



WAVE NEWSLETTER JULY-AUGUST 2021



BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE WAVE NETWORK

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

UPCOMING WAVE EVENTS

WAVE CONFERENCE 2021: PREVENTING AND TACKLING SEXUALISED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The 23rd WAVE Conference will be happening online on October 6-7, 2021. The title of this year's conference is "Breaking the Cycle: Preventing and Tackling Sexualised Violence against Women and Children" and is being organized in collaboration with our Portuguese WAVE Member Associação de Mulheres contra a Violência ([AMCV](#)).

The 2021 online WAVE Conference aims to offer participants a holistic and intersectional approach on preventing and tackling sexualised violence.

Why the topic of sexualised violence?

Sexualised violence remains one of the most hidden forms of violence that women and girls experience, therefore WAVE intends to shed more light on the problematic, by covering topics such as: promising and inclusive practices in providing women's specialist support including services for survivors of sexualised violence, and effective approaches in tackling digital sexualised violence against women and children.

WAVE firmly believes that tackling sexualised violence requires national frameworks adapted to international legal standards and crucially appropriate implementation of such standards, as well as victim-centred women's support services for survivors of sexualised violence. The long-term protection of survivors also requires effective prevention work to ensure sustainable change of societal attitudes towards, and understanding of, the root causes of sexualised violence such as gender stereotypes.

Furthermore, adequate protection means that survivors are able to receive appropriate and timely support including effective and victim-centred prosecution if they decide to formally report the violence they experienced.

More about the
WAVE Conference 2021 [here](#).



Illustration: [Menah Wellen](#)

Please register [here](#). The deadline to register for the WAVE conference is 3 October 2021.

A draft agenda of the conference is available [here](#). A final agenda of the conference will be available closer to date.

Please note that conference workshops are only available to WAVE members and members of WAVE members. We kindly ask WAVE members to register in advance for the workshops.

We hope that you will find this online version of the 23rd WAVE conference interesting and enriching, and hope to meet you all again in person next year!

CYBERSAFE CONFERENCE: SAVE THE DATE!

This year, the [CYBERSAFE](#) project (funded by the European Union) is coming to an end, but before that, the CYBERSAFE conference (online) will be held at the beginning of November, organised by the Greek partner organisation [UWAH](#) – Union of Women Associations of Heraklion Prefecture and WAVE. The conference will be dedicated to sharing the main findings and outcomes of the different aspects of the project, and presenting the amazing tools created within CYBERSAFE. More information and registration will be announced in the coming weeks.

WAVE NEWS

NEW FACES AT THE WAVE OFFICE



Welcome India, our new WAVE intern until February 2022. India recently completed her MA in International Relations at Leiden University, following the track 'Global Conflict in the Modern Era.' Her thesis focused on conflict-related sexual violence and the securitisation thereof, using the Yazidi genocide in Iraq as a case study. This led her to discover that she is passionate about learning more about and fighting against this type of violence, which brought her to WAVE.

Say hello to Polina, our second new WAVE intern, who will also be with us until February 2022. Polina recently received her BA from the LCC International University based in Lithuania. Her field of studies was International Relations and Development, and her diploma had a focus on Gender Mainstreaming development projects in India and Bangladesh. She is particularly passionate about intersectional feminism, human rights, women-centered policymaking, political activism, ethical consumerism, postcolonialism, minority-rights advocacy, and peacebuilding.



WAVE is happy to welcome interns interested in gaining experience in the non-profit sector. We select interns based on relevant qualifications and current office needs, as well as office capacity.

More information about internships at WAVE [here](#).

VACANCIES AT WAVE

The WAVE Office (Location: Vienna, Austria) is looking for an enthusiastic and experienced *Advocacy & Campaigning Coordinator*, to support us with developing and implementing successful high level advocacy and related campaigns. The *WAVE Advocacy & Campaigning Coordinator (38h/week)* will have the following main responsibilities:

- Coordinating WAVE's European high level advocacy and related campaigns
- Planning and implementing national campaigning activities together with WAVE members
- Supporting WAVE members in developing their advocacy and campaigning capacities by enabling them to access relevant training opportunities

Please apply [here](#). The application deadline is 30 September 2021.

The WAVE Office (Location: Vienna, Austria) is looking for an experienced and committed *Accounting & Administrative Assistant*, to support us with the smooth running of our accounting and administrative processes. The *Accounting & Administrative Assistant (20h/week)* will have the following main responsibilities:

- Supporting the WAVE Accountant in effectively carrying out her work.
- Contributing to the smooth running of the WAVE office administrative processes.

Please apply [here](#). The application deadline is 30 September 2021.



POWER OF YOUTH ACTIVISM

From 28-29 July 2021, the WAVE Youth Ambassadors' event entitled *Power of Youth Activism* took place online. Day 1 was open to all WAVE Members, and aimed to highlight the work of our WAVE Youth Ambassadors as well as the power of youth activism. Furthermore, it showcased the importance of intergenerational feminist support. The WAVE Youth Ambassadors conducted presentations and facilitated discussions on the following topics:

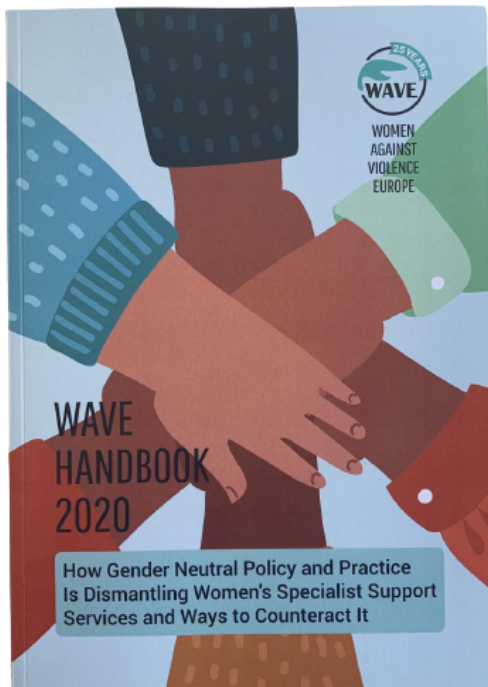
- inclusion & engagement of youth activists
- barriers of youth activists
- intergenerational collaboration: how to create open dialogues

Day 2 was open to youth activists interested in and/or working in the field of tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG) and violence prevention. It was intended to be a safe space for youth activists from across Europe. The participants and WAVE Youth Ambassadors discussed issues and challenges, shared promising practices and experiences, and talked about mental health; all in the context of violence prevention, youth activism, and the empowerment of women & girls.

WAVE COUNTRY REPORT 2021

Our WAVE Office staff Elena and Léa along with the support of our two valuable interns are currently collecting data from the WAVE delegates for the upcoming *WAVE Country Report 2021*. Data collection has been conducted by WAVE since 2008, when the first WAVE Country Report was published. Since that time, it is published regularly in order to monitor the situation of women's specialist support services. The publication of the WAVE Country Report 2021 is set to be at the end of the year.

WAVE HANDBOOK 2020



At the end of August 2020, the *WAVE Handbook: How Gender Neutral Policy and Practice Is Dismantling Women's Specialist Support Services and Ways to Counteract It* by the Thematic Working Group on protecting women's support services from gender neutral policy and practice was published. This handbook was written by seven working group members with diverse expertise coming from various women's organisations and European countries.

The purpose of this handbook is to inform employees and volunteers of women's specialist support services (WSS) about the dangers of gender neutral policy and practice, as well as to help them counteract it by providing best practice examples which they can apply to their own region and organisation.

If you work in a women's specialist support service, and wish to receive a copy of the WAVE Handbook 2020, please send us an email to office@wave-network.org expressing your interest.

INTERVIEW WITH WAVE PRESIDENT, MARCELLA PIRRONE

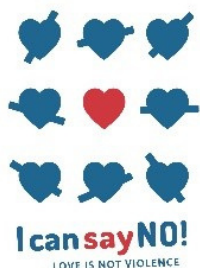
The Greek WAVE Member UWAH - Union of Women Associations of Heraklion Prefecture published a very extensive interview with WAVE President, Marcella Pirrone, in their magazine on gender-based violence entitled NO MORE vol.3 (issue nr. 3). The interview can be found [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

updates from WAVE Members and political developments

PREVENTION WORK WITH YOUTH ON CYBER VIOLENCE: SERBIA, CROATIA, HUNGARY AND SPAIN

One of the most present forms of cyber violence against young women (14-19) are sexualised comments online – an experience that 57% of young women from Serbia, 72% from Croatia, 64% from Hungary, and 63% from Spain share.



The data is based on the research “Awareness and attitudes of secondary school students towards youth intimate partner violence”, conducted in 2020 in the above mentioned countries within the project “*I can choose to say no - Empowering youth, especially girls, to stand up against cyber sexual and gender-based violence in intimate partner relationships*”, supported by the European Union Rights, Equality and Citizenship Program (2014-2020).

Based on the data collected within the research, organisations implementing the project, the Autonomous Women’s Centre (Serbia), CESI - Center for Education, Counselling and Research (Croatia), NANE - Nők a Nőkért Együtt az Erőszak Ellen (Hungary) and Fundacion Privada Indera (Catalonia, Spain), also prepared peer educations for youth, as well as publications on the issue of cyber violence in youth intimate partner relationships.

Within the project, more than 910 girls and more than 700 boys from 33 secondary schools and from 55 cities/towns in these four countries participated in peer education groups on cyber violence that were implemented by 70 young women and men who were previously trained to share their knowledge with their peers.

Project partners also developed an important publication, the magazine True2You, as well as two different interactive webpages, True2You and Nopedia with educational texts, games and videos for youth on cyber violence and youth intimate partner relationships, as well as resources for peer education on cyber violence prevention.



The importance of these activities is even greater when taking into account that millions of children are at increased risk of harm as their lives have moved increasingly to the online sphere during the COVID-19 pandemic (UNICEF, 2020). Strong prevention and awareness raising activities continue to be necessary in order to ensure the wellbeing and safety of children and youth in digital spaces.

“I learned to respect myself, I gathered new experience, and I understood the difference between a healthy and a toxic relationship.” – participant from Serbia

“The trainers were very nice, I think it is very important for every young person to know about these topics.” – participant from Hungary

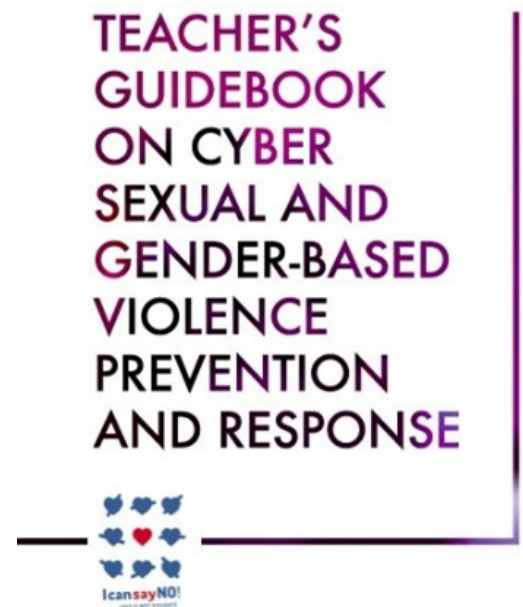
PREVENTION WORK WITH SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS ON CYBER VIOLENCE AMONG YOUTH: SERBIA, CROATIA, HUNGARY AND SPAIN

“It was serious and disturbing for her/him”; this is the opinion of 61% of female teachers from Serbia, 31% from Croatia, 48% from Hungary and 87% from Spain, when asked about the effects of cyber gender-based violence on their students. Teachers from all countries reported that cyber SGBV had stronger negative effects on girls, while boys often perceived these situations as funny, they said.

The data is based on the research “What do teachers know about (cyber) gender-based violence in schools?”, conducted in 2020 in the above mentioned countries within the project *“I can choose to say no - Empowering youth, especially girls, to stand up against cyber sexual and gender-based violence in intimate partner relationships”*, supported by the European Union Rights, Equality and Citizenship Program (2014-2020).

The four aforementioned organisations also prepared the informative and educational publication *“Teacher’s Guidebook on cyber sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response”*. The Guidebook can be used widely as an important tool for teachers to get to know the problem more, and to learn how to respond and react to these issues.

Based on the research findings, teachers need additional support to effectively address the problem of violence in youth relationships, specifically more knowledge, skills, professional training, useful educative materials, as well as contact points/services where they can refer students who are experiencing cyber gender based violence.



This is why, within the project, more than 480 teachers from 78 secondary schools and 55 cities/towns from all four countries participated in presentations and discussions on the Guidebook. Additionally, over 90 participants from across Europe joined the international online conference *“Strategies to address cyber sexual and gender-based violence in schools”*. Further material and information can be accessed [here](#).

#ITHAPPENSHERE

To mark 'World Day Against Trafficking in Persons' on 30 July, Cork Against Human Trafficking (IE) gathered to raise awareness of trafficking in Ireland with the #ItHappensHere campaign. The main message of the campaign is that human trafficking is happening in every part of Ireland - no city, town or village is immune.



According to the US Department of State, Ireland does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. As a result, the country was placed on a 'tier-two watchlist' for the second year in a row. This was the main motivation for the #ItHappensHere campaign - human trafficking is happening in Ireland and the country needs to respond to it.

Cork Against Human Trafficking is group of concerned professionals committed to ending human trafficking in Ireland.

NORTH MACEDONIA: CAMPAIGN FOR URGENT AMENDMENTS TO THE CRIMINAL CODE

The National Network against Violence on Women and Domestic Violence has launched a campaign entitled "Urgent Amendments to the Criminal Code" in order to put an emphasis on the society's and the State's real commitment for prevention and protection against gender-based violence and domestic violence.

The Republic of North Macedonia signed the Istanbul Convention in 2011. While the ratification followed seven years later and came into force on July 2018, the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia has additionally adopted the National Action Plan (2018-2023) for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, which is focused on activities to change the domestic legislation, to adjust it to the standards of the Convention, and to also put them into practice.

What is needed to cover/regulate the Criminal Code?



To add definitions for:

- **Gender -based violence**
- **Violence against women**
- **Woman victim of gender – based violence**

Criminalization of all forms of violence against women to be introduced and covered as crimes:

- **Psychological Violence,**
- **Stalking,**
- **Physical Violence,**
- **Forced Marriages,**
- **Female Genital Mutilation,**
- **Forced Abortion and Forced Sterilization, and**
- **Sexual Harassment.**

Amendments to the Criminal code will contribute to the appropriate sanctioning of perpetrators and crimes of gender-based violence. In that way, the State will show serious commitment in the fight against women and domestic violence.

This is needed, because:

- **Half of the women in North Macedonia have been victims of intimate partner violence.**
- **1 of 7 women has experienced physical or sexual violence.**
- **3 out of 10 women in North Macedonia have been sexually harassed.**
- **60,000 women have been stalked.**
- **Perpetrators of violence are usually current or former partners.**
- **Women who do not report their experiences to the police explain that the reason for this is the lack of trust in institutions and the feeling of fear of retaliation.**
- **60% of women killed in North Macedonia were killed by a current or former partner, married or illegitimate.**

SLOVENIA: DEVELOPMENTS IN OFFERING CONSELLING TO VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

The Association SOS Helpline for Women and Children – Victims of Violence offers counselling via telephone and e-mail in Slovenian as well as other languages (English, Albanian, Russian, Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian), attorney counselling and counselling on police matters. As of August 2021, the SOS Helpline, offers online counselling via chat rooms as well, which is available on the SOS Helpline website. The online counselling via chat room options is available daily for six hours during the workweek, and it guarantees complete anonymity to the users. Thanks to the SOS Helpline's redesigned website, the users are offered a quick way out from the chat room and website, as for some women and children victims of violence, even accessing the association's website can be potentially dangerous. With this new online counselling format, the association aims to reach younger demographic groups as well.

MOLDOVA: TRAININGS AND SOCIAL HUB 2021

One of the priority directions of Moldovan WAVE Member Women's Law Centre is focused on preventing gender-based violence and domestic violence. With this in mind, the centre develops and implements projects targeting resource groups and professionals that could provide quality, topical and impactful information to victims of domestic violence. In July-August 2021, trainings for Moldovan librarians and journalists writing on social issues were held. It was also in August that the second edition of the Social Hub 2021 took place. This is a platform for young people where they get to talk, share their views and their experience regarding actions taken in their communities to prevent gender-based violence, domestic violence and gender stereotypes. More information [here](#).



WOMEN'S VOICES THAT NEED TO BE HEARD

In July 2021, the Center Resonance (Moldova, Transnistria) acted as a co-organizer in the documentary human rights film festival "Chesnok", presenting a special program entitled "Women's Voices". 3 documentaries from Russia ("Mom of Yulia"), Sweden ("Ninosca"), Denmark and Netherlands ("Heartbound") were shown in the offline and online format from 23 to 30 of July 2021 for more than 300 spectators. Documentary films – one of the most effective ways to conduct information and advocacy campaigns. The “female” focus of the special program of the film festival was not chosen by chance: the pandemic raised the women's issue with renewed vigor - women as a macrosocial group suffered to a much greater extent in all respects and senses - an increase in the burden of “household chores”, an increase in cases of domestic violence, a drop in income and economic independence, and much more.



credit: Center Resonance

STOP – AUSTRIAN NEIGHBOURHOODS ACTING AGAINST VIOLENCE

StoP – Stadtteile ohne Partnergewalt (eng. Districts without intimate partner violence) is a project with the aim to prevent partner violence and domestic violence. StoP focuses on those who often notice problems first and are closest to the victims and perpetrators: their neighbours. Accordingly, it directly addresses civil society by involving them, raises awareness about the issue and shows possible actions everyone can take to prevent violence against women and children. The project offers multiple activities which engage residents in fighting violence against women and girls, among them: regular women's circles (Frauentische), men circles (Männertische), and work with girls and boys.

Additionally, partners all over the districts, such as local businesses, celebrities, artists, and politicians, join them in spreading the word about the project and prevention of violence.

StoP was brought from Germany to Margareten, the 5th district of Vienna, in 2019, and it is now being extended to the whole country, with 15 locations and 8 federal states involved.



**26TH SAN DIEGO INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL SUMMIT.
EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES TO OVERCOME
COLLECTIVE TRAUMA**

Zuzana Vasiliauskaite, WAVE ABM co-delegate from Vilnius, Lithuania, was invited to give a keynote speech at the 26th San Diego International Virtual Summit. Empowering Individuals, Families, and Communities to Overcome Collective Trauma on 29 August 2021. Zuzana Vasiliauskaite expanded on the EUROPEAN HELP PROVISION MODEL FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF MALE INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE. CURRENT TRENDS, CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS. In her speech, she reflected on the current trend of shifting from a shelter approach to a strength-based, needs-lead approach when providing help and assistance to women survivors of male DV/IPV.

**UNIZON'S CHAIRWOMAN OLGA PERSSON IN THE RADIO
PROGRAMME SOMMAR I P1**

This summer, Unizon's Chairwoman Olga Persson was invited to one of the most popular radio programmes in Sweden – Sommer i P1 – to share her story of engagement for women's and children's lives free from men's violence.

Sommar i P1 is a unique chance to reach out to those who think that men's violence against women and children does not affect them. "In my summer programme, I want to give a voice to women who are threatened, abused and raped, and to women who have been and continue building the women's shelters' movement in Sweden. Our work is almost always about life and death, women's life and death. Nevertheless, or perhaps precisely because of that, humor and joy are my strongest driving force. I hope that Sommar in P1 will make even more people want to work together with us for an equal society free from violence", says Olga Persson. Olga Persson's summer programme is available here. Please be aware that the programme is in Swedish.