



A MAGAZINE PUBLISHED BY THE WAVE OFFICE

# fempower

**Preventing and tackling sexualised violence  
against women and children**



# fempower 2021

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# Editorial

Beverly Mtui, WAVE Office

The WAVE (Women Against Violence Europe) Network is a European wide network of 160 members (NGOs, NGO networks and individuals) in 46 countries, dedicated to preventing and tackling violence against women and girls. Since its foundation in 1994, WAVE has been working to promote and strengthen the human rights of women and children. WAVE's mission is to enable women and their children to live free from violence, by strengthening and sustaining a European network of specialized support services, experts and survivors.

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<sup>1</sup>. UN Women<sup>2</sup> 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 for survivors.

Unfortunately, sexualised<sup>3</sup> violence remains one of the most hidden forms of violence that women and girls experience. Therefore, WAVE intends to shed more light on this issue. 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.

As many organizations within WAVE's network engage in raising awareness on sexual violence, providing in-depth knowledge and learning about providing a holistic and intersectional approach on preventing and tackling sexualised violence, we've asked our members to share promising practices on preventing and tackling sexualised violence. A total of five articles were submitted, each of these highlighting the fight against sexual violence and the work undertaken by women's organisations and women's specialist support services to protect and support survivors of sexual violence.

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. ●



**Beverly Mtui** has a Bachelor's Degree in Transcultural Communication (German, English & French) and is currently pursuing her Master's in Development Studies at the University of Vienna. In 2018, she interned with "Work With Perpetrators European Network – WWP EN" for half

a year and in 2019, she was an intern at Austrian WAVE Member AÖF. Besides being passionate about intersectional feminism and gender equality, she also believes in social equality and the inclusion of marginalised groups. Until February 2021, she was the Youth Ambassador Coordinator and worked closely with the WAVE Youth Ambassadors in developing as well as implementing actions to highlight the importance of youth inclusion in promoting non-violence and in feminist movements. Since 2021, she is currently the Communications Coordinator and is responsible for ensuring and strengthening the visibility and presence of the network and its projects, particularly in the digital sphere.

1 WHO

2 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/in-focus-gender-equality-in-covid-19-response/violence-against-women-during-covid-19>

3 Please note that throughout this magazine, sexualised violence and sexual violence are used interchangeably. The term "sexual violence" was used by the authors and is thus not changed.

# Changing the narrative around sexual violence – a viral example from Ireland

Ellie Mahony, Sexual Violence Centre Cork (Ireland)

**O**n the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2021, Wayne Couzens was given whole-life sentence for the kidnap, rape and murder of Sarah Everard in London. Couzens was a Metropolitan police officer at the time and used his warrant card and handcuffs to kidnap Sarah Everard. This detail in the case caused fear and outrage amongst women in the UK and Ireland – if the police cannot be trusted to keep women safe, then who can? In response, the London Metropolitan Police advised that women could protect themselves from plain clothed, lone police officers by “shouting out to a passer-by, running into a house, knocking on a door, waving a bus down or, if you are in the position to do so, calling 999”, the national emergency number.

Women are often held responsible for the rape and sexual assault that they are subjected to, and this advice from the London police is no different. Women are told:

“Don’t walk home alone late at night”  
“Don’t wear short skirts”  
“Don’t drink too much”

But the only person who should be held responsible for rape, sexual assault and femicide is the perpetrator.

## How to avoid sexual assault: a quick and easy guide

The same day that Couzens was sentenced, the Sexual Violence Centre in Cork, Ireland posted a satirical take on how to avoid sexual assault. The post was called “How to avoid sexual assault: a quick and easy guide (for perpetrators)” and flipped the narrative by describing six tips for perpetrators. The tips are:

1. Don’t put drugs in people’s drinks
2. Use the buddy system! If you can’t stop yourself from sexually assaulting someone, ask a trusted friend to accompany you at all times to stop you.

3. When you come across someone who is drunk or asleep, the best thing to do is not rape them.
4. When you see a woman walking by herself, leave her alone.
5. If you are in a lift and someone steps in, remember not to sexually assault them.
6. Carry a whistle. If you think you might rape someone, blow the whistle until someone comes to stop you.

Overnight, the post went viral. The text was inspired by similar posts that we have seen shared by feminist groups over the years. We will never understand the true reach – while the image was shared and retweeted, many people saved the post and shared on their own accounts. We saw it appear on Jameela Jamil’s story for example – Jameela has 3.4 million followers on Instagram. The post was translated into 27 different languages.

How to avoid sexual assault! A QUICK AND EASY GUIDE*		 sexual violence centre cork
① <b>DON'T PUT DRUGS IN PEOPLE'S DRINKS</b>	② <b>USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM!</b> IF YOU CAN'T STOP YOURSELF FROM SEXUALLY ASSAULTING SOMEONE, ASK A TRUSTED FRIEND TO ACCOMPANY YOU AT ALL TIMES TO STOP YOU.	③ <b>WHEN YOU COME ACROSS SOMEONE WHO IS DRUNK OR ASLEEP, THE BEST THING TO DO IS NOT RAPE THEM.</b>
④ <b>WHEN YOU SEE A WOMAN WALKING BY HERSELF, LEAVE HER ALONE.</b>	⑤ <b>IF YOU ARE IN A LIFT AND SOMEONE STEPS IN, REMEMBER NOT TO SEXUALLY ASSAULT THEM.</b>	⑥ <b>CARRY A WHISTLE. IF YOU THINK YOU MIGHT RAPE SOMEONE, BLOW THE WHISTLE UNTIL SOMEONE COMES TO STOP YOU.</b>

\*for perpetrators.



These types of posts have been doing the rounds in feminist circles for years – so why did it go viral now? The comments by the Metropolitan police were a huge contributing factor, but the post went far beyond the UK. It seems that many people, across the world, are ready to change the narrative around sexual violence - contributing to the success of this post.

### Ending victim blaming

Victim blaming occurs when the victim of a crime is blamed, or held responsible, for the crime that they have been subjected to. Victim blaming primarily happens in cases of sexual violence and femicide - you are unlikely to hear the victim of a robbery get blamed for being robbed, yet victims of rape and sexual assault are consistently blamed for the violence they are subjected to.

Victim blaming occurs in both the mainstream media and in our day-to-day conversations around sexual violence. In Ireland, we often see headlines that excuse perpetrators and blame victims – a recent headline in Ireland stated “Men found guilty of raping girl, 14, after they had been drinking together”. The sentence should have finished after the girl’s age – the fact that they had been drinking together was not relevant and instead, blamed the victim for the crime.

### Encouraging men to join the conversation

There was a huge increase in the number of male followers on our Instagram account and we noticed a

significant number of men sharing our post and joining in on the conversation. One man commenting on our post stated:

“We spend an extraordinary amount of time telling girls and women how they should act and behave to protect themselves. We need to spend more time teaching boys and men to do better.”

Another wrote: “In other words, be better boys. Read it and remember it. Women shouldn’t have to take precautions to not be assaulted or even feel safe.”

These contributions are invaluable in the fight against male violence against women. We need men to discuss sexual violence with their friends and call out inappropriate behaviour. Although it is on a small scale, we think that many of the positive replies from men in response to our post show that many are ready to have this conversation and influence the men around them.

Many people across the world were enraged and disturbed by the narrative surrounding the kidnap, rape and murder of Sarah Everard by Wayne Couzens. Although light in tone, our viral post on “How to avoid sexual assault” appeared to resonate with people across the globe and started off important conversations around victim blaming and male violence against women. We believe that to tackle and prevent sexual violence, we need to end victim blaming and encourage men to speak up and join in on the conversation. ●



**Ellie Mahony** studied Law in University College Cork and went on to complete a master’s degree in Public Relations in Technological University Dublin. She now works with the Sexual Violence Centre Cork. Ellie is passionate about feminism and utilising online communication to create social change.

# Feminist resistance to sexual violence in the Balkans

Milena Milojević and Mina Damjanović.

Feminist Initiative against sexual violence / *Trust You (Verujem ti, Serbia)*

## A short herstory<sup>1</sup>:

The continuity of women's resistance to sexual violence in the Republic of Serbia started in March 2018, with a shift in public discourse around sexual assault, and with a growing number of women going public with their experiences of sexual abuse and harassment. Marija Lukić, who was sexually harassed by her former superior Milutin Jeličić, was the first victim of a public appearance. Then following a brief period of silence, beginning in September 2020, actress Danijela Štajnfeld released her documentary on the trauma of sexual violence, called "Hold Me Right". Six months later, she stated that Branislav Lečić, Serbian actor and an opposition politician, had raped her. Unfortunately, but not unsurprisingly, on July 13, the Belgrade Higher Public Prosecutor's Office stated that "there are no grounds for suspicion that the offense was committed, or any other crime for which prosecution is conducted ex officio." Almost at the same time as the opening of the public conversation on the issue of rape, a speech on sexual exploitation also made its way into the public realm on April 19, 2021, when Marinika Tepić, a member of the opposition party, accused Dragan Marković Palma, a member of the National Assembly of Serbia and the party leader of United Serbia, of long-term sexual exploitation of women and girls. On August 27, 2021, the Higher Public Prosecutor's Office in Kraljevo issued the same judgment as the Higher Public Prosecutor's Office in the case of Danijela Štajnfeld's testimony, indicating that there are no elements to initiate a case against Dragan Marković Palma.

What both these cases have in common is that they clearly demonstrated the inability or unwillingness of governmental institutions to respond in cases of sexual abuse and exploitation, particularly when significant

political individuals are affected. The prosecution's judgments were an act of siding with perpetrators.

Alongside Danijela Štajnfeld, the publicly most visible was actress Milena Radulović, who had named her rapist as former famous Serbian acting professor Miroslav Aleksić. Milena Radulović was soon joined by Iva Ilinčić and other actresses who stated to have been molested by Aleksić as minors. The preparation hearing in the proceedings against the acting teacher was finished on November 15, and we are now waiting for the main trial, which is scheduled for December 28, when he will present his defence.

Allegations of sexual harassment in other institutions further gained public attention in June 2021. Former students of the Petnica Research Station described incidences of assault dating back to 1993. Branislav Savić Savan, the accused, was questioned as a citizen, and authorities discovered around a hundred images of female pupils in his flat. According to official records, director of Petnic Nikola Božić, has resigned from his position as the institution's head, but the question of crucial changes within this educational institution still remains open. One of the former attendants of the Petnica Research Station and member of the feminist collective *Women's Solidarity (Ženska solidarnost)*, Jelena Riznić, wrote in her text on sexual violence within Petnica: "We, brave women from Petnica, are not victims – we survived and we will win freedom for new generations of girls."<sup>2</sup>

All of these examples have one thing in common: they came to light as a result of women's courage to speak up about sexual abuse despite institutional denial of women's testimonies.

1 A more comprehensive chronological overview is provided in the dossier on the criminal procedures, media reporting, and social media reactions in regard to two visible cases of sexual violence in the Republic of Serbia. Available at: <http://www.verujemti.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Two-cases-of-sexual-violence-visible-in-Serbia-dossier.pdf>

2 Riznić Jelena, (2021) „Mi hrabre Petničarke, jesmo preživjele! Oni su omogućili nasilje“, Available at <https://www.zenskaskolidarnost.org/post/mi-hrabre-petnicarke>

## Empowering practices to fighting sexual violence<sup>3</sup>

- › Following the news about sexual exploitation of women and girls in June 2021, representatives of the civil society organizations ASTRA - Action against Human Trafficking and the Autonomous Women's Center, together with signatory organizations from WAVE and the Anti-Trafficking Network, wrote a letter to the Republic Public Prosecutor's Office of Serbia with demands of great importance for the implementation of practices that could enable a safe and just legal process for victims.<sup>4</sup>
- › In the last six months, women from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Croatia, Montenegro, and Slovenia have attended regional feminist sessions on sexual violence and the specifics of the fight against sexual violence organized by the I Trust You Initiative (Verujem ti). We talked about the neurobiology of rape trauma, sexual violence in war and about feminist discourse on sexual violence. We had a meeting with Danijela Štajnfeld, a conversation with Roma activists on sexual violence, and a dialogue on sexual violence as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women campaign.
- › Since February 2021, Women's Solidarity (Ženska solidarnost), an informal feminist collective, gathering women from Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro, have organised and participated in several campaigns and protests regarding "revenge pornography", sex trafficking, and sexual assault. In addition to these actions, Women's Solidarity is reaching women in the region with the help of social media (a Facebook discussion group and page as well as Instagram and Twitter channels). Together, the collective has written and translated over 100 articles on women's history and social issues specific to women such as abortion, prostitution, pornography, etc. as well as made TV, radio, newspaper, and podcast appearances representing women's interests.
- › Autonomous Women's Center launched a rape culture awareness campaign in December 2021, drawing on an understanding of the existence of a rape culture that originated from awareness groups formed by radical feminists in the 1970s in the United States. Their central insight that sexual

violence is not a singular issue, but that it affects a large number of women. Together with this campaign, pressure will be applied to have the Serbian Criminal Code aligned with the Istanbul Convention, which requires unambiguous and clearly expressed consent to sexual intercourse and the punishment of any sexual act conducted without consent.

## Feminism in the streets

### SUPPORT FOR DANIJELA ŠTAJNFELD

As part of the 67<sup>th</sup> March Film Festival, on April 19, during the screening of the film "Hold Me Right", a group of activists stood in front of the Youth Center in Belgrade, and in solidarity with Danijela Štajnfeld spread a banner that read "We Trust Danijela Štajnfeld."



Later on October 24, Branislav Lečić performed at the Zvezdara Theater for the first time since a rape allegation was dismissed, so we gathered in front of the theatre to show our support for Danijela Štajnfeld.



### NOVEMBER 25, THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Activists of the Feminist Initiative I Trust You, Women's Solidarity Collective, Women in Black and independent activists gathered in front of the Faculty of Contemporary Arts in Belgrade. The Faculty of Contemporary Arts was chosen because of our concern for the safety of female students, considering that one of the →

3 The following actions were chosen as exemplary by the writers of the article, and they do not exhaust the list of all the remarkable actions carried out by feminists in Republic of Serbia and the Balkans.

4 The demands are translated from Serbian to English and are available at: <http://www.verujemti.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Two-cases-of-sexual-violence-visible-in-Serbia-dossier.pdf>

→ employed professors, Branislav Lečić, was appointed rapist by Danijela Štajnfeld and several other women.



### FEMINIST RESISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM JAGODINA, POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF ORGANIZED SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN THIS CITY

#### The first gathering – April 26, 2021.

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, various activist groups had a protest in front of the court in Jagodina, in support of women and girls from Jagodina, and potential victims of organized sexual exploitation in this city. After the protest, the women from Jagodina, who joined us in solidarity, were exposed to violent threats (someone broke into their houses), and some of us received threats online, all with the same goal - to prevent us from returning to Jagodina and to force us to remain silent. These events highlight the tenacious tendencies of Serbian politicians and the media to silence and threaten women who speak publicly about sexual predators.

#### The second gathering – June 5, 2021.

On Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, at the Youth Square in Jagodina, the Independent Women's Group – composed of representatives of women's organizations, civic initiatives and socially engaged individuals – held yet another public protest in support of women and girls from Jagodina, and potential victims of organized sexual exploitation in this city.

## Conclusion

Despite the fact that no legal process has yet been finished in favour of women, we feel that all of the practices and acts we have described are successful, since they represent a historical expression of women's solidarity and direct opposition to sexual violence in the Balkans! ●

**Mina Damjanović** is a feminist activist, feminist researcher and political scientist. She is an activist of the



feminist peace and lesbian movement. She is most interested in the topics of feminist education, peace policies, and lesbian existence. As part of her engagement in Women in Black, she mostly dealt with the feminist approach to transitional justice, and as part of the Independent Monitoring

of Resolution 1325, she worked on the topic of sexual violence in war. She is especially interested in the feminist approach to self-defense, which she has been actively pursuing since 2015. She is a member of the Feminist Initiative against sexual violence *I Trust You*.

**Milena Milojević** is a feminist activist and philosopher. She is a member of the Feminist Collective Women's



Solidarity and the Feminist Initiative *I Trust You*, which is an initiative against sexual violence that encourages women to trust themselves and each other and requires society to trust the testimonies of women who have survived sexual violence through feminist actions and spreading

knowledge about feminist analysis of sexual violence. The focus of her feminist activism and education is male violence against women, specifically sexual violence and sexual exploitation. She volunteers at the Autonomous Women's Center SOS hotline for women who are surviving male violence.

Image source: Do not let Belgrade drown



# Let's break the silence about sexual violence!

Zvezdana Radulovic, Women's Safe House (Montenegro)

As part of the project “Protected and Safe – Fighting Sexual Violence in Montenegro”, the Women's Safe House conducted a survey on the attitudes of Montenegrin citizens about sexual violence against girls and women, forms of this type of violence, and common myths that accompany it.

The results of the research are alarming. Almost half of men think that women like it when men they work with give them sexual attention (44.8% of respondents). One in three men claims that women sometimes fabricate stories of sexual violence in order to extort money from their employer (34.5% of respondents).

More than a quarter of respondents believe that women who say they have experienced sexual violence often fabricate or exaggerate allegations of abuse or rape (26.2% of respondents) and that rape victims are actually women who have had sexual intercourse but have “changed their minds after” (25.4% of respondents).

One in five men thinks that when women say “no”, they actually think “yes”.

Almost a fifth of respondents (18.8%) believe that if a woman was raped, she most often did something that led to it.

On the other hand, for women, sexual violence is one of the most important problems in Montenegro. A larger number of women (55.9%) compared to men (40.4%) believe that sexual violence occurs frequently. One in three women, aged between 18 and 34, believes she is at risk of sexual violence. The most common reason is that we live in a violent society.

In terms of sexual violence, girls and women feel the least safe in the cafes and bars they go to – in total, every seventh respondent feels insecure. One in ten claims that they do not feel safe in the city in which they live, while 5.8% of respondents do not feel safe at work.

The dominant majority of respondents agree that the penalties for perpetrators of sexual violence in Montenegro are too lenient (77.7%) and that victims of this

type of violence are pre-convicted by society (69.6%).

Of the 80 cases of sexual violence that we recorded during the public opinion poll, only ten of these cases were reported, two were processed, and the perpetrator was legally sanctioned in only one case. The most common reasons for not reporting sexual violence are public fear and shame, a lack of trust in institutions, patriarchal upbringing and tradition, and suspicion that anyone would believe the survivor.

One third of the respondents claim that they are not informed about sexual violence, and the main reasons are the lack of information in the media on this issue and the fact that the information is superficial and too general. In addition, over 40.0% of respondents would like to receive additional information on ways to protect themselves from sexual violence, most often via TV (41.7%) or via the internet (31.7%).

The public opinion poll on the perception of sexual violence against girls and women in Montenegro was conducted by the Defacto Consultancy agency on a sample of 800 respondents aged 18 to 65, representative of Montenegro. You can download the entire research from the link <http://szk.co.me/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Percepcija-seksualnog-nasilja-nad-djevojkama-i-zenama-u-Crnoj-Gori.pdf>.

The project “Protected and Safe – Fighting Sexual Violence in Montenegro” is implemented by the Women's Safe House and funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway and the Balkan Democracy Fund of the German Marshall Fund of the United States. ●



**Zvezdana Radulovic** is a 22-year-old feminist activist from Montenegro who has been working in the NGO Women's Safe House for 3 years, after having been a volunteer before. she works on projects aimed at combating violence against women, and also directly with

women and children who are victims of violence and are accommodated in shelter. Since 2020 she is the WAVE Youth Ambassador representing Montenegro.

# Sexual violence: proposals from feminist organisations to combat this violence against women and girls

Karishma Wadhvani Chatlani

Sexual violence is one of the most brutal, widespread, and invisible manifestations of gender-based violence in the world, leaving after-effects on the survivors that are particularly difficult to overcome. It affects women throughout their life, both in the public sphere and in their intimate relationships. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), 1 in 3 women have experienced physical and sexual violence in all regions of the world, including Western Europe.<sup>1</sup>

Women around the world, especially those most vulnerable to violence, such as children and women with disabilities, are subjected to multiple and diverse types of sexual violence, including sexual and street harassment, sexual assault, female genital mutilation, trafficking for sexual exploitation, forced marriages, and violations of sexual and reproductive rights, among many others.

As far as Spain is concerned, a comprehensive approach to sexual violence committed against women

and children is still a pending challenge. Fortunately, progress is in sight; if all goes well, with the approval in the courts and implementation of the draft of the organic law on comprehensive guarantee of sexual freedom, which aims to protect the right to sexual freedom through the prevention and eradication of all sexual violence against women, girls and boys, as fundamental victims of sexualised violence.

A relevant measure of this law is that it eliminates the distinction made in Spain between “sexual aggression” (agresión sexual) and “sexual abuse” (abuso sexual), considering sexual aggression as all those behaviours that violate sexual freedom without the consent of the other person, thus complying with the obligations assumed by Spain since it ratified the Istanbul Convention in 2014.

We are facing a reality of undeniable seriousness in our country, as corroborated by the data provided by the Ministry of the Interior, which revealed in 2018 that in Spain women reported a rape every five hours.<sup>2</sup>

On the other hand, the 2019 Macro-survey on Violence Against Women revealed that 13.7% of all women aged 16 and over living in Spain (i.e. 2,802,914 women) have suffered some form of sexual violence during their lifetime.<sup>3</sup>

More recent data published in October indicate that, up to the 30th of September of this year 2021, 1601 rapes have been registered in Spain.<sup>4</sup>

In addition, 12.4% of women who have experienced non-partner sexual violence state that more than one



Federación de Asociaciones de Mujeres Arena y Laurisilva (FAMAL) annual meeting 2021

1 <https://www.who.int/es/news/item/09-03-2021-devastatingly-pervasive-1-in-3-women-globally-experience-violence>

2 [http://www.interior.gob.es/documents/642317/13041442/Informe\\_sobre\\_violencia\\_contra\\_la\\_mujer\\_2015-2019\\_126210076.pdf/8b4a2cc8-530e-4927-b79f-d1f2ad004d36](http://www.interior.gob.es/documents/642317/13041442/Informe_sobre_violencia_contra_la_mujer_2015-2019_126210076.pdf/8b4a2cc8-530e-4927-b79f-d1f2ad004d36)

3 [https://violenciagenero.igualdad.gob.es/violenciaEnCifras/macroencuesta2015/pdf/Macroencuesta\\_2019\\_estudio\\_investigacion.pdf](https://violenciagenero.igualdad.gob.es/violenciaEnCifras/macroencuesta2015/pdf/Macroencuesta_2019_estudio_investigacion.pdf)

4 <https://www.epdata.es/datos/denuncias-delitos-agresion-abuso-sexual-datos-graficos/251>



15 feminist organisations gathered in Fuerteventura to work on proposals for a model of support centre for sexualised violence

person was involved in the sexual assaults<sup>5</sup>. According to a recent study by the Ministry of the Interior, sexual perpetrators who act in groups tend to be younger, between 25 and 33 years of age, and do so mainly in festive, entertainment and pleasure settings or on weekend nights<sup>6</sup>.

These new packs of sexual perpetrators do not come out of the woodwork, there is a whole breeding ground that creates and sustains them. We live in a patriarchal society that has given a negative treatment to sexuality, filling it with myths and stereotypes, objectifying women, which leads to erroneous attitudes and behaviours that promote inequality between women and men on the one hand, and sexual violence on the other.

Likewise, in the absence of a proper affective and sexual education, young people are turning to pornography at increasingly younger ages. 7 out of 10 Spanish adolescents between 13 and 17 years of age view pornography on a frequent basis; the pornographic industry being their only source of sexual information<sup>7</sup>.

Sexualised violence is not an individual issue, but a social issue; and it is not a temporary problem, but a structural one, closely related to a certain sexual culture rooted in discriminatory patterns that must be transformed. To do so, it is necessary to implement measures aimed at providing comprehensive and specialised care to victims, as well as measures aimed at raising awareness and preventing this type of violence in all areas, until all spaces are safe for women.

5 [https://violenciagenero.igualdad.gob.es/violenciaEnCifras/macroencuesta2015/pdf/Principales\\_Resultados\\_Macroencuesta2019.pdf](https://violenciagenero.igualdad.gob.es/violenciaEnCifras/macroencuesta2015/pdf/Principales_Resultados_Macroencuesta2019.pdf)

6 [http://www.interior.gob.es/documents/642317/1203227/Agresores\\_sexuales\\_con\\_victima\\_desconocida\\_126180061\\_web.pdf/0891f2f4-29a5-4a89-b4e2-668cf02f7538](http://www.interior.gob.es/documents/642317/1203227/Agresores_sexuales_con_victima_desconocida_126180061_web.pdf/0891f2f4-29a5-4a89-b4e2-668cf02f7538)

7 [http://www.infocop.es/view\\_article.asp?id=8227](http://www.infocop.es/view_article.asp?id=8227)



Olga Barrera Trujillo, FAMAL's President being interviewed by the press

In October 2021 our organisation, Federación de Asociaciones de Mujeres Arena y Laurisilva (FAMAL) organised its annual meeting, where sexualised violence was the central theme addressed. Professional representatives from different areas of the administration that intervene with survivors of sexual violence (such as the judiciary, the health sector, state security forces and resources) specialised in intervention with survivors of gender-based violence, were invited so the feminist organisations were able to learn about the response given to women by public administrations in the face of this serious problem. Through their contributions, our member associations generated a model of a specialised support centre for survivors of sexual violence that needs to be created in terms of awareness-raising, prevention and intervention. We were able to create a resource that provides a comprehensive response to both women and society as a whole to combat sexualised violence.

The aim was to present a variety of proposals by feminist organisations who work daily with survivors, to share with all political groups and different administrations, at a national, regional and local level, where we work.

Here are some of the contributions, demands and proposals for improvement from the Judiciary, Forensic Medicine, Health Service, State Security Forces and Women's Services of the Network for the Care of Victims of Gender-Based Violence of the Canary Islands:

- › Guaranteed specialised legal and psychological counselling for survivors from the very start of the process.
- › Have sufficient female staff in specialised units such as the National Police's Family and Women's Unit (known as UFAM in Spain) since a woman assaulted by a man will always feel more comfortable when attended by a woman. →



Feminist concentration against sexualised violence

- > Recording of the victim's testimony and use of this as pre-constituted evidence.
- > Taking biological samples from any person who offends; in the same way that any person who is arrested is profiled, having this would facilitate the work of the State Security Forces in these cases.

Next are some of the contributions and proposals for improvement put forward by the 15 organisations that make up the "Federación de Asociaciones de Mujeres Arena y Laurisilva" (FAMAL), its workers and volunteers:

- > Decentralisation of resources. The decentralised scenario must be addressed throughout the Spanish territory to ensure that rural areas and non-capital islands can also access resources without making it too difficult for them to access them.
- > Children's area. If any woman, for whatever reason, brings babies or minors in her care to the centre, they should be able to stay in a space and receive care while she receives the support and attention she requires.



Feminist concentration against sexualised violence

- > They must be permanent: guarantee that the resource will be maintained over time, by including it in multiannual budget lines that prevent the paralysis or elimination of the resources.
- > Specialisation with an intersectional approach (migrant, sexual diversity, ethnic, functional diversity, etc.)
- > To avoid re-victimisation: provide a reference figure, a professional who accompanies the woman throughout the entire process, being the person she can count on at all times, guiding her and facilitating the information of the case to the rest of the professionals who intervene, thus avoiding re-victimisation.

The annual meeting was extremely fruitful, as all organisations and professionals were able to exchange good practises and proposals for improvement. The final outcome was a document with over 50 suggestions for a model support centre for survivors of sexualised violence. ●



**Karishma Wadhvani Chatlani**

is a psychologist with a master's degree in EMDR Psychotherapy and in Humanistic Integrative Psychotherapy. She works at a support centre for survivors of gender-based violence in Fuerteventura (Canary Islands) and is responsible for the psychological treatment from a feminist and trauma-based approach of women and children, that belongs to Federación de Asociaciones de Mujeres Arena y Laurisilva.

In addition, she also works with youth, women and other specific groups, running workshops promoting equality, relationships based on non-violence, respect, solidarity, raising awareness on gender-based violence and sexual violence, as well as developing and implementing national and regional projects at her organisation.

# Sexualised violence against Older Women: the importance of multiagency collaboration

Dr. Sophia Balamoutsou

Illustration for MARVOW © Caterina Betti



Combating abuse against older women is a big challenge for organisations (public and non-governmental) as it intersects ageism and sexism. Especially, sexualised violence is a form of abuse which is very complex to identify and treat. Sexualised abuse against older women demands victim support organisations to create active channels of formal and informal multiagency collaboration at local and regional level.

Older women often struggle with financial means, for example there are limited opportunities to obtain employment thus having less financial independence. Furthermore, they may have cognitive impairment, health issues, including psychiatric illnesses, and may lack the capacity to defend themselves. Perpetrators of violence against older women differ from those of younger women. Although perpetrators are still those from their close environment, new forms of perpetration come together with the needs to care. In cases of sexualised violence against older women perpetration usually comes from their partners. However, in such cases the type of perpetrator also intersects with the

need of care of an older woman. Care takers are family members, paid care takers, neighbors. As a result, the perpetrator could be also a caregiver, employed to perform care work.

Sexualised violence against older women is often invisible and thus unidentified and untraced which renders victims fragile and unprotected. Even staff working with victims of violence sometimes miss out on incidents of sexualized violence. This type of violence is a taboo and involves violent sexual acts that are filled with shame, pain and other complex emotions both for the victims and often for the supporting professional. Therefore, raising awareness and tackling explicitly sexualized violence against older women in a systematic, co-ordinated, collaborative framework across agencies, should become a high priority in the society.

The Multi-Agency Responses to Violence against Older Women (MARVOW) Project aims to develop and implement a comprehensive multi-agency collaboration model when working with elderly victims of abuse. →

→ The project partners conducted several meetings with a wide range of professionals in Austria, Estonia and Greece. This brought together stakeholders working with older women from health services, social services, police, geriatric care, women counselling services, women's shelters, crisis intervention centers, and others. The aim was a) to involve both front line workers and policymakers to identify the gaps that exist within current systems that hinder their ability to adequately serve older victims and b) to suggest *bottom-up changes* that can be sustainable and operational. Approximately 20 meetings took place in each country. In addition to these meetings there were a series of meetings discussing real cases (all names and details were changed to protect anonymity) in order to find a *modus operandi* that could make workers more efficient in tackling violence against older women. An unexpected result of these meetings was that participants appreciated the discussions and the possibility to have an *open space* for sharing. This opportunity forged synergies between front line workers. The model will be evaluated before being disseminated in the form of training to a wider audience of policymakers and service providers in partner countries (Austria, Estonia, Greece, Germany) and throughout Europe, with the purpose of replicating good practice examples

As part of the WAVE conference, the MARVOW partners from Greece presented a workshop where they explored a case of sexualised violence against an older woman. The participants have worked as a group to explore ways to support those affected by violence through multiagency collaboration, to discuss what this approach entails and what are the steps that each stakeholder should take. During the workshop, participants also explored ways of supporting and empowering the victim and further discussed the most effective ways of working with perpetrators in a victim-centred way, while taking responsibility for their actions. Finally, participants were invited to share how they would have worked with such a case from their role in their organisation.

The discussion yield the following: sexualised violence was seen as a complex form of violence when it involves older women. Systematic protocols of multi-agency collaboration were seen as hugely helpful in combating violence against older women. A stepped approach in developing collaboration was seen as sustainable in the long run. Individual roles and responsibilities were discussed and the importance to have specific representatives in organisations working with victims of (sexualised) violence was recognised. Furthermore, skills development and capacity building were identified as necessary for front line workers. ●

#### Acknowledgments:

Alicja Switon (AÖF), Elena Floriani (WAVE) and the MARVOW team partners.

#### References:

<https://marvow.eu/>

[https://www.wave-network.org/wp-content/uploads/Tisova\\_Training-handbook\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.wave-network.org/wp-content/uploads/Tisova_Training-handbook_ENG.pdf)



**Dr. Sophia Balamoutsou** is a Psychologist and Counsellor, working as a scientific advisor and supervisor at the Union of Women Association of Heraklion, Crete, Greece. UWAH is an organization aiming to prevent and combat Gender Based Violence. She has studied and worked for

many years in the UK and now teaches and practices counselling in Greece. She is the Chair of the Scientific Committee of the World Association of Person Centred and Experiential Psychotherapy and Counselling. She is a Chartered Psychologist and Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society and Accredited Member of the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy. She teaches counseling at the Institute for Counselling and Psychological Studies, Athens, Greece.

# Sharing insightful publications

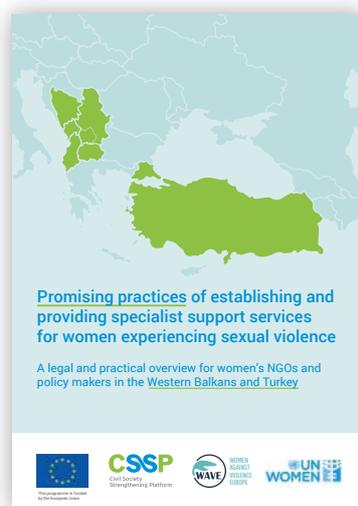
In September 2021, the CSSP Platform published the following policy paper about promising practices in establishing specialist support services for women experiencing sexual violence.

Anca Ciupa, WAVE Office

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

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*, aim 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 paper and executive summary were developed in frame of the EU/UN Women on-going programme: "Ending Violence against Women: Implementing norms, changing minds", through the project "Strengthening the capacities of regional CSOs networks for policy advocacy, knowledge-based expansion and partnership facilitation on sexual violence in the Western Balkans and Turkey". The overall programme aims to end gender-based discrimination and violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey, with a focus on Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey.<sup>1</sup>



Through the EU/UN Women programme, WAVE together with seven women's NGOs of the mentioned above project countries has established in 2017 the Civil Society Strengthening Platform ([cssplatform.org](http://cssplatform.org)).

With a view of addressing the gaps in the region identified when it comes to providing specialised support services to victims of sexual violence,<sup>2</sup> the policy paper highlights promising practices implemented by women's NGOs and other stakeholders when supporting victims of sexual violence, and on establishing a common language when it comes to the type of specialist support services highlighted by the **Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence**<sup>3</sup>, namely: rape crisis and sexual violence referral centres.

language when it comes to the type of specialist support services highlighted by the **Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence**<sup>3</sup>, namely: rape crisis and sexual violence referral centres.

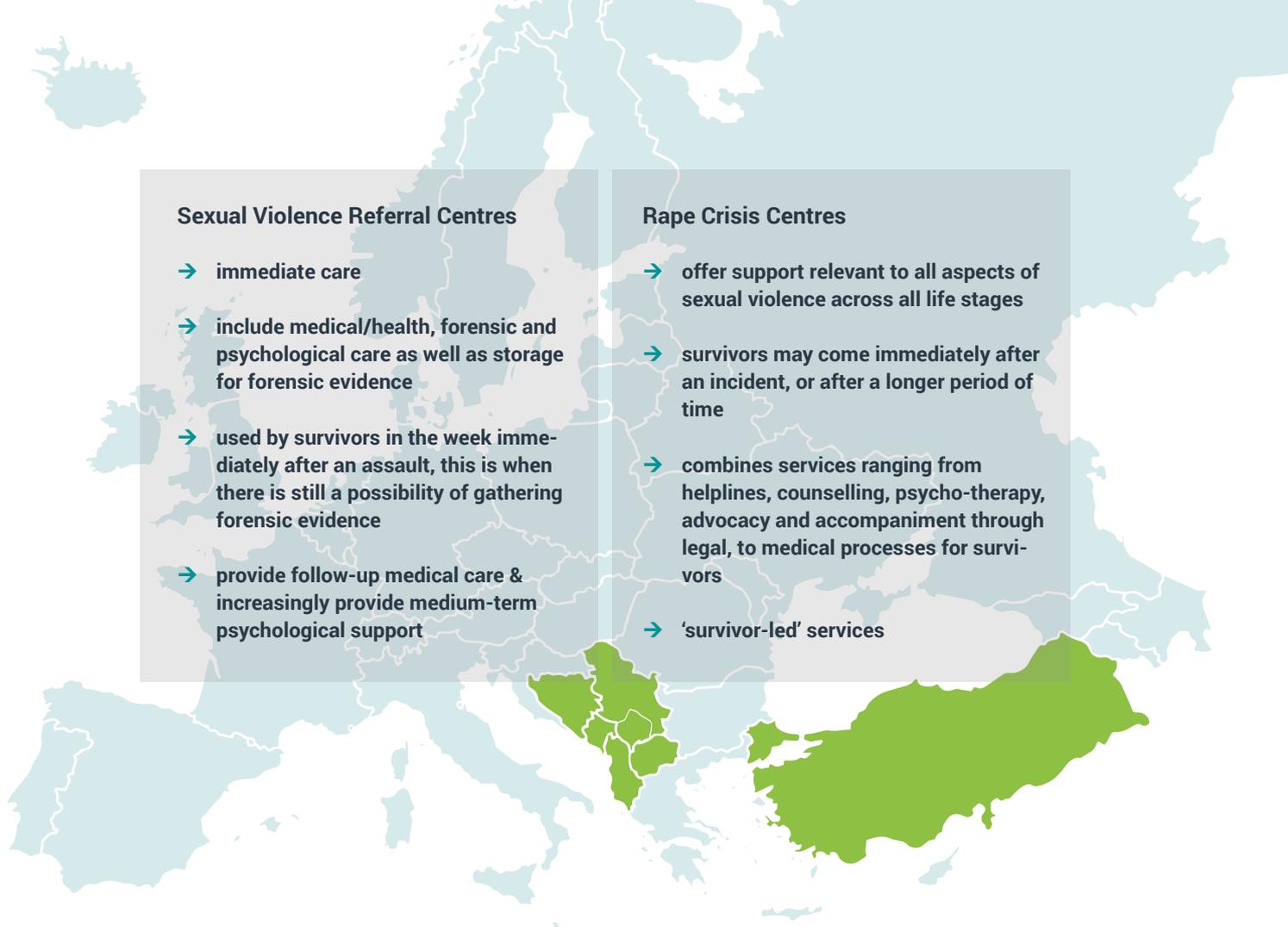
The policy paper outlines a process of scaling and learning for women's NGOs and national policy makers in the region and assesses the need for specialised support of victims of sexual violence, expanding on the principles, concepts and rationale underlying the rape crisis model, relying partly on the experience and standards developed in Ireland.

The policy paper was developed with the help of two international experts, Biljana Brankovic, International Council of Europe Consultant and Group of Experts on Action against Violence against women and Domestic →

1 <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/regional-programme-in-the-western-balkans-and-turkey>

2 Only three out of seven partner countries have identified some sort of specialised sexual violence services, which are often poorly implemented and lack government support and funding.

3 <https://rm.coe.int/168046031c>



### Sexual Violence Referral Centres

- immediate care
- include medical/health, forensic and psychological care as well as storage for forensic evidence
- used by survivors in the week immediately after an assault, this is when there is still a possibility of gathering forensic evidence
- provide follow-up medical care & increasingly provide medium-term psychological support

### Rape Crisis Centres

- offer support relevant to all aspects of sexual violence across all life stages
- survivors may come immediately after an incident, or after a longer period of time
- combines services ranging from helplines, counselling, psycho-therapy, advocacy and accompaniment through legal, to medical processes for survivors
- 'survivor-led' services

→ Violence (GREVIO)<sup>4</sup> member in Serbia, and Clóna Saidléar, Director of Rape Crisis Network Ireland.

The policy paper and its executive summary focus on offering promising practices identified across the region of the 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.

<sup>4</sup> Biljana Brankovic worked on this project in her own capacity, therefore opinions expressed in the paper cannot be attributed to GREVIO as a whole.

For more information access the website of the Civil Society Strengthening Platform here: <https://cssplatform.org/promising-practices-of-establishing-and-providing-specialist-support-services-for-women-experiencing-sexual-violence-a-legal-and-practical-overview-for-womens-ngos-and-policy-makers-in-the-w>. ●



**Anca Ciupa** has a Bachelor's Degree in Law at the Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania and a Master's Degree in European and National Business Law also obtained in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, Babes-Bolyai University. Additionally, she has obtained a postgraduate diploma

in International Relations at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna in June 2014. Before working at WAVE, Anca was a co-author on a research project, "Analysis of the draft law to permit the Rosia Montana mining proposal", where she was in charge with reviewing environmental legislation, decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and illustrating opinions in the report. She is a strong advocate of human rights and passionate about bringing her own contribution in this environment. Since 2021, Anca Ciupa is the Team Lead of the WAVE Office.

## What has happened in the fight against violence against women?

In the 2020 Fempower Magazine, we focused on feminist resilience in Europe during 2020, particularly in regard to political backlash, right-wing extremism, gender neutral policy, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing demands for support. As we continue to deal with the repercussions of the pandemic as well as the global rise of violence against women and girls, we want to highlight the importance of feminist resilience also in this year's magazine and emphasize that it is crucial to join forces in order to protect and support survivors of all forms of violence against women and girls.

# The many facets of women's specialist services in pandemic times – achievements and reflections from WAVE members

Maria Knaub, WAVE Office

Stay at home, save lives. During the beginning of the pandemic, this was one of the most often cited recommendations to stop the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and to stay safe. However, for many women experiencing violence, home was the least safe place to be. And for many professionals from women's specialist support services, saving lives meant risking their own health on a daily basis.

Amidst the chaos of the pandemic's heyday, the WAVE Network quickly reacted to support its members. We established a grant that was made possible thanks to the support of Oak Foundation, with the aim of supporting our members on the frontline to ease the costs of implementing emergency measures. In collaboration with the German fund filia. die frauenstiftung, twenty WAVE members received this emergency grant. One year later, we want to revisit our members, explore how they navigated these uncertain times and find out how this grant improved the lives of women and girls.

The twenty organisations that received the grant represented 12 countries in total: **Albania, Armenia, Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Kosovo, Malta, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania and Russia**. All selected organizations can be considered small organisations with an immediate need of financial support. All organisations further described supporting clients from marginalized groups as well, such as ethnic minorities, elderly women, LGBTIQ+ women and others. In total, around 17,000 women and their children were given support through the WAVE members receiving this



grant. Let's take a journey through Europe and explore what this grant made possible.

## From virtual spaces...

Continuing to provide psycho-social and legal counselling during the pandemic was crucial for all WAVE members. As our members from Greece, the European Anti-Violence Network, put it: "From our ethical point of view, we cannot stop supporting survivors and their children – even though most of the time we are all working on a voluntary basis." With many countries implementing isolation and lockdown measures, women's specialist services had to find new ways of providing support. In this case, technology really was able to bridge a gap. All grantees described investing in technical equipment to improve their IT infrastructure and to diversify their support services. From telephone answering machines, mobile phones for survivors in rural areas, laptops and software tools, to webchat functions, streamlined websites and online trainings – the reports of our members are filled with examples of their ingenuity. For many organisations this increased demand led to higher telephone, internet and energy bills which this grant was able to absorb. However, this investment into infrastructure is clearly a sustainable one as our member Autonomia from Poland describes: "In a way, the grant made our work possible. And it will →

continue to do so, since most of the budget went into a technical equipment which we will be able to still use in years to come. [...] We've received the Urgent Response grant at a pretty bleak time for us. We were facing difficulties and challenges due to the pandemic and overall socio-political situation in Poland and we felt ill-equipped to handle this ever-changing situation, especially since the majority of our work has always been in-person activities. The grant from your organization enabled us to still be present for people we're helping - this time virtually."

## ...to the frontlines

At the same time, not all services our members offered where this virtual. As many decision-makers were overloaded with managing the pandemic, civil society often had to step in and perform the basic responsibilities of government. Our member Domine from Split (Croatia) illustrates this particularly well: "The most inspiring thing was that when the system went silent, citizens took action. Citizens of Split let us use their empty apartments as urgent accommodation, artists organized to raise money, organisations around Dalmatia helped each other and helped us organize accommodation for women outside of Split." Many grantees took to covering the basic needs of survivors and their children fleeing from violence, such as providing clothes, shoes and even food. There was a large demand in sanitary supplies such as hygiene kits, disinfectants and protective masks. Enlarging shelters with additional spaces was also necessary, with some members reporting needing to buy extra furniture. In one specific case, this made it possible to offer a safe, short-term accommodation for a woman and her child in a time of extremely urgency.

## More than a shelter and a roof

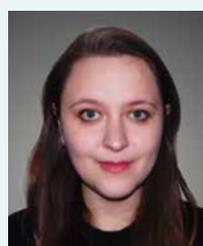
Despite the difficult times, our members continued providing sustainable and holistic support. Education and training for survivors plays a big part in ensuring their economic independence and a self-determined life. The Women's Rights Center from Armenia for instance mentions providing online workshops on legislation that is especially relevant for survivors to claim their rights. At the same time, many members gave career counselling for economic empowerment. Many women were supported with job applications and job hunting. They also received accounting trainings to manage home budgets and were taught on how to safely use the internet. As a survivor that received support from Association for Liberty and Equality of Gender (A.L.E.G.) puts it: "Having learnt new skills to manage my own budget, I can gain more financial independence which will help me end the violent relationship with my partner. I did not realize the link between

domestic violence and financial autonomy. I am glad I know now what a healthy relationship should look like in a couple. It's important to realize the subtle ways in which you get financially manipulated and controlled. Economic abuse is still abuse."

## Support for support providers

Let's go back to the beginning of this article. What about all the professionals working in women's specialist services and their needs? Amidst the turmoil of this health crisis, the people risking their lives every day on the frontlines are easily overlooked. Thus, we are happy to hear that this grant did enable our members to build their capacity and to ease at least some of the burden of the pandemic. Many members report back that the grant enabled them to implement burnout prevention mechanisms in their organisation: these took the shape of hiring psychological support for counsellors, giving them self-care packages and hiring additional staff to manage the increased workload. The example of our Armenian member Sexual Assault Crisis Center, that in addition to the pandemic also faced a war in 2020, speaks for itself: "It was possible to receive support for the beneficiaries from other funds, but no one provided funds for the employees. We had the opportunity with this grant to support employees in overcoming their stress, so that they could continue to provide support to the beneficiaries. The COVID-19 pandemic intensified and a second wave started in Armenia. In this situation, the support was first irreplaceable for the employees of the organization, as well as the beneficiaries."

We want to thank Oak Foundation for giving us the opportunity to support our members during these challenging times and filia. die frauenstiftung for the valuable cooperation and management of the grant.



**Maria Knaub** has a Bachelor's Degree in East Asian Studies and is currently finishing her Master's in Development Studies at the University of Vienna. She is passionate about intersectional feminism, gender equality and social justice. Previously, she has worked in a variety of positions

and industries, spanning from algorithm research to international development cooperation. She started as the interim Office Administrator and Project Assistant at the WAVE Network and is now the Grant Development & Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator since 2021.

## WAVE Members

	NAME OF ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
1	Albanian Women Empowerment Network (AWEN)	Albania
2	Counseling Line for Women and Girls	Albania
3	Gender Alliance for Development Center (GADC)	Albania
4	Human Rights in Democracy Center (HRDC)	Albania
5	Women's Association "Refleksione"	Albania
6	Women's Forum Elbasan	Albania
7	Woman to Woman	Albania
8	Center for Legal Civic Initiatives	Albania
9	Psycho-Social Centre "Vatra"	Albania
10	Women Centre "Light Steps"	Albania
11	Women's Support Center (WSC)	Armenia
12	Women's Rights Center (WRC)	Armenia
13	Sexual Assault Crisis Center (SACC)	Armenia
14	Austrian Women's Shelter Network and Information Centre Against Violence	Austria
15	Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre Vienna	Austria
16	Network of Austrian Counseling Centres for Women and Girls	Austria
17	Renate Egger (Individual Member)	Austria
18	Clean World AID to WOMEN (Clean World Social Union)	Azerbaijan
19	International Public Association „Gender Perspectives“	Belarus
20	Law Initiative – Commission on Women's Rights	Belarus
21	Collective Against Family Violence and Exclusion	Belgium
22	Garance ASBL	Belgium
23	Foundation "United Women" Banja Luka	Bosnia and Herzegovina
24	"Medica" Zenica Information	Bosnia and Herzegovina
25	Alliance for Protection against Gender-Based Violence	Bulgaria
26	Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation	Bulgaria
27	NADJA Centre Foundation	Bulgaria
28	Gender Alternatives Foundation (GAF)	Bulgaria
29	Autonomous Women's House Zagreb	Croatia
30	B.a.B.e. Be active. Be emancipated	Croatia
31	Centre for Women War Victims – ROSA	Croatia
32	Women's Room – Center for Sexual Rights	Croatia
33	domine – Organization for the Promotion of Women's Rights	Croatia
34	Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS)	Cyprus
35	Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family	Cyprus
36	Association of Women to Support Living	Northern Cyprus
37	proFem – Center for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence	Czech Republic
38	ROSA Center for Women	Czech Republic
39	LOKK – National Organisation of Women's Shelters in Denmark	Denmark

	NAME OF ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
40	Danner	Denmark
41	Women's Support and Information Centre	Estonia
42	Pärnu Women's Support Centre	Estonia
43	Women's Line Finland	Finland
44	Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters	Finland
45	National Federation of Women Solidarity	France
46	Women for Women France	France
47	Anti-Violence Network of Georgia (AVNG)	Georgia
48	Cultural Humanitarian Fund "Sukhumi"	Georgia
49	Union Sakhli – Consultation Centre for Women	Georgia
50	Women's Information Center (WIC)	Georgia
51	Democrat Women's Organization of Samtskhe-Javakheti	Georgia
52	BIG e.V. – Berlin Initiative against Violence against Women	Germany
53	Women's Refuge Coordination	Germany
54	bff – Federal Association of Rape Crisis Centres and Women's Counselling Centres	Germany
55	GESINE Network „Gesundheit.EN“	Germany
56	kofra – Communication Center for Women on the Work and Life Situation	Germany
57	papatya – Crisis Facility for Young Migrant Women	Germany
58	ZIF – Central Information Center for Autonomous Women's Shelters	Germany
59	Prof. i.r. dr. phil. Carol Hagemann-White (Honorary Member)	Germany
60	Karin Heisecke (Individual Member)	Germany
61	Alina Kuhl (Individual Member)	Germany
62	European Anti-Violence Network (EAVN)	Greece
63	Union of Women Associations of Heraklion Prefecture	Greece
64	NANE – Women's Rights Association	Hungary
65	Stígamót – Counseling and Information Centre on Sexual Violence	Iceland
66	Women's Shelter Association	Iceland
67	Sexual Violence Centre Cork	Ireland
68	Rape Crisis Network Ireland	Ireland
69	Safe Ireland	Ireland
70	Women's Aid Ireland	Ireland
71	D.i.Re – National Women's Network against Violence	Italy
72	National Association of Volunteers of the Telefono Rosa Onlus	Italy
73	Silvia Menecali (Individual Member)	Italy
74	Dr. Cristina Gamberi (Individual Member)	Italy
75	Differenza Donna – Women and Girls against Violence	Italy
76	BeFree Social Cooperative	Italy
77	Paola Degani (Individual Member)	Italy
78	Women's Wellness Centre (WWC)	Kosovo
79	Kosovar Gender Studies Center	Kosovo
80	Crisis and Counselling Centre "Skalbes"	Latvia

	NAME OF ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
81	Women's Shelter Liechtenstein	Liechtenstein
82	Vilnius Women's House	Lithuania
83	Women in Distress	Luxembourg
84	Dr. Marceline Naudi (Individual Member)	Malta
85	Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence	Malta
86	Network Forum Malta	Malta
87	Migrant Women Association Malta	Malta
88	Association against Violence "Casa Mărioarei"	Moldova
89	Center for Support and Development of Civic Initiatives "Resonance"	Moldova
90	Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims "Memoria"	Moldova
91	Women's Law Centre	Moldova
92	National Coalition "Life without Violence in the Family"	Moldova
93	SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Nikšić	Montenegro
94	Women's Safe House	Montenegro
95	Association "Valente"	Netherlands
96	National Council for Gender Equality (NCGE)	North Macedonia
97	National Network to end Violence against Women and Domestic Violence – Voice against Violence	North Macedonia
98	Secretariat of the Shelter Movement	Norway
99	Autonomy Foundation	Poland
100	Centrum Praw Kobiet	Poland
101	AMCV – Associação de Mulheres contra a Violência	Portugal
102	A.L.E.G. Association for liberty and equality of gender	Romania
103	Anais Association	Romania
104	Artemis – Counselling center against sexual abuse	Romania
105	CPE – Center Partnership and Equality	Romania
106	Necuvinte Association	Romania
107	Filia Center	Romania
108	Sensiblu Foundation	Romania
109	ANNA – National Center for Prevention of Violence	Russia
110	Crisis Center "Ekaterina"	Russia
111	Nizhny Novgorod Women's Crisis Center	Russia
112	Interregional Non-Governmental Organization for the Support of Family, Motherhood, and Childhood "Doctors to Children"	Russia
113	Crisis Center for Women – Institute of Non-Discriminative Gender Interrelations (INGI)	Russia
114	We Believe You	Russia
115	Autonomous Women's Center (AWC)	Serbia
116	Association Fenomena	Serbia
117	Oasis of Safety	Serbia
118	The Association of Women Sandglass	Serbia
119	Daje – Roma Center for Women and Children	Serbia
120	Human Rights Committee Vranje	Serbia

	NAME OF ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
121	...IZ KRUGA – VOJVODINA, organization for the support of women with disabilities	Serbia
122	Alliance of Women in Slovakia	Slovakia
123	Fenestra	Slovakia
124	Society SOS Telephone	Slovenia
125	Association for Nonviolent Communication	Slovenia
126	Association Another time	Spain
127	Aspacia Foundation	Spain
128	Assistance Center to Sexual Aggression Victims	Spain
129	Directorate general for Gender-based Violence, Youth Affairs and Juvenile Crime	Spain
130	HELIA – Women Association	Spain
131	Unitary Platform Against Gender Violence	Spain
132	Federation of Women's Associations Arena and Laurisilva	Spain
133	Roks – National Organisation for Women's Shelters and Young Women's Shelters in Sweden	Sweden
134	Unizon	Sweden
135	Women's Solidarity Organization of Switzerland and Liechtenstein	Switzerland
136	Violence Que Faire (Violence What to do?)	Switzerland
137	Brava – Together against Violence Against Women	Switzerland
138	Foundation for Women's Solidarity	Turkey
139	Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation	Turkey
140	Kadriye Bakırcı	Turkey
141	Mor Salkım Women's Association	Turkey
142	AKDAM – Adana Women's Solidarity Center and Shelter Association	Turkey
143	International Women's Rights Center La Strada-Ukraine	Ukraine
144	Women's Information Consultative Center (WICC)	Ukraine
145	Women's Perspectives Center	Ukraine
146	Imkaan	United Kingdom
147	Latin American Women's Aid (LAWA)	United Kingdom
148	London Black Women's Project	United Kingdom
149	Refuge	United Kingdom
150	Scottish Women's Aid	United Kingdom
151	Welsh Women's Aid	United Kingdom
152	Women's Aid Federation of England	United Kingdom
153	Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland	United Kingdom
154	Solace Women's Aid	United Kingdom
155	Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRSS)	United Kingdom
156	Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse (STADV)	United Kingdom
157	Greta Squire (Individual Member)	United Kingdom
158	Shazia Choudhry (Individual Member)	United Kingdom
159	Beverley Gilbert (Individual Member)	United Kingdom
160	Lily Greenan (Individual Member)	United Kingdom



## Behind the Cover Art

**Menah Wellen** is an illustrator from Amsterdam (Netherlands). She created this illustration for the 23<sup>rd</sup> WAVE Conference entitled "Breaking the Cycle: Preventing and Tackling Sexualised Violence against Women and Children", which took place online on October 6–7, 2021. In light of the conference, this year's issue of the WAVE Fempower magazine serves as an additional resource of sharing and reflecting on promising and inclusive practices in providing women's specialist support to survivors of sexualised violence.

[www.menah.nl](http://www.menah.nl)



**WOMEN  
AGAINST  
VIOLENCE  
EUROPE**

## **Values**

Feminism<sup>1</sup>, solidarity, intersectionality, equality, respect, transparency and human rights.

## **Vision**

A world where all forms of discrimination and violence against women<sup>2</sup> and their children have been eliminated and all women and girls are able to enjoy their human rights.

## **Purpose**

The WAVE Network exists for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and their children, to strengthen the human rights of diverse women and girls and to ensure their right to access all services that help them live their lives free from violence.

## **Mission**

To enable all women and their children to live free from violence, particularly through strengthening and sustaining a European network of specialized support and prevention services, experts and survivors. To share expertise and experience to prevent, challenge, address and ultimately end violence against all women and their children, through an intersectional feminist approach.

1 = WAVE defines the term feminist to mean aiming at de jure and de facto equality between women and men in all areas of society.  
See WAVE Statutes, page 1 reference 3.

2 = WAVE understands the structural nature of violence against women as gender-based violence and that violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men.