

## Woman in Power - showing extraordinary political leadership in Europe

### **Jana Smiggels Kavková**

*Why should the nominee receive the Woman in Power Award? (max. 300 words)*

Jana is one of these remarkable women who is able to achieve so much in the same time-span as the rest of us. In 2009, Jana became the Director of Forum 50% which strives for a balanced representation of women and men in politics. From 2012-2014, Jana was the Chairwoman of Czech Women's Lobby where she oversaw the coming together of around 30 autonomous organisations focused on women's issues; responsible for numerous tasks within the organisation, Jana budgeted, voted, organised, and led. Simultaneously, she was a member of European Women's Lobby from 2012-2016. Since 2012, she has been a Member of the Government Council for Gender Equality, their Vice-Chairperson since 10/2016 and Chair of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in Politics and Decision-Making. Her work supports policy through seminars, mentoring, networking, and campaigns. As a lecturer she speaks for state administration and political parties on the subjects of feminism and gender equality, women in politics, and decision-making processes. She has training and strengthening of experience with the promotion of women's rights abroad, specifically in Egypt, Macedonia, Ukraine, and Malta, respectively. In cooperation with the Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of the Interior she promotes gender equality. She works alongside various political parties regarding the improvement of the status of women in the party, and equality of women and men in electoral programs. Her column for iDnes, one of the country's premier news outlets is much respected. She is a staunch advocate and promoter of women's rights. In 2013 Jana teamed up with V-Day Prague and Hollaback! Czech to bring One Billion Rising to the Czech Republic. Jana is arguably the most renowned and sought after female pundit in the Czech Republic, making frequent television and radio appearances.

*What is the key achievement of the nominee? (max. 100 words)*

Jana has made the Czech Republic one of the main nations to watch in regard to shining a spotlight on the disparity between genders in politics. It is extremely uncommon that an individual in the feminist and political spheres is recognised by a diverse group of people, none of whom reside in either. An array of discussions spanning the spectrum of feminist conversation are open now for national discourse and it is in no small part due to the powerful reach that Jana has attained in this country.

*Relevant links on the project or work of the nominee*

<http://padesatprocent.cz/>

<http://www.czlobby.cz/en/zpravy>

<https://wiki.idnes.cz/jana-smiggels-kavkova-0t9-/osobnosti-cr.aspx?klic=460461>

## Woman in Action – showing extraordinary actions at grassroots level in Europe

### **Gail Whitmore**

*Why should the nominee receive the Woman in Action Award? (max. 300 words)*

In 2010, Gail brought V-Day to the Czech Republic with “A Memory, a Monologue, a Rant, and a Prayer.” Inspired by another V-Day experience, Gail ended by giving voice to her sexual assaults, inviting other survivors to stand, followed by survivors' support people - the room was standing. In 2012, she launched the first bilingual Czech/English production of “The Vagina Monologues”. With over 70 international volunteers, Gail oversaw a new translation and an exceptionally innovative performance. Tens of thousands of crowns were raised and another room of standing women were recognised. In 2011, Gail was among the first to launch an international site of the US-based anti-street harassment group, Hollaback! Hollaback! Czech/Ozvi se! has been collecting stories of sexual assault ever since. She worked on the iPhone and Android app, won a grant, and gave workshops in Brussels and Vienna. In 2013, Gail teamed up with Czech Women's Lobby, V-Day Prague and Hollaback Czech!/Ozvi se! to collaborate on One Billion Rising, which continues annually. She recently joined a subcommittee of Czech Women's Lobby focusing on violence against women. Gail gives workshops in schools on harassment, consent, and assault, is a frequent guest on panel discussions, has appeared in numerous interviews on television, radio, and print, and is a much sought after speaker, most recently at the Women's March in Prague. Having numerous disabilities, Gail has used social media to never let the spotlight descend on sexual violence. For 15 years Gail has been the only English-language crisis service provider in the country. She advocates, translates and is available 24/7 year-round. Gail volunteers these positions aside from her jobs as a counselor, performer, and mama. She is the go-to person for anything related to sexual assault for the English-speaking contingency in the Czech Republic. Gail is truly a force.

*What is the key achievement of the nominee? (max. 100 words)*

When Gail brought V-Day to the Czech Republic, her biggest takeaway was what it gave to women. When the entire 2012 cast stood and were recognised as survivors of sexual assault, Gail was taken aback because she hadn't asked any of the volunteers for their motivation in joining the team; she didn't feel it was her right to know. After that, so many more women came forth. They contacted Gail, many to speak of their assaults for the first time. Being on the receiving end of someone's story, especially their first time in the telling is a privilege which cannot be paralleled.

*Relevant links on the project or work of the nominee*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PpxCyChSy4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIDAkO0umhc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4DDB0na5mDI>

[www.czech.ihollaback.org](http://www.czech.ihollaback.org)

<https://www.advojka.cz/archiv/2017/3/znasilneni-je-horsi-nez-vrazda>

Woman in Youth Activism – for women aged 15 to 30 strengthening the voice of young women in Europe

**Johanna Nejedlová**

*Why should the nominee receive the Woman in Youth Activism Award? (max. 300 words)*

It has just been two years since Johanna Nejedlová co-founded Konsent, an organisation aiming to change the conversation surrounding traditional Czech attitudes towards sex and sexual violence. Working along the platform of “Když to nechce, tak to nechce” (“If she doesn't want to, she doesn't want to,”) Johanna has been a dynamic force in guiding young Czech women towards a different aspect of their own rights and power. Johanna shot the organisation out of the gate by throwing fundraisers with which they could get a head start in planning their workshop initiative. A substantive grant from the US Embassy afforded Konsent the opportunity to write and film a fully produced video for “Když to nechce, tak to nechce” which addresses the very necessary subject of her organisation's name. Upon its release Johanna was flooded with emails from girls and young women eager to be heard and to volunteer their time. Johanna began writing a column for Alarm, a popular and savvy publication focusing on culture, society, and politics. She teamed up with artists to promote a groundbreaking art installation forcing the public to acknowledge the reality of incest. Konsent held a workshop on street harassment at the first conference on harassment in public space in the Czech Republic, spearheaded by Kongres žen (Congress of Women.) Johanna has recently joined a subcommittee of Czech Women's Lobby focusing on violence against women. She has given numerous interviews and fights tirelessly for the media to highlight the autonomy of women's bodies. Johanna Nejedlová is a name that Czech girls will grow up knowing and women will remember.

*What is the key achievement of the nominee? (max. 100 words)*

Johanna spoke of receiving a very positive response from women and girls who share their stories. She recently learned of a woman whose husband had never respected her word until now. He ended up following their Facebook page and the last time she turned him down he said, “OK, 'Když to nechce, tak to nechce” [the name of their main project which translates to “If she doesn't want to, she doesn't want to”] and stopped.

*Relevant links on the project or work of the nominee*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KW-FDeSHrpU>

<https://www.konsent.cz/>

<https://www.facebook.com/kdyztonechce/>

<http://a2larm.cz/author/johanna-nejedlova/>