

**Organisation: “The Chernobyl Widows” (“Chernobylskie vdovi”)**  
**Author: Ksenia Srednyak, Russia**

The public organization was registered in 2006 in Toliyatti (the Samarskaya region, Russia). The motto of the organization is *“Humanity and mercy”*. According to the words of the chairman, Ms Tyaglova, the aim of the organization is to defend the Chernobyl widows’ rights and the interests of the Chernobyl children. Besides that they help the widows and children suffering from the other radiation accidents (Semipalatinsk, at “Mayak”, etc.). In the centre of their attention is the rehabilitation of the members of the liquidators’ families.

In the appeal to the public opinion Ms Tyaglova notes that the Russian government doesn’t keep its promises to the liquidators and their families, that is why the widows and children have to defend their rights by themselves – that was the impulse to found the organization. Besides the consultations for the legal proceedings it leads other social projects (assistance to the disabled children, summer camps, etc.).

In 2010 a monument to the Chernobyl liquidators was opened:



“The Chernobyl widows” is a young organization, that is why they work in collaboration with “Chernobyl Union Toliyatti” (“Souz Chernobyl”).

The plans of the organization are quite vast. By the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy they plan to carry out an international exhibition of children' drawings ("The world without catastrophes", Toliyatti, April 2011) and other arrangements. In the near future they are also going to start erecting a church. Around the church they are going to put up a wall with the names of the people who die because of irradiation in Chernobyl. Inside the church there will be a special icon – "The Chernobyl Saviour".

Besides that the organization renders assistance to the authors who write about their experience in Chernobyl and the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. Two books of this series have already been published. The first of them – "Letters from The Zone. Atomic century in the fates of Toliyatti people" - is written by L. Timonin. The second one – "And the saved world remembers..." – is a collection of memoirs of the former liquidators and their wives. You can see the picture from the presentation below:



The last words of the introduction of the organization at their Internet page are: *"It is useful and didactic to look at the past, thanks to it we can evaluate the present and change it to the better..."*.

Information and pictures from the official web-page: <http://vdovy.com/>