



Civic Innovation Incubator  
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## Press Release: Karolina Vidovic Kristo nominated for Global Leadership Award



Mrs. Karolina Vidovic Kristo, of Croatia, has been nominated, by the Howard Center / World Congress of Families, to receive the **Global Leadership Award** at a gala dinner following the International School of Fundraising held at Wellington College, Berkshire, Crowthorne, United Kingdom, on March 29, 2013. Risking her job at the national public media company she promoted media freedom, public debate and family values in Croatia. Mrs. Vidovic Kristo is a courageous journalist, carrying out her professional responsibilities, ensuring that the public was informed of new government programs that the government wanted to mandate without public debate.

The Global Leadership Award is bestowed in recognition of outstanding achievements in the building of a new generation of activists and leaders worldwide for the principles of free enterprise, limited government, and traditional family and moral values. Nominees are selected by the Bow Group, Leadership Institute, World Congress of Families and Institut de Formation Politique.

Mrs. Vidovic Kristo, as an investigative journalist, in December 2012, produced a TV program that provided a factual counter-viewpoint to health and sex education policies being mandated by the Croatian government through what many see as an undemocratic process. As a result of the information she presented, the program that Mrs. Vidovic Kristo produced was taken off the air and she was suspended from her job. Following a public uproar she received global support not only from the Croatian community in Croatia and around the world but also from other journalists, pro-family values organizations, scientists and intellectuals. Notably, Professor Judith Reisman of Liberty University School of Law in Lynchburg Virginia came to Croatia in support of Mrs. Vidovic Kristo and the public debate. Professor Reisman says, "I was, and am wholly and completely, honored to stand with this courageous journalist and indeed she well-deserves a Global Leadership Award. Governments may develop health and sex education policies and programs but these policies and programs must then be examined and approved by the public before implementation."

In the face of threats, aimed at her and her family, Mrs. Vidovic Kristo, with the support of Professor Judith Reisman, went on a tour of Croatia to promote an active debate of important social values and issues. Mrs. Vidovic Kristo says, "Media professionalism and integrity must be based on the truth and nothing but the truth – no matter what the truth is."

For her courageous defense of media freedom and integrity Mrs. Vidovic Kristo deserves global recognition as a role model for other investigative journalists and activists, not only in developing democracies but also in all countries of the world where the most important aspects of media integrity and responsibilities are being forgotten.

*"Freedom of the press, or, to be more precise, the benefit of freedom of the press, belongs to everyone - to the citizen as well as the publisher... The crux is not the publisher's 'freedom to print'; it is, rather, the citizen's 'right to know.' "*  
*- Arthur Sulzberger, 1990 - American newspaper publisher*