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WAVE NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE WAVE NETWORK



FEBRUARY 2024

Dear fellow dedicated feminist activists,
we are happy to share with you the second WAVE Newsletter of the new year. Let's find out what happened inside and outside WAVE in February 2024!

THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER INCLUDES

- **WAVE Board & Team planning meeting,**
- **A Step Forward, Yet Many Missed Opportunities: WAVE's Initial Response to the EU Directive on Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence,**
- **Revision of the EU Victims' Rights Directive: Urgent call to EU negotiators to strengthen rights of all victims of crime regardless of residence status,**
- **Training Manual: Preventing And Responding To GBV During The War And In Post-War Settings,**
- **Welcoming our new WAVE President Susana Pavlou,**
- **WAVE Regranting 2024,**
- **💡 WAVE's Must Read,**
- **WAVE voices from Cyprus, Croatia, Armenia, and Albania.**

This newsletter covers updates from the WAVE Network and WAVE members including political developments from across Europe.

WAVE EVENTS

WAVE BOARD & TEAM PLANNING MEETING



From 8-9 February, the WAVE Board joined the WAVE team in Vienna, Austria, for our **annual in-person planning meeting**. Throughout the two-day event, we delved into discussions around WAVE's strategic priorities, internal processes, upcoming activities, advocacy, communications, and research. A key aspect of our planning centred on WAVE's 30th anniversary. As we look ahead to the developments of 2024, both within and beyond the WAVE Network, one constant remains true – **our collective strength is our greatest asset**.

WAVE NEWS

WAVE'S INITIAL RESPONSE TO THE EU DIRECTIVE

On 6 February, a pivotal moment unfolded as the **European Council and the European Parliament reached a political agreement on the proposed EU Directive** on combating violence against women and domestic violence. Our response to the agreement reached reflects a combination of cautious optimism with significant disappointment. The new EU Directive **brings progress** such as through the promotion of consent culture and the focus on tackling online crimes, yet there are **significant gaps** like the absence of a consent-based rape definition and the insufficient protection of vulnerable groups that fall short of our expectations and the needs of women in Europe.

[READ WAVE'S INITIAL RESPONSE HERE AND STAND UNITED WITH US!](#)

REVISION OF THE EU VICTIMS' RIGHTS DIRECTIVE

On 22 February, WAVE joined PICUM and La Strada International as well as over 40 human rights organisations in calling for the revision of the **EU Victims' Rights Directive** to strengthen rights of all victims of crime **regardless of residence status**: "Now, more than ever, the EU must stand firmly against discrimination, ensuring justice, support, and protection for all victims of crime. We stand ready to collaborate with the EU institutions to create a future where victim rights are inviolable, no matter who they are or whatever residence status they have."

[READ THE JOINT STATEMENT HERE!](#)

TRAINING MANUAL: PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO GBV DURING THE WAR AND IN POST-WAR SETTINGS



TRAINING MANUAL
Preventing and responding to
gender-based violence during
the war and in post-war settings



Following the toolkit and the great interest received from national and international stakeholders, in 2023, the project partners of the WAVE/OSCE project developed a **training manual** to reach more women's organisations and other actors involved in supporting survivors of GBV. Through this training programme, the participants can learn about new strategies, share their experiences, and improve collaboration with other stakeholders, for instance through advocacy activities. This training manual addresses facilitators who intend **to deliver interactive training on conflict-related gender-based violence and the existing best practices/strategies employed by women's organisations.**

[ACCESS THE TRAINING MANUAL HERE!](#)

[THE TRAINING MANUAL IS AVAILABLE IN FIVE LANGUAGES: ENGLISH, BOSNIAN, GEORGIAN, ARMENIAN AND UKRAINIAN.](#)



PASSING THE TORCH AT WAVE

We are delighted to formally announce **Susana Pavlou** as our **new WAVE President!** With firm dedication to advancing our cause, Susana Pavlou is set to guide us into a future marked by resilience and progress. As we embrace this new chapter, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our **former President, Marcella Pirrone** whose leadership has been a guiding light for WAVE, filled with unwavering commitment and wisdom.



"It is an honour and a privilege to be elected President of this incredibly vibrant and dynamic feminist network. I have very large shoes to fill given the incredible women that have taken on this role. I want to thank Marcella Pirrone for her inspiring leadership these last years and for teaching me so much. I look forward to the new opportunities and challenges ahead and working together with my colleagues in the WAVE Board, our wonderful and competent team, and all the membership in our joint commitment to end violence against women and girls."



"My 4-year mandate as the President of WAVE has given me the honour to represent a network of feminist and competent activists who have been dedicated for 30 years to supporting and advocating for women's rights to live free of violence. A network I have belonged to for 27 years that has always been for me a place of feminist political thought, action and advocacy – a place where I found incredibly inspiring and caring sisters with whom to navigate through all challenges. Thank you all. I am certain that the new President Susana Pavlou, together with the WAVE Board, team and all members will continue to succeed in this important undertaking."

[GET TO KNOW THE WAVE BOARD HERE!](#)

WAVE REGRANTING 2024

WAVE's Regranting initiatives aim to strengthen the capacity of members through financial support. In 2024, we are able to continue our **EU-funded regranting to WAVE member organisations** in the EU (including OCT) to financially support them in developing actions to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and girls. WAVE members can apply until the 3rd of April 2024.

[MORE INFORMATION ON THE WAVE REGRANTING 2024 INITIATIVE HERE!](#)

MUST READ



Delve into the origins and objectives of the **WAVE Country Report**, and explore the impactful findings and significance of the latest report in our newest contribution on the [WAVE online Magazine](#).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

updates from WAVE Members and political developments

BREAKING THE SILENCE: EMPOWERING HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

Physiotherapists, as integral members of the healthcare system, play a crucial role in recognising and addressing signs of domestic abuse. Despite interacting closely with patients, instances of abuse often go unnoticed. In **Cyprus**, startling statistics from the "Online Professional Education for Physiotherapists and other healthcare professionals on domestic violence – OPEP-DV" project reveal a concerning reality: **only 17.6% of physiotherapists made referrals for victims of abuse, while 52.9% suspected abuse among their patients.**



In response, WAVE member **Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS)** partnered with the Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Combating of Violence in the Family to organise a groundbreaking training workshop. Held on 20 January 2024, at the University of Nicosia, this event aimed to **equip physiotherapists with the necessary tools to identify and support victims of abuse** effectively.

The workshop, a part of the OPEP-DV project, addressed the critical need for multidisciplinary cooperation and provided insights into the legal framework surrounding domestic abuse in Cyprus. With 20 professionals in attendance, it marked a significant step towards strengthening the support network for victims of violence.

Looking ahead, the project plans to launch an online training program in autumn 2024, accessible to physiotherapists and healthcare professionals for free. Stay tuned for more updates!

Written by WAVE member in Cyprus
Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS)

WHEN INSTITUTIONS DON'T LISTEN, WOMEN DISAPPEAR!

WAVE member **Centre for Women War Victims - ROSA** (Centar za Žene Žrtve Rata (CŽŽR) – ROSA), in cooperation with WAVE member **Autonomous Women's House Zagreb** (Autonomna Ženska Kuća Zagreb), conducted research on real experiences of women who survived violence and decided to seek help from institutions. On the basis of that research, the campaign "**WHEN INSTITUTIONS DON'T LISTEN, WOMEN DISAPPEAR!**" was carried out as part of the RISKFREE project, which was co-financed by the EU from the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) program.



The project is coordinated by the Autonomous Women's House Zagreb, and is implemented together with partner organisations Centre ROSA (Croatia), Union of Women's Associations Heraklion - UWAH (Greece), Association for Nonviolent Communication - DNK (Slovenia), NANE (Hungary) and Fenestra (Slovakia) who are also WAVE member organisations.

The campaign was advertised on digital billboards and social media on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the 16 Days of Activism campaign in all project partner countries. Through various communication channels, 500,000 - 700,000 citizens were reached in each country. The campaign is available on the following social media channels of the Centre ROSA: [Centre ROSA - Youtube](#) [Centre ROSA - Facebook](#) [Centre ROSA - Instagram](#)

Written by WAVE member in Croatia Centre for Women War Victims - ROSA
(Centar za Žene Žrtve Rata (CŽŽR) – ROSA)

ADVOCACY CHRONICLES: A DIALOGUE WITH MR. ROBERT BIEDROŃ WITH WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS FROM ARMENIA

The **Coalition to Stop Violence Against Women** had an impactful meeting with Mr. **Robert Biedroń, Head of the FEMM Committee of the European Parliament**. The meeting was organised by WAVE member **Women's Resource Center** (Կանանց ռեսուրսային կենտրոն ՀԿ) to provide a platform for advocacy to the women's rights organisations. The meeting with Mr. Robert Biedroń commenced with an exchange of stories, allowing each participant to share their realities regarding gender-based violence. Members of the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Women actively engaged in discussions, focusing on the **ratification of the Istanbul Convention** and its significance for better protection of women from all types of violence. Throughout the meeting, conversations centred on the **methods and necessary steps to incorporate the Convention into Armenia's legal framework**. Mr. Biedroń expressed his support for the ongoing efforts, recognising the obstacles and challenges associated with implementation and aiming to inspire countries beyond the EU to ratify the Convention.

Written by WAVE member in Armenia Women's Resource Center (Կանանց ռեսուրսային կենտրոն ՀԿ)

BE INFORMED AND REQUEST SUPPORT

WAVE member **Psycho-Social Centre "Vatra"** (Quendra Psiko-Sociale "Vatra") joined the initiative of the Ministry of Justice, for the organisation of the **Week for the Protection of Victims of Crime** in Albania. The specialised team of professionals has informed the public about the specialised support offered particularly to victims and their children of **trafficking, gender-based violence and sexual abuse** in accessing integrated and multisectoral services.



As part of this campaign, Vatra produced an informative brochure "**Be informed and Request**" for the public on the criminal offenses of human trafficking, gender-based violence and sexual abuse. Since June 2023, Vatra has been part of the working group in drafting the First Intersectoral Strategy for the Protection of Victims of Crime 2024 - 2030. The inputs and recommendations provided by Vatra's experts were reflected in the official document presented during the conference convened by the Ministry of Justice, where Vatra was part of the panel.

Written by WAVE member in Albania Psycho-Social Centre "Vatra"
(Quendra Psiko-Sociale "Vatra")



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