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WAVE NEWSLETTER WINTER 2021



BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE WAVE NETWORK

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

WAVE EVENTS

WAVE WEBINAR 2021

The WAVE webinar: The backlash against LGBTIQ+ communities in Eastern Europe. Experiences and strategies from the WAVE network. took place via Zoom on 26 November. The webinar offered first-hand experiences from different WAVE members and a 1st generation WAVE Youth Ambassadors, provided a platform for participants to learn about strategies and promising practices to tackle the backlash, and facilitated exchange and networking with WAVE members and partners. The webinar was facilitated by Irene Zeilinger from WAVE member Garance (Belgium), and was guided by the following three speakers: Agata Teutsch (Autonomia Poland), Mirjana Kucer (Domine, Croatia) and Stefan Petrovski (1st generation Youth Ambassador from North Macedonia).

WAVE TRAINING INSTITUTE 2021

The WAVE Training Institute was held online from 1-2 December 2021. The title of this year's WTI was “Out of the box approaches for tackling the backlash against women’s human rights”, and was facilitated by activists and experts in the field of human rights. Apart from providing a theoretical background and sharing promising practices, the training also gave participants the opportunity to create new strategies of resistance and counteraction.

The training was open exclusively to WAVE Members and their members, and welcomed around 25 participants. Rosalyn Park from Advocates for Human Rights, Neil Datta, Secretary of the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights, as well as

Ishtar Lakhani and Lucas Paulson, both members of the JustLabs team provided their expertise and knowledge as trainers during the two-day event.

The purpose of the training:

As more European countries are announcing to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention and policies concerning women's support services and women's rights are becoming increasingly hostile, there is a need to find specific ways of countering the backlash against women's support services and women's rights by right-wing parties and groups, whilst ensuring their own sustainability.

The training thus focused on concrete strategies against the backlash, and on identifying innovative strategies in countering the backlash, despite precarious working conditions. Furthermore, it entailed understanding the different tools, tactics and rhetoric used by the far right to counter women's human rights, but also focusing on supporting women's NGOs to formulate responses to these human rights challenges, by presenting promising practices in the field and by drawing on the lessons learned and changing the narrative approaches to such challenges. Lastly, the training aimed to empower and support the attending WAVE members by fostering an environment focusing on creative solutions and answers.



asiandelight/Getty Images

WAVE NEWS

WAVE COUNTRY REPORT 2021

On 20 December, the WAVE Country Report 2021 "Women's Specialist Support Services in Europe and the impact of COVID-19 on their provision" was published!

The Country Report is the main publication of the WAVE Network, and it is published every two years. It represents an important tool for highlighting the situation of women's specialist support services in 46 European countries.

The Country Report 2021 focuses on four key areas of service provision, namely:

- women's helplines,
- shelters accessible to women,
- women's centres, and
- specialist services for survivors of sexualised violence.

The report seeks to highlight which European countries, within and outside the EU, meet the minimum standards of the Istanbul Convention in terms of service provision. Available data on femicide is also presented, and the report includes a chapter on the significant impact of COVID-19 on women's specialist support services. Moreover, the report provides individual country profiles for the 46 countries included in the research.



For the WAVE Country Report 2021, please click [here](#).

WAVE'S 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

For this year's 16 Days of Activism Campaign, WAVE prepared empowering and enriching contributions all in the name of the **POWER OF ACTIVISM**. Inspiring interviews with women's human rights feminist activists were conducted and shared via YouTube videos, podcast episodes, and [WAVE Blog articles](#).

Furthermore, infographics were created to highlight the importance of implementing the Istanbul Convention!

[#IstanbulConventionSavesLives](#) [#signratifyimplement](#)



Through engaging interviews, the aim was to shine the spotlight on a number of activists:

- Branislava Aradjan (Serbia)
- Teresa Schweiger (Austria)
- Alicja Switon (Austria)
- Eliana Jimeno (Colombia)

All four interviews are available on [YouTube](#).



No More Violence Against Women, the podcast of the WAVE Network. In this podcast WAVE voices are amplified to give insight on topics such as sexualised violence, online violence, femicides, violence against women with disabilities, youth activism, important legislation such as the Istanbul Convention, and more to highlight the different forms and dimensions of violence against women and girls.

All three episodes were broadcast on [Radio Orange 94.0](#) during the 16 Days of Activism, and are now available on [Spotify](#) and the [Cultural Broadcasting Archive](#).

A big THANK YOU to WAVE interns Polina Lynova and India Stotesbury for the organisation and coordination, as well as all the inspiring feminist activists who have made the WAVE 16 Days of Activism 2021 such a success!

THIS IS THE WAVE NETWORK

On 25 November, WAVE published its long-awaited introductory video which aims to shed light on the network's function, efforts and dedication to raise awareness on the human rights violation that is violence against women and girls, its prevalence as well as its many dimensions and forms. The WAVE (Women Against Violence Europe) Network and its members, women's rights feminist activists who run women's shelters, women's centres, women's helplines, rape crisis centres, and policy and advocacy organisations, work tirelessly towards a world where all forms of discrimination and violence against women and their children are eliminated.

This is the WAVE Network. For the video, click [here](#).

A big THANK YOU to Barbara Mitterer/[Studio Citron](#) for the video animation, and for making our vision come to life so beautifully.



Join us in making the world a safe and equal place for all women and girls!

WAVE FEMPOWER MAGAZINE 2021

At the end of December, the WAVE Fempower Magazine 2021 "Preventing and tackling sexualised violence against women and children " was published!

Even before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, one in three women worldwide experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner [WHO]. UN Women notes that sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women continue to occur on streets, in public spaces and online. The restrictions of the pandemic resulted in survivors having limited information and awareness about available services, and limited access to support services, which poses a great threat to mitigating violence against women and girls and seeking effective support and shelter.

Unfortunately, sexualised violence remains one of the most hidden forms of violence that women and girls experience, therefore WAVE aimed to shed more light on this issue in this year's Fempower Magazine edition.

Thank you to all contributing authors for their efforts, dedication and work that will hopefully continue to inspire past, present and future members of WAVE, women's organisations and women's specialist support services across Europe and beyond, as well as women's rights feminist activists around the globe to defend women's rights and work towards a sustainable future where women and girls can live free from all forms of violence and discrimination.

For the WAVE Fempower Magazine 2021, please click [here](#).



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

updates from WAVE Members and political developments

ROMANIAN CIVIL SOCIETY PUSHED FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE ILO CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF HARASSMENT IN THE WORLD OF WORK



The Association for Liberty and Equality of Gender (Romania) launched a national advocacy campaign that seeks the ratification of the International Labour Organisation's Convention no. 190 on the elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work. Romania, like numerous other European states, voted for the adoption of the ILO Convention no. 190, but has not ratified it. A.L.E.G.'s recently published policy brief shows that despite the recent improvements of the anti-harassment legislation, relevant laws, public policies and their application do not meet the standards of the ILO Convention, offering limited protection against workplace violence and harassment. On 26 November, A.L.E.G. organised the first national convening on this subject, where it presented the findings of its research and its recommendations, based on ILO Convention no. 190 and its accompanying Recommendation no. 206. Representatives from the Parliament, Government, and civil society, including trade unions and organisations working with employers, attended the conference and endorsed the campaign, which will continue in 2022. The ratification would start a process whereby Romania's legislation would have to be aligned to the Convention's and the Recommendation's standards and a process through which the implementation of the Convention would be regularly monitored by the ILO.

WIDE+ CONFERENCE

On 27 November, Women in Development Europe+ and International Women Space organised a feminist gathering in Berlin to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. WAVE's Project & Research Coordinator Elena Floriani joined the panel discussion about the impact of COVID-19 on violence against migrant women. Elena presented some findings from the WAVE Country Report 2021, focusing on the impact of COVID-19 on women's support services and their way of working, the increased demand for support, the access to justice and the effects on funding. These and more results from WAVE's data collection are available in the WAVE Country Report.



THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FIRST INFORMATION VICTIMS RECEIVE

Association SOS Helpline for Women and Children – Victims of Violence from Ljubljana, Slovenia decided to mark this year's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign with an online panel discussion entitled »Hello... I need help... I am experiencing violence – The importance of the first information victims receive«. The panel discussion took place on 7 December and was very successful with overall 191 participants. Guests and speakers included different experts dedicated to tackling violence against women, such as GREVIO representatives, police officers, psychologists and representatives of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. Participants also had the opportunity to learn how similar organisations in other parts of the European Union – Nollalinja from Finland, Frauen und Mädchennotruf Rosenheim from Germany and Autonome Österreichische Frauenhauser from Austria – provide help for women and children victims of violence.



Pogovor z mednarodno udeležbo
o pomembnosti informacije,
ki jo dobijo žrtve nasilja.

HALO,
POTREBUJEM POMOČ,
DOŽIVLJAM NASILJE.

TOREK, 7. DECEMBER 2021
OD 9:30 DO 12:00

SOS
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24
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WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN SLOVAKIA

The Alliance of Women Slovakia organised an online conference focused on women's rights and violence against women and children on 26 November. During the conference, the emphasis was also put on an important date – 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, along with the worldwide campaign known as 16 Days of Activism.

The conference welcomed Slovak researchers and activists with long expertise in the field of women's rights, feminism, gender equality, and gender-based violence. They led discussions and lectures about diverse and important topics. The independent creative group 123 Artist opened the first discussion block by introducing their project “neZRANITEĽNÍ” (inVULNERABLE) to the general public; a theatre performance which aims to raise awareness on gender-based and sexual violence. Political scientist, gender coach, and activist Adriana Mesochoritsová talked about reproductive rights and their protection, in the context of the opposite – the political effort to legally restrict them. She represented the initiative Nebudeme ticho (We will not be silent) which is active especially in the area of reproductive rights. A lecture as a form of expert assessment of domestic violence was held by lecturer, researcher, and supervisor doc. ThDr. Mgr. Slávka Karkošková, PhD. The lecture was in the context of legal guardianship disputes over children. In her work, she deals with the topics of sexual abuse and domestic violence. She shared her lecture block of the conference with Mgr. Lenka Lipanová, who is an expert in the area of clinical psychology of children, adults, along with the psychology of sexuality. She encounters the issue of domestic violence in her psychotherapeutic practice. One of the main topics of this year's conference, on the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism campaign, was intervention centers and their importance in the provision of services to women and their children experiencing violence.

The following centers and their representatives from around Slovakia have attended the conference: Žena v tiesni – Tatiana Brnová (Woman in need), Pomoc rodine – Martina Bamburáková (Help to family), Centrum Nádej – Adriana Havašová (Center Hope). Expert on gender equality and former director of the Department of Gender Equality at the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, Oľga Pietruchová, also joined the discussion about intervention centers.

For the second year, the conference has shown how important it is to contribute to the discourse on women's rights through dialogue and cooperation between non-profit organisations. As it was mentioned several times during the online event, all present subjects have the same goal – to fight for gender equality and prevent gender-based violence.

CYBERSAFE PROJECT

On 9 November, the CYBERSAFE project held its final online conference on changing attitudes among teenagers on cyber violence against women and girls. 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. In addition to that, a panel with three specialists from Northern Ireland, Estonia and South Korea was organised to provide different perspectives and promising practices on cyber violence and how to tackle it. The conference welcomed 105 participants throughout the day. It was organised by UWAH and the WAVE Network with technical support by ON Events, who enabled the participants to meet in the online format.

The project ended in December 2021, and we want to say a big THANK YOU to all project partners for an insightful and important collaboration over the last three years (2019-2021). All project outputs along with the CYBERSAFE Toolkit are available online.

THE WAVE OFFICE WISHES YOU RELAXING HOLIDAYS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Despite the increasing political backlash against women's human rights and the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have continued to show our resilience and strength. Therefore, we want to say a big **THANK YOU** to our WAVE membership as well as women's rights feminist activists around the globe for their dedication, hard work, action and activism in the fight against violence against women and girls!

We look forward to further strengthening feminist movements in the new year.

Stay safe and see you all in 2022!

