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WAVE NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2021



BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE WAVE NETWORK

**UPCOMING EVENTS, WAVE NEWS
AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

WAVE EVENTS

WAVE MULTIDISCIPLINARY TRAINING 2021

From 14-15 September, WAVE had the great pleasure to host the Multidisciplinary Training on “Supporting women survivors with dis/abilities: How to reduce barriers and improve inclusivity”. During the two days, trainers Elisabeth Udl from Ninlil and activist Elisabeth Löffler walked the 29 number participants through different models and concepts of dis/abilities as well as good practices for women’s support services. The training drew keen interest of the WAVE membership and sparked ideas for future interventions and projects on this topic. A summary of the training is available at the WAVE office upon request – email: office@wave-network.org

CYBERSAFE: CONFERENCE ON CHANGING ATTITUDES AMONG TEENAGERS ON CYBER VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Cyber VAWG is a growing phenomenon that affects mainly women aged 18-24 and needs to be addressed from a gender perspective (EIGE, 2017; UN, 2015; FRA, 2014). In order to induce prevention and response reflexes to potential victims, the CyberSafe project works with younger ages, ie. teenagers (12-18), to improve knowledge, change attitudes and empower them to prevent and respond properly to incidents.

CyberSafe aims to change behaviours towards violence against women, with specific focus on cyber VAWG, with the aim of preventing it from happening through education, changing attitudes and encouraging victims and witnesses to report and address it.

As a result of the project, there will be increased knowledge on Cyber VAWG for all parties involved in project activities, especially among older youth. CyberSafe uses problem solving, role playing and innovative online technologies that can be implemented in different settings.

The CyberSafe Conference on changing attitudes among teenagers on cyber violence against women and girls was held online on 9 November 2021. The Conference presented the main findings and outcomes of the CyberSafe project, including the CyberSafe Toolkit to address the issue of online violence against girls in a classroom setting, as well as provided a panel discussion with three specialists from Northern Ireland, Estonia and South Korea to highlight cyber violence against teenagers and how to tackle it.

The CyberSafe Conference is hosted by the experienced virtual event hosting platform ON Events. "Physical not social distancing. Stay emotionally and socially connected." Thank you to ON Events for their immense support that made the CyberSafe Conference so successful.

WAVE WEBINAR: SAVE THE DATE!

WAVE webinar: Strategies countering the backlash against LGBTIQ+ communities on 26 November 2021, 11:30-13:00 (CET).

In this webinar, you will hear about the different situations of WAVE members working on empowering LGBTIQ+ communities across Europe. WAVE members will be able to share their experiences in countering the backlash and exchange strategies.

Registration and more information will be shared in mid-November.

WAVE NEWS

MARVOW STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

On 6-7 September, the MARVOW partners finally met in person for a steering committee meeting. Around 20 people from the six partners organisations joined the meeting. The project partners are: WAVE Network, WWP European Network, Union of Women Association of Heraklion, University of Tartu, Autonomous Women's Shelters Austria and Women's Support and Information Centre.

During these two days, the partners discussed many important points, such as the implementation of the MARVOW model in Austria, Estonia and Greece, how to improve it and how to effectively include the work with perpetrators, best practices and policy recommendations, the future of the MARVOW model and the final conference, that will take place at the beginning of 2022.

The meeting was extremely productive, and the partners are looking forward to collaborating further and to improving the support to older women survivors of violence.



CIVIL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING PLATFORM: POLICY PAPER AND ITS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The policy paper and its executive summary, Promising practices of establishing and providing specialist support services for women experiencing sexual violence. A legal and practical overview for women's NGOs and policy makers in the Western Balkans and Turkey, aims to serve national policy makers and women's NGOs in the Western Balkans and Turkey as a learning tool when establishing and providing support service to women and children victims of sexual violence, that can eventually inform a national service provision framework. The policy paper and its executive summary focus on offering promising practices identified across the region of Western Balkans and Turkey, but also in other European countries such as Ireland or Portugal. The paper is to support policy makers and women's NGOs when establishing and running specialist support services for women victims of sexual violence.



As highlighted throughout the paper it would be essential to urgently develop specialist support to sexual violence victims in line with Article 25 of the Istanbul Convention across the Western Balkans and Turkey, where such services are not in place. There is furthermore a need to establish a common understanding about principles of work of such specialist support services, including gendered understanding of violence against women, respect for confidentiality, and survivors' autonomy. Promising practices from the United Kingdom, Ireland and Nordic countries can be used, but with a careful adaption to national socio-cultural contexts.



WAVE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND WAVE AUTUMN ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

On 20 October, we held the WAVE General Assembly and WAVE Autumn Advisory Board Meeting, which was a very insightful and critical day. In 2021, the aftermath of the pandemic has still been visible. Therefore, we want to express our gratitude and say THANK YOU to our members for their longstanding support, work, efforts and resilience, even in the most uncertain times.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

updates from WAVE Members and political developments

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA RATIFIED THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION

The Moldovan Parliament approved on 14 October the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).

The draft ratification of the Istanbul Convention was approved, in the second reading, with 54 votes of the deputies from the Action and Solidarity Party. The deputies of the Bloc of the Communist and Socialist Bloc submitted an amendment that did not meet the number of votes and in protest, they left the meeting room, and three deputies from the Shor Party voted against it.

On 1 October, the draft was adopted in the first reading. At that time, the Metropolitan Church of Chişinău, led by Metropolitan Vladimir, spoke out against the ratification in an address to the Presidency of Moldova, the Government, and the Parliament.

The Istanbul Convention “destroys Christian values and traditions”, “promotes abortion”, “legalizes same-sex marriage”, “bans Easter” or “desecrates the education system”. These are just a few fakes about the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (also called the Istanbul Convention). In Moldova, most often, fakes about this document are spread by politicians or people who belong to certain religious groups. WAVE member National Coalition “Life without Violence” from Moldova, along with other women’s organisations and human rights experts encourage the population not to be manipulated by these messages because the sole purpose of the Convention is to prevent and combat violence against women.



By ratifying the Convention, the Moldovan authorities undertake to punish violence against women in accordance with the law. Each public authority will analyse, estimate and plan the necessary resources to ensure the implementation of the Convention.

We are delighted about this news and look forward to seeing Moldova take effective legislative action and measures to ensure the ratification as well as the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

UNIZON'S CHAIRWOMAN OLGA PERSSON WAS AWARDED WITH THE ANNA LINDH PRIZE 2021

Every year, the Anna Lindh Memorial Fund awards the Prize aiming to encourage primarily women and youth who, in Anna Lindh's spirit, show the courage to work against indifference, prejudice, oppression and injustice in society. This year, Chairwoman of the Swedish WAVE member Unizon, Olga Persson, was awarded with the Prize for her work for women's and children's rights and against men's violence.



"If we in Sweden want to be on the forefront of the work against men's violence against women, we need to do the following: always take the side of the women subjected to men's violence, and abolish perpetrators' impunity. The mere fact that only 5% of all reported cases of rape lead to convictions in Sweden, undermines all the hard work on violence prevention that we do. Men must be held accountable for their violence", said Olga Persson when receiving the Prize.

GERMANY-WIDE WOMEN'S REFUGE SEARCH

German WAVE member "Central Information Center for Autonomous Women's Shelters" shared that admission in women's shelters can now be searched nationwide on their [website](#). Different selection criterias can be specified e.g. amount of kids or barrier-free to facilitate the search for women in need of refuge.

How the page works?

- the page provides information on women's refuges and/or safe houses; however, the locations of the women's refuges and safe houses are generally hidden to ensure the women's safety.

Nonetheless, the Germany-wide women's refuge search allows to give information on availability, accessibility and admission.

The website was financed by donations.



Admission possible



No information available



No admission possible



Immediate/emergency admission

Admission in a green house is possible, but can not be guaranteed. Please inquire by phone.

No indication about current admissions. Please inquire by phone.

Telephone contact also possible in a red house. In case of emergency call the police onat 110!

Immediate admission/emergency admission with further referral.

NEVER AGAIN. TRAINING AND AWARENESS-RAISING TO AVOID SECONDARY VICTIMISATION

Understanding what secondary victimisation is, how, where and why it affects women who have experienced violence, what its consequences are and what can be done to avoid it, are the objectives of the Never Again project, which on 14 October, launched the first Italian e-learning platform dedicated to this issue.

More than 800 professionals – judges, lawyers, law enforcement officers and journalists – have so far enrolled in the online training, which focuses on the professional areas in which stereotypes and prejudices that lead to secondary victimisation most often operate. The project's recommendations for avoiding secondary victimisation are also summarised in three modular infographics, designed for dissemination on social media, with the aim of raising awareness among the public who is still unfamiliar with this aspect of GBV.

On October 23, Never Again also launched a video competition for short films reserved for authors aged between 18 and 39, that will be open until March 8, 2022.

Never Again is coordinated by the University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli and implemented in partnership with Italian WAVE member D.i.Re Donne in Rete contro la violenza, Il Sole 24 ore-Alley Oop, Maschile Plurale, M.A.S.C. and Prodos Consulting. It is co-funded by the Rights Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Union. WAVE is an associated partner to the project.

More information, in Italian, is available [here](#).

never again CONTRO LA VIOLENZA DONNE

Male violence against women in the media

Narratives of violence too often show the profiles and thought patterns of those who communicate, rather than tell with attention and respect the facts and dynamics.

How to avoid the traps of secondary victimisation

- 1 the monsters are the others**
- 2 The sudden fits of madness**
- 3 Too much love**
- 4 It's Her Fault**
- 5 one pointed it out**

NEVER AGAIN - The European Union is co-funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Union (2014-2020) (LIFE-101012016). The content of this publication is the sole responsibility of the project partners and can in no way be considered an expression of the views of the European Commission.

never again CONTRO LA VIOLENZA DONNE

Trial against stereotypes

Reflect on the relationship between the sexes and integrate professional paths with those reflections. To recognise only own experiences as men and women who also act in the context of the legal process, falling out of the cages of the patriarchal culture.

- 1** Work, intellectual and professional experiences are not a guarantee of protection from violence. In fact, violence can occur in any context, including in the workplace.
- 2** There is no person who is a judge in reality, but a judge in the eyes of others. It is important to be aware of this and to act accordingly.
- 3** It is important to ensure that the role of the judge is not played by the media. It is important to ensure that the role of the judge is not played by the media.
- 4** It is important to ensure that the role of the judge is not played by the media. It is important to ensure that the role of the judge is not played by the media.

ISTANBUL CONVENTION 10 YEARS

Distinguishing violence from conflict

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never again CONTRO LA VIOLENZA DONNE

Revictimizing or welcoming

Two ways of intervening when a woman reports an aggression: the role of law enforcement

- 1** Approach the initial statement by listening to the victim for the reasons.
- 2** Recall the primary of the family over the father's role.
- 3** Justify a culture through a narrative.

GOOD PRACTICES

- Listening attentively and without prejudice to the woman's story.
- Recognising violence that occurs within relationships, especially in the context of intimate partner violence.
- Listen to the account of partner violence with the same attention and address it as for other crimes. Consider the characteristics of partner violence and the characteristics of intimate partner violence.
- Recognise the role of the father in the context of intimate partner violence.
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IN SPAIN, THE 'ONLY YES IS YES' LAW ADVANCES IN CONGRESS AFTER OVERCOMING THE REJECTION OF THE TWO OPPOSITION PARTIES

The Istanbul Convention is a human rights treaty against violence that creates a comprehensive legal framework and approach to combat all acts of gender violence including sexual violence. European as well as National authorities and the civil society together have to design policies and implement practices to ensure its commitments.

In order to support women in an effective way, it is essential to provide support services that take into account psychological, legal, social and medical attention. In Spain, two emergency crisis centres (24 hours) were opened in 2020 and other specialized centres have been implemented in some territories, but they only operate during office hours. In Spain, and in order to comply with the Istanbul Convention, the Government is working on a new legislation on sexual violence. It involves major changes and improvements, and focuses on the recovery of victims and survivors, in addition to dedicating specific resources for training and requiring all Autonomous Communities to create their own crisis center, to guarantee the closeness and specialised care that is required by the Council of Europe. Feminist organisations, including WAVE member from Spain Asociación Otro Tiempo, have been claiming for this change for years and denouncing the obstacles to assistance, especially in cases of filing complaints and going to court.

The two opposition parties (PP and VOX) have opposed the entire legislative proposal, despite Parliament's approval to guarantee the gender and human rights approach and the new budgets for put it to be into practice. Nonetheless, we are hoping that Spain will be able to bring their standards into compliance with the Convention.

More information [here](#), and a [video](#) of Spain's Equality Minister Irene Montero.

NO MEANS NO - PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

On 3 December, the Day of Persons with Disabilities, Belgian WAVE member Garance Asbl is organising with its partners an accessible virtual conference “No Means No - Women with disabilities resist violence”.

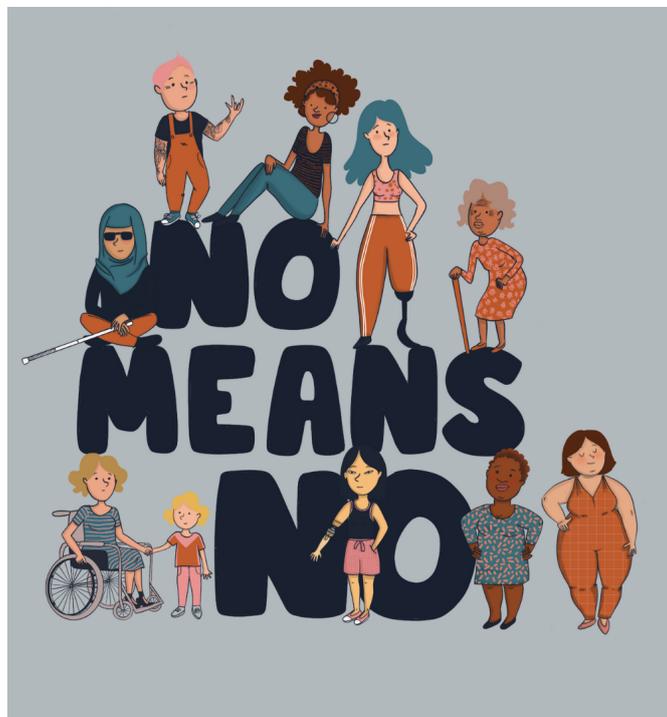
This conference seeks to set violence against women with disabilities (WWD) and feminist self-defence on the European agenda, to inform European decision-makers about policy gaps and good practices, as well as to provide a space to WWD for self-advocacy.

With speakers such as Helena Dalli (EU Commissioner for Equality), Evelyn Regner (chair of the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality of the EU Parliament), Dr. Monika Schröttle (researcher at the University of Giessen & University of Nürnberg), Lydia La Rivière Zijdel (feminist self-defense trainer and self-advocate), Liz Kelly (professor and director of the Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit at the London Metropolitan University), and Dr. Rosa Schneider (researcher and trainer, frauen.staerken.frauen), this will be an exciting conference!

For more information, do not hesitate to contact tilgarance@gmail.com.

In addition, Garance Asbl is also very proud to introduce their safety guides made with and for WWD. The safety guides include information on violence against WWD, WWD’s rights with respect to EU and national law, support services and tools for WWD’s autonomy and safety. They are available in different languages (English, German, French and Polish) and in different accessible versions. There are printed versions, screenreader accessible versions, video versions and audiodescription ones, in all 4 languages, and can be found [here](#).

Both the safety guides and the conference are part of the European project NO MEANS NO for the primary prevention of violence against women with disabilities through feminist self-defence. The project brings together seven partner organisations from Belgium, France, Germany and Poland. More information [here](#).



3 December 2021
Day of Persons with Disabilities

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

NO MEANS NO:
WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES
RESIST VIOLENCE



THE FIRST CONFERENCE ALIGNED WITH THE PILLARS OF THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION TOOK PLACE IN MOLDOVA

The first edition of the International Conference on Preventing and Combating Violence against Girls and Women and Domestic Violence in Moldova took place on 19-21 October and was an event that brought over 40 speakers, grass-roots feminist organizations from Moldova and region, officials, and high-levels such as the first female president of Moldova, Maia Sandu.

The Conference was conducted few days before the Convention was ratified by the Parliament and it was also a celebration of the ratification that lasted more than 7 years. This was possible due to the efforts led by the National Coalition "Life without Violence", that brought together NGOs, female initiative groups, women activists, supporting officials, development partners, etc.

During the Conference, for the first time, it has been discussed the issues that are usually not considered, such as: needs of the vulnerable women and women invisible for the system (women from the penitentiary, women imprisoned for murdering their violent partners, women with learning disabilities violated in the psychiatric institution, young women from the residential institutions, elderly women, girl victims of sexual violence, etc.)

At the same time, the organisations had an extremely powerful discussion with national donors on how external financial assistance considers women's needs, how women organisations are involved, how the financial assistance format is not women driven and thus limits women organisations' autonomy. Although the topic has been discussed for a long time, women's organisations, in particular grass roots, did not have the space to present their concerns about women's organisations' involvement in the design, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the gender-based violence field.

The conference was very emotional because of confessions of those who are working directly with women and girls, and also because of confessions of two women, a young girl and activist, Milena Rusu, and a female journalist, Polina Cupcea, who told their experience of violence and how they overcame the trauma through supporting others as well as through activism. Milena founded a feminist group for youth who survived sexual violence, and is developing support groups, and Polina is a storytelling journalist who tackles violence faced in particular by vulnerable groups.

Milena raised the issue about the need to introduce sexual reproductive education curricula into schools as one of the primary tools to prevent sexual violence. As she said „In school, I learned what the height of Everest is, complicated mathematical fractions, I know a few foreign languages but no one taught me what sexual violence is and how to get over it when it happened to me..”

After the Conference, the organisers will have a detailed follow-up to develop further the real needs and priorities that have been identified.

The conference was organised by the National Coalition "Life without Domestic Violence", Women's Law Center, the International Center "La Strada" - member organizations of the Coalition, with the financial support of Sweden.



AIDEX CONFERENCE: AUTHORITARIAN TACTICS AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF RESISTANCE

Join the workshop: Authoritarian Tactics and the Possibilities of Resistance: Lessons from the Right-Wing's Attacks on the Women's and LGBTQI movements on 17 November during the AidEx conference 2021. The speakers include, Rosa Logar, Executive Director of the Austrian WAVE Member Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre Vienna, and Rosalyn Parks from the Advocates of Human Rights.

AidEx is a two-day event, which encompasses a conference, exhibition, meeting areas, awards, networking and workshops. Its fundamental aim is to engage the sector at every level and provide a forum for humanitarian aid professionals to meet, source, supply and learn. AidEx was created to help the international aid community engage the private sector in a neutral setting, drive innovation and support the ever-growing need for emergency aid and development programmes.

COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT CENTRE FOR THE PREVENTION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION

This is a free service of the Federation of Women Associations Arena and Laurisilva in the Canary Islands, which offers specialised attention both in person and online to any woman in vulnerable situations. They cover the following areas:

- Psychological attention
- Legal assistance
- Job orientation
- Social advice
- Educative area



In addition to that, they also provide information, advice and support through awareness and social training, as well as trainings for professionals.

In their specialised care centre, there has been an increase of 22.31% in the number of users served since the centre began its project in 2018 until 2020. In 2021, they have already exceeded the number of users attending, as well as the number of people reached through awareness raising and information sharing compared to 2020. throughout the year of 2020.

This project is subsidised by the Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030.

