

PRESS RELEASE

Budapest, December 1, 2007

WORLD CONFERENCE OF HUNGARIAN WOMEN

**in the Hungarian Parliament
on November 23-24, 2007**

MAIN PATRONS

Dr. Kinga Göncz, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary
Dr. Zita Gurmai, Member of the European Parliament

HOST

Dr. Katalin Szili, Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly

SPONSORS

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, State Secretariat for Equal Opportunities
Procter&Gamble

With the organization of the World Conference of Hungarian Women, the Association of Women's Career Development in Hungary's aim was, and still is, to involve women who are of Hungarian origin in the interest of promoting women's equal opportunities in Hungary. We are confident that these women could help strengthen democracy in Hungary and help the country toward a better future by offering their expertise and personal devotion towards this country.

The Objectives of the World Conference of Hungarian Women have been to:

- encourage and strengthen the networking and cooperation of women from the Eastern and Western Diaspora and in the motherland,
- draw attention to the significant contributions of women of Hungarian origin to accomplishments in the fields of economy, politics, science, culture, media, and sports,
- present the achievements of Hungarian women in the solution of global problems, in safeguarding peace, and in the promotion of humanitarian values,
- encourage networking between the younger generations of the Western Diaspora and the motherland.

Further information:

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www.magynok.hu, www.hungarianwomen.net

Szervező: Magyar Női Karrierfejlesztési Szövetség

ANDREA FERENCZI

President of AWCDH – the Conference’s initiator

Her personal message to the participants of the Conference:

Thanks to good luck and the nature of my work,

I have traveled throughout the world and have come to know it.

In my experience, Hungarian women stand out with their talent, beauty, and good taste.

*It has always been natural for them to do equally well in their work and in caring for their families,
and they have been doing so for many years with such effortless ease,
that hardly anyone has noticed their accomplishments.*

*So I hope you will come to a very special celebration, the World Conference of Hungarian Women,
and if you like what you see, let us join hands and work together!*

Let us, Hungarian women, work together for a better world!

The highly successful and well-attended two-day conference was remarkably topical for various reasons. The women of Hungarian origin who came to the conference from different parts of the world served as living testimony to the strides that the idea of equal opportunities has made in their chosen countries, thereby bringing with them a message that is especially important and inspiring in 2007, the *European Year of Equal Opportunities for All*.

During the World Conference of Hungarian Women a strong emphasis was put on the distinct cultures of the panelists. The participants, coming from as many as 20 different countries, were acting as symbolic bridges between the culture of their motherland and the cultures of their adoptive countries. The European Union, having recognized increasing migrational trends, as a result of which countries that have been welcoming people of various nationalities are rapidly being transformed into true multicultural nations, has decided to mark 2008 as the *European Year of Intercultural Dialogue*. Accordingly, our conference was in full accordance with current European and world developments and was meant to herald in the European Union’s *2008 European Year of Intercultural Dialogue*. Thus, by paying tribute to the achievements of preeminent Hungarian women, it was also fostering the modern striving for intercultural communication everywhere in the world.

The Guests of Honour of the World Conference of Hungarian Women were: the City of Pécs, which is going to be Europe’s Cultural Capital in 2010, and the 100 year old Szalaparti Special School for Handicapped Children from Eger.

November 23, 2007, Hungarian Parliament, Old Upper House Chamber

Three panel discussions were scheduled for the first day, titled *Women in Diplomacy, Reconciling family and work – the eternal women’s challenge*, and *Responsibility for future generations*. **Andrea Ferenczi**, President of AWCDH gave an introductory speech, in which she emphasized that this conference, attended by women from four different continents and twenty different countries, was the first step towards a transnational cooperative effort.

The opera singer **Charity Sunshine Tillemann-Dick**, granddaughter of Hungarian-born Congressman **Tom Lantos**, sang the Hungarian National Anthem dressed in a Hungarian traditional costume, and also delivered Tom Lantos’ message for the conference. Then she sang an excerpt from a musical as well.

Dr. Katalin Szili, Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly and host of the conference delivered some remarks about the need for the increased participation of women in public life, both in politics and in the civil sphere. She quoted Margaret Thatcher: if you want something to be done in politics, let a

woman be in charge of it! She thanked Charity for her wonderful performance, saying that such pure sounds are rarely to be heard in the Parliament. In Katalin Szili's opinion, what we need is an ability to reach consensus, more sensitivity, and better negotiation skills, which in fact most women do have. 'It would be great to see that many women at a Parliament session!', she added. The Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly also mentioned our mutual responsibility to secure quality of life for future generations, in which duty women have a special position and a special obligation. Katalin Szili believes that this conference is a chance for women to foster women's active participation in public life, the drawing of cultural bridges, and the improvement of women's lobbying skills through the sharing of experiences. She claimed that women's participation in public life is a measure of democracy.

Minister of Foreign Affairs **Dr. Kinga Göncz**'s message was delivered by **dr. Gyárfás Fekete Judit**. The Foreign Minister highlighted the significance of the arrival of women of various professional backgrounds from different parts of the world, who are mothers and wives at the same time, too, which signifies a real achievement on their part. 'There is a woman beside every man, but who is there beside a successful woman? Such a proverb does not exist', said Ms. Gyárfás on behalf of Kinga Göncz. The Foreign Minister expressed her gratitude to the Association of Women's Career Development in Hungary for promoting equal opportunities for both sexes, which is among the European Union's top priorities. Saidly enough, this goal was set many years ago in the Rome Contract, but has not been fully realized ever since. In order to realize this goal, Hungary has developed a Roadmap for the next 5 years, thereby setting an example for other countries.

The conference's opening speech was held by **Dr. Tibor Frank**, Director of the School for English and American Studies at Eötvös Loránd University. The eloquent speech, titled *Intercultural Dialogue - Hungarian Women in the World Culture* helped establish a scientific discourse at the conference. He answered his own poetic question ('I have been asked many times if I'm afraid of all these women here') by letting the audience know that he was raised by women: by his mother and his two grandmothers. 'Back then I didn't understand what the fathers do in other families', he added. The well-known historian and researcher made the point that women's point of view is unfortunately missing from Hungarian history since it has been written by men about men, and therefore it is essential that schools promote a way of thinking according to which women and men together make history. Tibor Frank then cited the examples of five excellent Hungarian women who have been undeservingly hidden by history: countess Emma Teleki, who shaped foreign politics at the time of the Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence of 1848-49; the politician Pulszky Walter Teréz; the poet Anna Lesznay; one of the founders of Hungarian feminism, Róza Bédi Schwimmer; and Anna Kéthly, the greatest figure of Hungarian social democracy, after whom not a single street has been named. These women should be part of our common knowledge, said Tibor Frank. In the professor's view, a wide network, an openness to women's point of view by the educational system, and acceptable media examples would be desirable.

HR Director of Procter&Gamble **Levente Lengyel** tied the mission of his company to the conference's stance on equality in his greeting speech. Women and men together constitute the greatest value, as a consequence of which a diverse group always outperforms a homogeneous group, Mr. Lengyel said.

The first panel, *Women in diplomacy*, was moderated by Szilvia Krizsó (MTV/Hungarian Television). Among the panelists were Ambassador of Israel **Aliza Bin-Noun**, Ambassador of Hungary to London **Borbála Czakó**, **Gabriella Lonkai** from UNICEF, and a diplomat's wife, **dr. Katalin Széles**, member of AWCDH and an ambassadorial wife, and UN Ambassador from Vienna **dr. Györgyi Zanathy Martin**. The panel's topic: Diplomacy as a career path was off limits to women for centuries. As a result of the wide acceptance of the idea of equal opportunities, an increasing number of women have been able to and have indeed chosen a career in diplomacy. Women's ability to prove themselves in diplomatic posts as much as men is by now unquestioned. Moreover, thanks to their womanhood, their subtle diplomatic senses can help them smooth away critical situations more effectively than men.

Aliza Bin-Noun has been in Hungary for only 2 months but she already speaks some Hungarian. She had the chance to choose from ambassadorial positions in three countries and she chose Hungary because she thinks it's a very interesting country. She talked about the advantages of the system of positive discrimination in Israel. The Foreign Ministry in Israel takes women's needs into consideration as well, acknowledging the fact that a family consist of husband, wife, and children, the Ambassador said. As regards diplomatic life, Aliza Bin-Noun said there was a real dialogue between the embassy and the home office to the extent that the embassy has a duty to launch projects and make suggestions. The Ambassador believes there is no difference between a male ambassador and a female ambassador since society as a whole consists of people and not of men and women. She acknowledged, however, that it was more difficult for her to get ahead in her diplomatic career than for men.

Gabriella Lonkai, who is now working to foster a religious dialogue in programs for children, brought her favourite quote from Audrey Hepburn: 'One who has no dreams is not a realist.' She believes self-discipline to be the key to success.

Katalin Széles shared some difficulties stemming from the lifestyle of a diplomat with the audience. For instance, she sometimes had to record evening tales for her child in advance because she would not be able to read it herself due to diplomatic duties. Her message that can help us overcome obstacles was 'We have to love the country in which we work.'

Dr. Zanathy Martin Györgyi's advice was that every little personal achievement should be celebrated. 'In my experience, if I do my job well I am forgiven for my being a woman', she said, and called the audience's attention to the fact that the number of women in diplomacy has fortunately risen from 5 to 21 percent.

Borbála Czakó shared a few interesting stories about London's diplomatic world, highlighting the seating protocol, for instance, which is extremely hard to follow since it is influenced by many factors including age and position. Her personal message was: 'You should adhere to your values and act out of love and compassion in a way that would be appealing to yourself.'

The second panel discussion, titled *Reconciling family and work – the eternal women's challenge*, was lead by **Vali Tóth** from the London studio of the Hungarian Radio. Among the panelists were **Barbara Albury**, MA, assistant professor at the University of New England in Australia, **Countess Dr. Bethlen Istvánné**, Mayor of Délegyháza, cultural trainer **dr. Mária Bogyay** from Amsterdam, **Kitti Dobi**, HR Executive of Procter&Gamble, **April H. Foley**, U.S. Ambassador to Hungary, **dr. Kornélia Nagy-Koppány**, attorney, and **dr. Ildikó Szűts**, Deputy CEO of Magyar Posta (Hungarian Post Co. Ltd.).

The panel's topic: Most women are not satisfied by only having to take care of family and home any more. In the 21st century, their personality would be like a torso if they took on only the centuries-old traditional roles. Each and every woman who chooses to fulfill their womanly mission of holding the family together and acting as its main support while at the same time longing to realize a career and enrich their personality shoulders a tremendous challenge. These two crucial roles that define a woman both as a woman and as a human being bring about a lot of conflicts, which can only be reconciled by strong and determined women.

What has been the biggest challenge in your lives so far?

dr. Kornélia Nagy-Koppány: my son was a premature baby but despite this I had to work 14 hours a day at the time.

dr. Mária Bogyay: crossing cultures.

Kitti Dobi: what or who helps the youngsters of today to find their paths?

Countess Dr. Bethlen Istvánné: we, women, have let power slip away from us; we used to live in matriarchal societies! For me it is always current problems that are the most important. What you have to cope with is what you find the most difficult, and this is precisely what you have to solve.

dr. Ildikó Szűts: it was a 9-year struggle for me to be able to have a child.

Barbara Albury: I gave life to an autistic son, so I had to quit my career for a while. I made the decision that I was going to bring up my son. It is rather difficult to coordinate the nurture of my son, lecturing and my theatrical career in my life.

April H. Foley: my husband and I agreed that we both wanted children and careers. My husband was later tragically killed in a plane crash, after which I quit my job to be with my children. When I came back to work, it was a terrific experience, it wasn't that difficult.

What kind of agreements have you made within your family?

dr. Ildikó Szűts: we are not going to hire a babysitter!

Dobi Kitti: without a true companion it is much more demanding to make decisions and sacrifices. It is as difficult for this young generation as for the older ones, though in a different way: there are so many choices in life, and it is your family that can help you navigate among them.

Countess Dr. Bethlen Istvánné: you need your family's support. We also have a handicapped person in the family, whom we have to care for otherwise we wouldn't have a clear conscience.

What about delegation? Is that true that women cannot delegate because they are afraid to pass on tasks to others?

dr. Kornélia Nagy-Koppány: we don't have a 'family contract', so we always have to adapt to unfolding circumstances.

April H. Foley: if a woman cannot practise traditional roles that is also a source of frustration! As for employment, one great experience is job sharing, which is advantageous for women who want to stay in the workforce but don't want to work full-time.

Barbara Albury: I married an American and they love delegating. Time is running fast, so you have to make sure you devote enough time to important things. That's why we would rather pay for a carer than go on holiday.

dr. Ildikó Szűts: at home I sometimes forget that it's high time for me to stop delegating. When this happens, my family warns me: 'Hey, you are already at home!' As regards job sharing, we don't tend to exploit this possibility on the company leader level. It's true though that this employment form has its own disadvantages, too. The average salary in Hungary, for example, couldn't really be shared between two people as it's too little. In addition, a change of culture is also needed in the sense that leaders should accept job sharing as a viable option.

dr. Mária Bogyay: Dutch women tend to be very autonomous and determined. An average Dutch woman is first of all a mother and a wife; only about 5% of women with children work. The country is now striving to include more women in the workforce. The possibility of part-time employment really helps, and women won't let go of this opportunity!

Countess Dr. Bethlen Istvánné: rural towns in Hungary first need to be sufficiently furnished with computers, and only after this has been solved can the question of working from home come up.

Kitti Dobi: a proactive attitude is lacking on the part of the youth; they don't act and don't try out things.

Does success make it harder for a woman to find a partner?

Countess Dr. Bethlen Istvánné: if you are already married and then comes your career is not the same as trying to find a partner while you are building your career.

Kitti Dobi: women have to think over what kind of partner they are looking for, what their target audience is!

Do you have a good advice concerning time management?

dr. Kornélia Nagy-Koppány: don't sleep much...

Kitti Dobi: it's a great strength of women that they get tired slowly, and can do multitasking pretty efficiently.

Countess Dr. Bethlen Istvánné: don't overburden yourself so that you have time for activities like dancing and bellydance...

dr. Ildikó Szűts: my tactics is to take advantage of the time when the rest of my family doesn't do anything. I have noticed that when we desperately need more time we usually say no to things that are dear to us.

Barbara Albury: you need self-discipline and don't undertake too much. Time is a gift: if you have X hours a day for yourself you have to make the most of that amount of time.

April H. Foley: you have to draw a line and learn to say no when you run out of time. Let's not forget that time is our most precious treasure!

The third panel's central theme was *Responsibility for future generations*. The moderator was **Georgina Szántó** from Duna TV, and the participants included **dr. Krisztina Deák**, a clinical psychologist and doctor of naturopathy from Sweden, **dr. Göröncséri Ferencné, MD, Mária Kelemen**, a music artist, writer, and teacher from Dublin, **dr. Annamária Kis** from the Department of Safety and Security of the UN, **Ildikó Nagy**, a correspondent of Hungarian Radio from Bratislava, and **Judy Young-Drache**, President of the Canada-Hungary Educational Foundation

The panel's topic: Who could assume greater responsibility in society than women who give life? That is why it is an obvious desire and effort on their part that their children's lives should stand on secure human grounds. Our subsistence and the continuity of human life can only be maintained if, directly or indirectly, women will be able to offer a human perspective for every child born into this world. The examples women have set and the nurture they provide can shape growing children and make our future better. Psychologists have proven that if the world were governed by women, there would be a lot fewer conflicts.

All the panelists interpreted and illustrated the meaning of responsibility through their individual experiences.

Mária Kelemen said that being a woman is a demanding job in itself. For her, assuming responsibility for future generations means teaching music to children. 'Children's violin play is like an X-ray image, on the basis of which I can partly shape them', the music teacher said. Her personal message was that society's ethos should be passed on to children, which is of course different in each society.

Krisztina Deák aims to share knowledge through the tools of naturopathy. Her main message was the wholeness of human beings: both body and spirit should be taken into consideration when treating a patient. The process of healing starts with prevention, she said, but if there is an illness to handle it is the person and not the illness itself that should be treated. Krisztina Deák claimed that the concept of future generations should be familiar to children at an early age, and we, adults, should also prompt them to learn how to think positively so that they can do away with negative thoughts. She added that the era when specialists could only see children if they had some kind of problem is over.

Dr. Annamária Kis spoke about the long process of finding her path; at the time when she decided to choose the career she now has it wasn't the most obvious path for a woman. She recommended the UN's principle of equality between the sexes as a guideline for the future.

A **theatrical performance**, a 30-minute excerpt from **Barbara Albury's** play *Hungarian Sunday* performed by the playwright herself and **László Tahi Tóth**, closed the first day of the conference in the Old Upper House Chamber. The play's plot centered around a Hungarian emigrant's way to Australia, the hardships he faced while accommodating to the local culture, and the insurmountable homesickness that made him return to his motherland.

Foreign Minister **dr. Kinga Göncz** gave a reception at six o'clock for the participants of the conference. She praised the AWCDH's initiative as a remarkable civil achievement, which created an opportunity for Hungarian women coming from 20 different countries to discuss their most urgent problems and questions, while at the same time establishing a worldwide network for themselves. After her commendatory remarks, Izabella Széles, Katalin Széles' daughter sang three surprise songs, among them the anthem of AWCDH.

November 24, 2007, Hungarian Parliament, Old Upper House Chamber

The second day of the conference was again opened by **Andrea Ferenczi**, the President of AWCDH. Then **Dr. Zita Gurmai**, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chairwoman of the Committee of Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities, and one of the conference's patrons, gave remarks, emphasizing the desirability of partnership and cooperation between men and women. Zita Gurmai said that Europe has already learnt to appreciate women, thus it is high time for us, too, to start listening to what women have to say. 'Why is there a 15% gap between men's and women's salaries up to this day?', the MEP asked. We have to find connections, she said, and it's time for distances to disappear: let's all be messengers of Pécs, which is going to be a cultural capital in 2010!

Gábor Simon MP, Chairman of the Committee for Labour and Social Affairs in his greeting speech talked about the positive effect women's increased participation in public life would have. 'I have learnt to appreciate what women's support means in the world of work as well', he said, 'and I'm very grateful to them.'

Dr. Márta Kunszt, representative delivered the Mayor of Pécs's message: we have to find ways to show Pécs's wonderful cultural heritage to the world, whose highlight, the Zsolnai Factory, has helped Pécs become world famous. The mayor of the city also found it important to point out that although our culture is precious we are a little bit entrapped in our language, so we have to attempt to actively communicate with the world.

Before the panel section started, **Szabó Istvánné**, Director of the Szalaparti Special School for Handicapped Children described the history and mission of the 100-year-old institution, which applies special methodology, for instance, art therapy, in the nurture and education of children in need of special schooling. This complex institution is comprised of a kindergarten and a special school, where children receive full care. Their main principles are openness and a child-centred philosophy.

The *Life & Style* panel's moderator, Nóra Szily, led a discussion by such outstanding personalities as Baroness **Gloria Berg**, a costume and stage designer from Austria, Oscar Award winning perfume creator **Judith Müller** from Israel, fashion and costume designer **Dorottya Szabó** from Canada, literary translator **Szöllősy Judit**, **Gyöngyi Fazekas**, director of the Pécs branch office of Generali, and the illusionist **Anikó Ungár**.

The panel's topic: Life can only be complete if it is enriched by styles that lead to beauty and variety. Due to their genetically coded talents, women, by experiencing emotions and situations thoughtfully, can create styles and forms through which our world may become more aesthetic and more human, and our everyday lives more creative and more varied.

The panelists discussed both personal and professional issues of life and style. Anikó Ungár made the following statement about her profession: 'This genre is called illusion; should you commit the tiniest mistake, and the illusion is over.' She also reflected on the relationship between age and style. Anikó Ungár believes that if a woman consciously prepares for the changes that come with age and in the

meantime manages to be herself, then everything will be okay. 'If you say "woman", what come to your mind are aesthetics, style, and love', the illusionist claimed. She also shared her personal message with the audience: 'You have to believe in the magic stick otherwise it won't work!', then added: 'Let's not be jealous of each other but devote that energy, too, to ourselves.'

Judit Szöllősy shed light on the connection between translation and style. She told the audience that while translating Eszterházy, she learnt to view women with a man's eye, and found out that every woman is beautiful, and every woman is desired by men no matter the looks. 'We need the mutual presence of men and women', she claimed. As regards her profession as a translator, she said her tactics is not to let either words or facts influence her. She has a positive attitude to age: 'I discovered at the age of 45 that I was happy being the person I am. At this age you really become yourself, and better understand what you do. That's why those authors whose works I translated after I reached the age of 45 were luckier.' This realization is in connection with the formulation of style as well; as Judit Szöllősy said, 'I am stylish if I'm feeling good, and wouldn't do anything else than what I'm currently doing.' This is possible because style begins where the person begins: style is a projection of yourself, the literary translator added.

Dorottya Szabó said the following with regard to the key to success on the basis of her professional experiences: 'The most important question is not whether your dream comes true but rather whether you are able to carry it through when it becomes a reality.' The fashion and costume designer said there are always problems in everyone's life but we also have two choices to choose from: we either give in or shake the problem off. In the latter case a true companion and the diligence and ready-to-work attitude of Hungarian women are an invaluable help. 'There is so much energy in a woman that women have to be able to work even at an old age', she said.

Gyöngyi Fazekas put more emphasis on the practical side of life and style. 'I live my life day by day with the knowledge that I can always do better than 100%, but doing a great job in one's private life requires even more effort.' As for this latter aspect, we have to pay a lot of attention to our womanliness since many women become tough as they go through life and work, Gyöngyi Fazekas noted. She also experienced this change, but she didn't always feel good in this rational role that often scares men, she said.

Judith Müller won the audience's respect and curiosity with her profound wisdom stemming from the tragedies and successes she went through. 'I enjoy good things as much as I can and survive tragedies' was how she summed up her way of thinking. Self-criticism has played an important part in how she coped with mistakes and bad decisions, helping her be aware that she shouldn't commit the same mistake again. She also regards style as something more meaningful than fashion or appearance: 'If there is no style and intelligence behind good looks the door will soon be closed in front of you'. Her profession, which has a lot to do with style, has often proved to be a great help in overcoming difficulties: if she detects the traces of self-pity in herself, and on these occasions she really is angry with herself, she quickly turns to cosmetics. 'I am in love with my profession, this is my only monogamy, which always leads me to ecstasy', she said passionately. Her motto is 'tradition, an international mindset, and equality'. Her advice to the participants was: 'Don't think about what your country can offer to you but make an effort to contribute to your homeland yourself!'

Gloria Berg has crossed many physical borders so far and has found out in the meantime that spiritual borders, too, can be crossed since 'we, humans, have a lot more in common than we would think'. 'I fear the day when I can work no more because I feel I haven't realized everything I want to', she said about her creative endeavors and her passion about her work. She believes that people are as valuable at an advanced age as they were in their youth because age brings with itself some kind of maturity: 'As you grow older you come to love yourself more since you know more about yourself'.

Between the two panels there was a reception hosted by **Edit Rauh**, Secretary of State of Equality Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and **dr. Zita Gurmai**. Before the reception, **Iren Ádám Dunai** greeted the conference participants on behalf of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

Just before the start of the fifth panel discussion, a special surprise event took place thanks to the students of the Szalaparti Special School for Handicapped Children, who amused everyone with a well-organized performance, which involved music and dancing. The students of the school also performed the anthem of the European Union.

The last panel titled *'Creative ambassadors' from the world of arts and sports* featured sports champions and artists. The moderator was **Gabriella Molnár**, the Editor in Chief of *Nők Lapja*, and the panel speakers included **Gyöngyi Dani** fencing champion and Paralympics champion, pianist **Szilvia Kárászy**, folk singer **Márta Sebestyén**, IT specialist and painter **dr. Erzsébet Sorger** from Munich, American opera singer **Charity Sunshine Tillemann-Dick**, and tennis and Olympic champion **Andrea Temesvári**.

The panel's topic: This panel features creative ambassadors from two seemingly unrelated fields: arts and sports. Goethe, the king of German art, claimed that during the process of artistic self-realization talent given by God is only a small portion of what makes a great artist. Talent is useful and may lead to fantastic achievements only if accompanied by diligence, meticulous work, perseverance, and a never-ending internal fight – just as much in the field of arts as in the field of sports. Preeminent artists, sportsmen and sportswomen are considered the most well-known 'ambassadors' for most people in today's media-influenced world, whose deeds and values inspire followers all over the world.

The panelists all agreed that arts and sports have a lot in common. Both Szilvia Kárászy and Erzsébet Sorger tried themselves out in sports, moreover, Szilvia harbored serious plans about a sports career. A readiness for struggle till the very end, invincible persistence, and loyalty to one's country are essential to both sports and arts. Sport is also a form of art in the same way as arts can be considered a kind of sport, the panelists concluded. Another parallel between the two fields is the fact that talent in itself is not sufficient; talent has to be further shaped and cultivated. Representing their country at championships or concerts is an enormous responsibility since they are in the limelight all over the world on these occasions but at the same time is a source of pride as well, the panelists maintained. Charity's poetic question sums it up eloquently: 'My Hungarian heritage is with me all the time, so how could I do anything but my best?'