged 86), Ljubljana, Slovenia

Partisan, anti-fascist, women's rights activist, people's hero of Yugoslavia and a prominent politician who played a leading role in shaping social policies in socialist Yugoslavia. As a member of the Yugoslav Communist Party, Tomšič drafted a program of women's emancipation as early as 1940, modeling it based on the demands of interwar feminist groups: "political parity – protection of women's reproductive function – socialization of the education of children – education – work". From 1945 onwards, she devoted herself to the implementation of this program, contributing to the creation of many policies that promoted the political, social, and economic equality of women in Yugoslavia. She believed that women's living conditions could only be improved through greater economic and social development, but she was also convinced that women's participation in policy-making was fundamental to such development and that women must be mobilized to achieve emancipation. According to Tomšič, the improvement of women's lives on a global scale is necessarily linked to the fight against class and geopolitical inequalities. Tomšič also fervently defended women's right to free choice in contraception and childbirth, repeatedly warning of the need to defend the right to abortion from those who wanted to restrict existing legislation.

Additional information:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vida_Tom%C5%A1i%C4%8D (English)
- <https://books.google.hr/books?id=sQjqWx0ZgekC&pg=PA84&lpg=PA84&dq=Vida+Tom%C5%A1i%C4%8D&source=bl&ots=yN9-bF-WG&sig=ACfU3U0Q9nS2QHY9LfveU1t2-gtjAb9aw&hl=hr&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiZjJyu47PpAhVOnaQKHUQMD2I4ChDoATAEegQICBAB#v=onepage&q=Vida%20Tom%C5%A1i%C4%8D&f=false> (English)
- <http://slobodnifilozofski.com/2016/03/chiara-bonfiglioli-o-vidi-tomsic.html> (Croatian, but Google translate to English is good)
- https://sl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vida_Tom%C5%A1i%C4%8D (Slovenian, but Google translate to English is good)
- https://books.google.si/books?id=oFYdZ8JA5z4C&pg=PA519&lpg=PA519&dq=vida+tom%C5%A1i%C4%8D+pozabljena+polovica&source=bl&ots=Pazq03q4tB&sig=ACfU3U0Ds92-VgGiWnEOmV_859MY4Dz2CQ&hl=sl&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj3iafKpgzAhWTT8AKHefCB9EQ6AEwAXoECAoQAQ#v=onepage&q=vida%20tom%C5%A1i%C4%8D%20pozabljena%20polovica&f=false (Slovenian, from page 518)

Quotes:

"From this point on, we should insist on the continuous pursuit of the elimination of all forms of discrimination between people and nations, whether racial, national, social or sexual discrimination. We should insist on different relations between people and between nations. Planned parenting should be advocated as a human right closely related to and dependent on the advocacy of other human rights (...) The emancipation of women removes a very serious obstacle to progress, not only for them personally, but for society as a whole.
(Meeting of the UN Expert Group on Social Welfare and Family Planning, 1974., New York)

MARA BEŠTER (Slovenia)

Born: 16 July 1922, Kamnik, Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (now Slovenia)

Died: 31 July 2010 (aged 88), Ljubljana, Slovenia

She graduated from the Faculty of Economics in Ljubljana in 1956 and received her doctorate there in 1960, thus becoming the first Slovenian doctor of economics. After graduating, she became a lecturer at the Faculty of Economics in Ljubljana. As an economist and statistician, she did a systematic review of the entire Eastern and Western economic literature, theoretically substantiated the notion of a domestic product, and introduced to Slovenia an internationally comparable methodology for calculating gross domestic product and other statistical indicators. She also dealt with the economic and social implications of population reproduction and the economic position of women.

During World War Two she took an active part in the National liberation war, and after the end of the war she worked in various socio-political bodies and was a member of the First Assembly of the People's Republic of Slovenia and a member of the Federal Assembly of SFRY. Since 1975 she was a member of the Republican Council for Social Development and Economic Policy, and in 1982 she was elected a judge of the Constitutional Court of Slovenia.

Additional information:

- https://sl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mara_Be%C5%A1ter(Slovenian, but Google translate to English is good)
- <https://www.slovenska-biografija.si/oseba/sbi1018200/>(Slovenian, but Google translate to English is good)
- <https://www.leksikon.si/Oseba/Osebald/133>(Slovenian, but Google translate to English is good)

MIMOZA NESTOROVA-TOMIĆ (North Macedonia)

Born: 21 June 1929, Struga, Kingdom of Yugoslavia (now North Macedonia)

Architect, planner, and urban designer, who played a significant role in the masterplan and reconstruction of Skopje after the 1963 earthquake. She graduated Architecture in Belgrade in 1953 and started working at the Institute of Architecture of the Technical Faculty in Skopje. In 1965 she moved to the Institute for Urbanism and Architecture in Skopje as a solo designer and worked as the director of the Institute from 1986 until 1989, holding the most important state position in architecture.

After the devastating earthquake in Skopje in 1963, she worked closely with the Japanese architect Kenzo Tange, in charge of the reconstruction. The earthquake struck Skopje on July 26, 1963 and left about 81% of all buildings in the city destroyed in just 17 seconds, killing 2,000 people, and leaving thousands more homeless. Her work on the reconstruction of Skopje included the western industrial zone, and the old part of the city, the so-called Turkish Bazaar, where she worked on the restoration of Suli Inn and the new Museum of Macedonia.

Additional information:

- <http://architectuul.com/architect/mimoza-nestorova-tomic?fbclid=IwAR2IOQyDdLZAnZjpR6QKAbvTj8Zy0ZR1cT3DsGCxn9rkqWyGwODBkXBGXhc> (English)
- <https://books.google.hr/books?id=383LDAAAQBAJ&pg=PA123&lpg=PA123&dq=mimoza+nestorova&source=bl&ots=f7Rrbgf6Ty&sig=ACfU3U1CA13wNI2zdmo1Sx-oQ3egPivcKw&hl=hr&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjQzrPdscDpAhVC2aQKH0RDPoQ6AEwDHoECAwQAQ#v=onepage&q=mimoza%20nestorova&f=false> (English, from page 123)
- <https://marh.mk/mimoza-tomilk-nestorova/> (Macedonian, but Google translate to English is good)
- <https://www.novamakedonija.com.mk/prilozi/lik/%d0%b0%d1%80%d1%85%d0%b8%d1%82%d0%b5%d0%ba%d1%82%d0%ba%d0%b8%d1%82%d0%b5-%d1%88%d1%82%d0%be-%d1%98%d0%b0-%d0%b3%d1%80%d0%b0%d0%b4%d0%b5%d0%bb%d0%b5-%d1%98%d1%83%d0%b3%d0%be%d1%81%d0%bb%d0%b0%d0%b2/> (Macedonian, but Google translate to English is good)

VERA VESKOVIC-VANGELI (North Macedonia)

Born: 1 December 1933, Veles, Kingdom of Yugoslavia (now North Macedonia)

Died: 14 March 2007 (aged 73), Skopje, Macedonia (now North Macedonia)

Historiographer, humanities scholar, and part of the first-generation contemporary Macedonian historians. She was one of the few historiographers and renowned scholars in Macedonia that dedicated her scholarly carrier to researching and affirming the role of women in significant historical events and in history in general. The titles such as *Collection of Documents on the Participation of Women in Macedonia in the National Liberation War and Revolution in Macedonia* (with Marija Jovanovic), from 1976 or *The Woman in the Liberation Battles in Macedonia* (1893 – 1945), from 1990, speak of dedicated work, continuous collection of historical documentation, and are an important source for any further research and interpretations of women's role in the period from the end of the 19th and the 20th century. She paved the way of gendered research in national, social, and economic history. She has published articles on various historical events and relevant historiography issues, such as the constitution of national identity, the development of socialist movements, self-determination, the holocaust, etc. Due to her activity the need for the terms "historian" and "historiographer" to be used in feminine gender as well imposed itself.

Additional information:

- <http://www.identitiesjournal.edu.mk/index.php/IJPGC/article/view/188/105> (English and Macedonian)
- <http://www.slvesnik.com.mk/Issues/02F34198D5474638BDD9AC0B672EF537.pdf> (Macedonian)



*In our effort not to influence the artists with suggested photos we left them out of the document. This is the only photo we added because there is no available photo of Vera Veskovic-Vangeli online.

ISKRA GRABUL (North Macedonia)

Born: 1936, Skopje, Kingdom of Yugoslavia (now North Macedonia)

Died: 15 September 2008 (aged 72), Skopje, Macedonia (now North Macedonia)

Macedonian architect and artist. She graduated at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Skopje, where she met Jordan Grabul, one of Macedonia's most renowned sculptors of the 20th century, her husband and artistic partner. Many claim that the best work either of them did was when they were doing it in collaboration. Their most politically charged and famous public work is the massive 'Makedonium' memorial at Kruševo, North Macedonia, which was built to commemorate the Ilinden Uprising and soldiers who gave their lives in the fight for Macedonian freedom during the land's various wars and conflicts. The magazine Architectural Digest counted the memorial as one of the seven most interesting brutalist buildings in the world. Iskra Grabul is an example of the artist following her own standards of work while working with the national commission concerning the monument "Makedonium": she understood the monument as active participation in culture, not a passive tourist observation, and as a monument dedicated to extra-temporal and extra-spatial understanding of freedom and national struggle.

Iskra Grabul spent a lot of time in India with the philosopher and guru Sathya Sai Baba, helping him in his humanitarian work, then translated some of his books and she was the pillar of the Sathya Sai Organization in Macedonia for a long time.

Additional information:

- <https://www.spomenikdatabase.org/iskra-grabul> (English)
- <https://www.facebook.com/ZheniMK/photos/pcb.558402348014476/558401958014515/?type=3&theater> (English)
- https://mk.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%98%D1%81%D0%BA%D1%80%D0%B0_%D0%93%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B1%D1%83%D0%BB (Macedonian, but Google translate to English is good)
- <https://www.fakulteti.mk/news/02082019/za-izgradba-na-makedoniumot-vo-igra-bil-ushte-eden-grad> (Macedonian, but Google translate to English is good)
- <https://marh.mk/cestit-ilinden/?fbclid=IwAR0bASyWicsznCr2xNr4JVTmXUT235L2ou5RNqurKVUNPJeez0r8H-QdVng> (Macedonian, but Google translate to English is good)
- <https://okno.mk/node/7666> (Macedonian, but Google translate to English is good)
- <http://www.globusmagazin.com.mk/?ItemID=5DFF8EAE49135942899B0EB070E7B9AC> (Macedonian)

NAN JOYCE (Ireland)

Born: 1940, Clogheen, Ireland

Died: August 7, 2018 (aged 77–78), Belfast, United Kingdom

An [Irish Travellers'](#) rights activist. She worked to improve the lives of Travellers in Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1981 until her death in 2018. She was the first Traveller candidate in an Irish general election, in 1982.

Joyce's father died in a police cell when she was twelve, and her mother was sent to prison for theft committed to support her family. Joyce took over the role of mother and roamed the country with her siblings. Some years later, she married a Traveller, John Joyce, and they had eleven children.

She endured many hardships including prejudice and intolerance, as well as living by roadsides with no facilities, exposed to severe weather, leading to illness and despair.

Joyce was one of the best-known Irish Travellers. She pioneered the cause of Travellers' rights and heightened awareness of the many hidden problems they faced. The existence of the Travellers' Rights Committee in the 1980s fostered many offshoot organizations dedicated to the needs of Travellers. She published *Traveller: an autobiography* in 1985 and was the subject of a chapter in a study of influential Irish women, *Mná na hÉireann: Women who Shaped Ireland*, in 2009.

Additional information:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nan_Joyce (English)
- <https://www.rte.ie/archives/2017/1121/921778-traveller-activist-nan-joyce/> (Video)
- <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/nan-joyce-trailblazer-for-traveller-rights-dies-aged-78-1.3590010> (English)

Quotes:

“When I was a child, we were hunted from place to place and we could never have friends to be always going to school with. The little settled children would run past our camps – they were afraid of the travellers. Other people had a sort of romantic idea about us, because of the horses and the colourful wagons. They would ask us did we come from some place special like the gypsies you see on the films. They thought that the travellers had no worries and that we didn't feel pain or hunger or cold. The truth is that we're people like everybody else but we're a different speaking people with our own traditions and our own way of life and this is the way we should be treated, not like dirt...” (from 'Traveller', an autobiography by Nan Joyce)

NUALA O'FAOLAIN (Ireland)

Born: March 1, 1940, Dublin, Ireland

Died: May 9, 2008 (aged 68), Dublin, Ireland

Irish writer and journalist wrote a popular opinion column for the Irish Times newspaper and several books in which she addressed the themes of love, loss, rejection, and social problems. Through her works, which were drawn largely from personal experience, O'Faolain gave a voice to the latent doubts and fears of middle-aged women.

What O'Faolain had originally envisioned as a brief introduction to the book turned into a 200-page memoir, *Are You Somebody?: The Accidental Memoir of a Dublin Woman* (1996), in which she detailed her life, dysfunctional family, failed relationships, and struggle with alcohol abuse. O'Faolain followed the best-selling book with a continuation, *Almost There: The Onward Journey of a Dublin Woman* (2003), and two novels, *My Dream of You* (2001) and *The Story of Chicago May* (2006), which was awarded a *Prix Fémina*.

In 1980, O'Faolain became involved with Nell McCafferty, the feminist, journalist and civil rights activist, a relationship that lasted almost 15 years and which O'Faolain referred to as the single "most life-giving" relationship of her life.

Until she was diagnosed with cancer, she was covering the US presidential election for an Irish Sunday newspaper and responded with great gusto to the dilemma it posed for a feminist - support for Clinton or Obama. Having lived a very public life, O'Faolain agreed to be interviewed on Irish radio about her diagnosis with terminal cancer and decision to reject chemotherapy.

Additional information:

- <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2008/may/12/culture.obituaries> (English)
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/11/books/11ofaolain.html> (English)

Quotes:

"A lot of us suffered in the Ireland of my day. We came out of a culture where women were utterly powerless, and children had no value. If you were hit at school, you were hit at home for being hit at school. It goes without saying there was no sex education. The only education a lot of us got was in neglect and being unloved."

"In my time, which is mostly the 20th century, people have died horribly in Auschwitz, in Darfur, or are dying of starvation or dying multiply raped in the Congo or dying horribly like that. I think how comfortably I am dying, I have friends and family, I am in this wonderful country, I have money, there is nothing much wrong with me except I am dying."

CHRISTINE BUCKLEY (Ireland)

Born: 1946, Dublin, Ireland

Died: March 11, 2014 (aged 68), Dublin, Ireland

One of the first people to speak out publicly about the abuse of children in institutions in Ireland.

The daughter of a Nigerian medical student and a married Irish woman from Dublin, she was abandoned at three weeks of age and grew up in Goldenbridge [industrial school](#). She went through primary and, unlike many industrial school children, secondary school, eventually qualifying as a nurse.

In 1999, with her close friend Carmel McDonnell Byrne, she set up the Aislinn centre in Dublin's city centre which has been helping survivors of institutional abuse and their families through therapy and education ever since.

In 2003, she called on Minister for Education Noel Dempsey to resign after he proposed that the Commission investigate only sample allegations of abuse instead of the 1800 complaints.

In December 2012, Trinity College, Dublin awarded her an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in recognition of her work for people who were subjected to institutional abuse.

Additional information:

- <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/institutional-abuse-campaigner-christine-buckley-dies-1.1720348> (English)
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christine_Buckley (English)

EDITA SCHUBERT (Croatia)

Born: 17 June 1947, Virovitica, Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (now Croatia)

Died: 25 July 2001 (aged 54), Zagreb, Croatia

The work of this artist holds a key place in Croatian art of the 20th century. Thirty years of her artistic activity have been marked by constant research into various art media, which have regularly resulted in the discovery of completely original technologies for the performance of works, and consequently the inventions of a new artistic language.

She graduated in 1971 from the Academy of Fine Arts in Zagreb. At first she painted hyper realistically, then she performed installations of magical charge in modest materials (leaves, fabric, sand) which she combined with painted surfaces (*Shooting Star*, 1981). In the late 1980s, she painted compositions of intense colors in the spirit of new geometry (*Untitled-Cathedral*, 1987), and in an effort to fit the individual level of reality into a wider context, she made ambient installations (*My apartment*, 1999) and web art (*Walks*, 2001).

Additional information:

- <http://gkd.hr/izlozba/edita-schubert-retrospektiva/> (Croatian but Google translate to English is good)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1JbyIBV43t0> (video from retrospective - Croatian)
- <https://www.jutarnji.hr/kultura/art/pogled-u-jedinstveno-i-kompleksno-djelo-jedne-od-nasih-najznacajnijih-avangardnih-umjetnica/9006452/> (Croatian but Google translate to English is good)

LYDIA SKLEVICKY (Croatia)

Born: 7 May 1952, Zagreb, Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (now Croatia)

Died: 21 January 1990 (aged 37), Delnice, Croatia

A feminist theorist, historian, and sociologist. The first Croatian scholar to address the social history of women from a feminist perspective. She coordinated the first feminist meetings in Zagreb in the late 1970s and was one of the founders of the group Women and Society in 1979. With Žarana Papić, she co-edited the first book of feminist anthropology in Yugoslavia in 1983, entitled *Towards an Anthropology of Woman (Antropologija žene)*. A posthumous collection of her work, including her unfinished Ph.D. dissertation, was published in 1996 in *Horses, Women, Wars. (Konji, žene, ratovi)*.

Additional information:

- <https://voxfeminae.net/strasne-zene/lydia-sklevicky-feministicka-zacinjavka/> (Croatian but Google translate to English is good)
- <https://www.jutarnji.hr/magazin/lydia-sklevicky-prva-hrvatska-feministkinja-novog-vala-subverzivni-element-kamencic-u-cipeli-vladajuce-partije/9893470/> (Croatian but Google translate to English is good)
- https://www.academia.edu/5890765/KONJI_%C5%BDENE_RATOVI_-_Lydia_Sklevicky (book *Horses, Women, Wars (Konji, žene, ratovi)* in Croatian)

Quotes:

“Making women visible is the first step of questioning the usual relationship of the general and the particular in the hierarchy of relevance of writing history. Starting from the hypothesis that basically everything we know about women's experiences in the past is mediated by men's reflections and imbued with the value systems they defined, the question of the possibility of researching and understanding the specifics of women's historical consciousness is raised.”

LILJANA DIRJAN (North Macedonia)

Born: 1953, Skopje, Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (now North Macedonia)

Died: 13 December 2017 (aged 64), Skopje, Macedonia (now North Macedonia)

Macedonian poet, journalist, and publicist considered to be the woman that paved the way for other women poets and writers in Macedonia. As one of the founders and editors of *Sarajevske sveske* (*Sarajevo Notebook*) she was one of the most important figures that connected poets and writers in the region. She also worked as the editor of the magazine for culture *Zhena/Жена* (*Woman*), and was one of the founders of the Independent Writers of Macedonia in 1993, an association that was an example of the cultural, democratic and creative spring in regional literature circles. Her books have been translated in many languages and her poems included in many anthologies of contemporary Macedonian poetry. She is known for her “creative withdraws” to the peacefulness of Macedonian monasteries and rustic ambient to write and create. Her style of writing was deeply emotional and subtle, in search of cosmopolitan essence in Macedonian and regional symbols, mentality and everyday life, and inspired by regional beauty like the Adriatic Sea, Dalmatia, Belgrade city life etc. Her work has been recognized with prestigious national awards, including “Studentski Zbor” (1980) and “Miladinov Brothers” (1985).

Dirjan is remembered as a great organizer of cultural events and gatherings of national and regional writers in creative communities, and described as someone eager to experience the world, with wide world views, but at the same time, very strict to her own work.

Additional information:

- http://www.antolog.mk/index.php?route=product/manufacturer/info&manufacturer_id=292 (Macedonian, but Google translate to English is good)
- https://mk.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%9B%D0%B8%D0%BB%D1%98%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B0_%D0%94%D0%B8%D1%80%D1%98%D0%B0%D0%BD (Macedonian, but Google translate to English is good)
- <https://sdk.mk/index.php/kultura/pochina-poetesata-liljana-dirjan/> (Macedonian, but Google translate to English is good)
- <https://okno.mk/node/68393> (Macedonian, but Google translate to English is good + photos)
- <https://okno.mk/node/68751> (Macedonian)
- <https://www.lyrikline.org/en/poems/damask-teshka-svila-4813> (Macedonian)
- <https://blog.literatura.mk/2017/12/16/%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%BE%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%BD%D0%BE-%D0%BF%D0%B8%D1%81%D0%BC%D0%BE-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BB%D1%98%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%80%D1%98%D0%B0%D0%BD-%D0%BE%D0%B4-%D0%B5/> (Macedonian)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cq8POICwNx0>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-66yfHy83M> (Serbo-Croatian)

LYRA MCKEE (Ireland)

Born 31 March 1990, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Died 18 April 2019 (aged 29), Derry, Northern Ireland

An investigative journalist who wrote for several publications about the consequences of [the Troubles](#). She was also active campaigner for LGBTQI and women's rights and was shot during rioting in Derry. Crowdfunding enabled her to research and write *A Boy Soaked in Moonlight*, an ambitious investigation of a tangled story about institutional child abuse and murder. She had signed a two-book deal with Faber a year before her death and working on a piece entitled *The Lost Boys*, exploring the disappearances of a number of children and young men during the Troubles. She won awards, including one for a piece about domestic violence.

Her eloquent and moving [Letter to My 14-Year-Old Self](#), published in 2014, when Lyra was twenty-four, describes the persecution she suffered at secondary school, especially after she confided in "the wrong person" that she was gay. She was jeered at as "weird" and as a "lesbo." She'd been baptized a Catholic, and her church taught that she would be banished to hell.

Additional information:

- <https://www.newyorker.com/news/postscript/the-incredible-life-and-tragic-death-of-lyra-mckee> (English)
- <https://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/people/lyra-mckee-obituary-journalist-cut-down-in-her-prime-by-dissident-republicans-1.3872676> (English)
- <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2020/mar/15/lyra-mckee-death-anniversary-sara-canning-nichola-derry-book> (English)
- Lyra McKee argues that changing religious teaching on LGBT people will literally save lives: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ymU-5Y3rkY> (Tedx Talk, video)

Quotes:

"I realised that I couldn't run away from religion anymore, because religion shapes how LGBT people are treated in the world. It shapes the laws and how they treat LGBT people. And it shapes how we, LGBT people, feel about ourselves."