

# 27th WAVE Conference

## “Feminist Solidarity and Collective Action: Reclaiming our Power to End Violence Against Women”

Date : 22–23 September 2025

Place : Bucharest, Romania



### Organisers

This year's conference is organised by the WAVE Office in cooperation with the Romanian WAVE Member Organisations A.L.E.G. Association for liberty and equality of gender, Anais Association, Necuvinte Association, and Dr. Max Foundation.

### Description

Across Europe and beyond, the progress achieved through decades of feminist struggle is currently being severely challenged. Women's specialist services (WSS), vital lifelines in both the prevention of and response to violence against women and girls (VAWG), face increased strain amid policy rollbacks, funding cuts, political oppression and intensifying anti-feminist narratives while violence rates remain high and demand for their services continues to grow. However, this moment calls not for despair, but for a renewed visibilisation of our collective power. For over 50 years, WSS across Europe have demonstrated unwavering resilience, protecting and advancing women's rights, shaping policies, and driving social change. The WAVE Conference 2025 is an opportunity to reaffirm our unbreakable spirit, amplify feminist solidarity and forge strategic alliances to resist aforementioned threats.

Our movement has always been at its strongest when rooted in grassroots organising, fueled by the passion and dedication of individuals coming together in their communities to stop violence against women and girls. This conference is a call to reignite that spirit and the power of collective action from the ground up. This is a moment to remember what we can achieve when we centre our values: grassroots mobilisation, community building, and feminist support.

Under the theme *"Feminist Solidarity and Collective Action: Reclaiming our Power to End Violence Against Women"*, we aim to transform the narrative from one of backlash to one of united commitment, strategic alliance-building, and resourceful organising.

This conference will celebrate the transformative power of WSS and create a space for:

- Exploring policy gaps, funding challenges, and the implications of regressive trends while countering anti-feminist narratives and reclaiming space for feminist advocacy in reaching broader audiences;
- Demonstrating the social and economic value of investing in WSS, building on their indispensable role in preventing and tackling VAWG;
- Strengthening intergenerational collaboration among feminists;
- Expanding feminist solidarity across borders and movements.

We will analyse the current challenges and their impact on women's rights while, more importantly, identifying the opportunities for growth and innovation within this crisis. By challenging misinformation and reframing the discussion, we can reclaim the expertise and perspective that feminist civil society brings to policy development, political discussions and beyond, and promote inclusive and empowering messages to reach the 'moveable middle' within the wider population.


We are not alone in this fight – we are a global community of activists, advocates, and allies united by our shared vision of a more just and equitable world. Feminist solidarity enables us to embody new ways of using power not to dominate and oppress, but to build resilience, share resources, and amplify our collective impact. It also means centring the voices and experiences of women at the intersection of multiple systems of oppression. It requires a shift in privilege and a deep understanding of how these systems of oppression enable and perpetuate structural discrimination and violence with devastating costs for women, children, and society at large. Feminist solidarity calls for mobilising underused resources by tapping into the vast potential of our extended network and identifying new sources of support.


With a network of over 180 members representing 1,600 women's organisations across 46 countries, WAVE is a powerful collective of feminist activists and women's human rights defenders, united in their dedication to advancing a world free from gender-based violence.

We hope that the 27th WAVE Conference will be a powerful space for connection, strategic organising, and solidarity, and we look forward to coming together in Bucharest, Romania, to reclaim our power and strengthen our collective action to end VAWG.



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