

WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE



ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2020

Activities and projects from 1 January to 31 December 2020

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If you are interested in becoming a Member of the WAVE Network, please contact our WAVE Office:

office@wave-network.org


WAVE ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2020

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- Open Society Foundations
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The keynote speech on day one of the WAVE Conference.



The online General Assembly on day two of the WAVE Conference.

1. Introduction from the Executive Manager

2020 was truly an exceptional year for the WAVE Network and all our Members shaped by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was a time of unprecedented challenges for women's specialist services (WSS), many of which were already operating under very difficult circumstances due to the ongoing backlash against women's rights in lots of European countries. However, throughout this year women demonstrated (once again) their incredible resilience and perseverance under very challenging conditions, as well as their ability to develop innovative approaches to continue supporting women and girls affected by gender-based violence (GBV).

Already during the first lockdown-period in spring, WAVE Members reported a notable increase of reports of violence against women and girls (VAWG). Women (and their children) were facing growing risks not only due to the widespread confinement measures in place, but also due to a lack of clear guidelines by governments on how service provision (e.g. in shelters) could continue under these circumstances, as well as fragmented and unreliable responses by state agencies, such as the police. These circumstances created significant challenges for WSS in responding to the enormous increase of demand for their services. However, these issues do not exist in a vacuum. Pandemics of this nature exacerbate and exploit existing inequalities, revealing the already precarious situation of women and WSS who have been substantially affected by the ongoing global backlash against women's rights for several years now. Thus, it is imperative to continue lobbying for the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention (IC) and other relevant legislation protecting women from violence, as well as sustainable funding for WSS in order to ensure a gender sensitive, victim-centred and human rights-based response to the crisis and its long-term implications.

A swift and strategic response of the WAVE Network to the pandemic paved the way for an overall successful year of collaboration, mobilisation and good practice exchange, even under extraordinarily tough situations. The WAVE team created a comprehensive list of COVID-19 related resources on the WAVE Website to support Members with pandemic-related strategies, methods and tools. The WAVE Step Up! Campaign launched a social media initiative sharing templates with contact information of support services in the campaigning countries. This led to a significant increase of followers on WAVE's social media, notably 288% more followers and 292% more likes on the Step Up! Campaign Facebook page than in the month before the online campaign started, and resharing of the content by high level stakeholders such as the European Commission. A series of three impromptu webinars was held in April, attracting up to 80 participants and allowing for mutual learning and sharing of good practice examples amongst WAVE Members on how to tackle the pandemic.

Thanks to a very timely and generous Urgent Response Fund provided by the Oak Foundation in spring, WAVE was able to provide direct financial support to its Members addressing the early stages of the pandemic. The fund was distributed amongst 20 grantees that were chosen by the German women's fund filia.die frauenstiftung according to criteria developed by the WAVE team and Board. Reports from our Members attest to the immense value of the grant, enabling them to adjust swiftly and unbureaucratically to new needs caused by the pandemic, such as enhancing IT infrastructure, balancing additional staff costs and ensuring provision of crucial services (such as online psychotherapy) as well as basic supplies to survivors.

2020 was also a year of reimagining and reshaping our collaborative work, with many premieres such as the first ever digital WAVE Advisory Board Meeting(s), the WAVE Multi-disciplinary Training and the WAVE Training Institute. Most notably, the 22nd WAVE Conference as the first ever virtual



The WAVE team with the new Step Up! Campaign bag in front of the WAVE Office in Vienna.

WAVE Conference proved to be a huge success, welcoming almost 1,000 visits over two days. The online format of the conference enabled WAVE to reach beyond our usual audience, while simultaneously increasing accessibility and inclusivity for all our Members, beyond the Delegates representing their countries. Through proactive and engaging participation by many Members and other key stakeholders, this event marked an important milestone in WAVE's 26 years of history, proving the network's strength and resilience even in times of unprecedented challenges and change.

Amidst the pandemic, opportunities arose for the WAVE Network to increase its profile on an international level. During the second half of 2020, the WAVE Board Members and Executive Manager attended a range of high-level meetings such as the EC High Level Conference on EU Victims' Rights Strategy 2020–2025, the first meeting of the Victims' Rights Platform for non-governmental organisations, a bilateral meeting with European Commissioner on Equality Helena Dalli and meetings with the Chair of the FEMM Committee Evelyn Regner. It is thanks to this tireless commitment that the WAVE Network became an official member of the Victims' Rights Platform in September, ensuring a strong voice of WSS in policy making on a European level. The Platform ensures a more horizontal approach to victims' rights and for the first time brings together all EU level actors relevant for victims' rights. It includes key actors such as Eurojust, the Fundamental Rights Agency, the EU Network of national contact points for compensation, the European Network on victims' rights, the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator and civil society networks and organisations such as WAVE. Jointly these actors will also monitor the implementation of the EU Strategy on Victims' Rights (2020–2025).

Due to WAVE's ongoing and dedicated work for the ratification and implementation of the IC, in autumn 2020 WAVE was also given the opportunity to work together with the Council of Europe and UN Women on designing a methodology for national campaigning in support of the IC. This year,

WAVE further welcomed the second generation of Youth Ambassadors, attesting to the success and achievements of the first generation of young activists dedicated to promoting youth engagement and activism in the context of preventing VAWG.

We would like to dedicate a big THANK YOU to our funders who continue to make our essential and life-saving work for women on a European level possible:

- Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Union
- Oak Foundation
- Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, Austria
- Municipality of Vienna, the Department for Women's Affairs (MA57), Austria
- Federal Chancellery, Minister for Women and Integration, Austria
- UN Women Europe and Central Asia
- Council of Europe
- Open Society Foundations

The WAVE team would like to thank Alicja Switon for her hard work and dedication as the interim Executive Manager as well as Martina Fontana who stepped down from her position as Office Administrator & Project Assistant in 2020. We would also like to congratulate Marcella Pirrone for being elected the WAVE President in February 2020 as well as all current Board Members for being re-elected and thank them for dedicating their time and passion. Last but not least, we express our sincere gratitude to the following interns who devoted their time, skills and passion towards making our work in 2020 a success:

- Perrine Yazar
- Mariana Cunha
- Fabiola Adamo
- Mária Trubanová

Stephanie Futter-Orel

2. Brief Overview of the Network

Since 1994, the WAVE Network has been one of the most influential European-wide feminist networks of women's non-governmental organisations (women's shelters, women's centres, helplines and other women specialist services). It aims to establish gender equality by eliminating GBV. WAVE is the only European network focusing solely on the elimination of violence against women and children, and its Office - which is a legal entity as of 2014 - serves as a linchpin for the whole Network and is governed currently by eight Board Members.

As of December 2020, the WAVE Network is comprised of 160 Members located throughout 46 European countries. This year, WAVE welcomed 12 new Members to the Network:

Albania	Women Center Light Steps
Bulgaria	Gender Alternatives Foundation
Croatia	Domine – Organization for Promotion of Women's Rights
Denmark	DANNER
Italy	Be Free Cooperativa
Italy	Differenza Donna
Italy	Paola Degani
Malta	Migrant Women Association Malta
Montenegro	Women's Safe House
Romania	FILIA Center
Serbia	Human Rights Committee Vranje – SOS Telephone Vranje
Turkey	AKDAM

The WAVE Network (WAVE Members, together with the on-line WAVE Database) reaches over 2,000 women's organisations directly, while the entire Network supports over one million women affected by GBV every year. Members of WAVE include single organisations, individuals such as academics, as well as entire women's networks for specialist support services. Members serve as regional and national bases to share and exchange information, expertise, and experience. A full list of WAVE Members can be found on the [WAVE Website](#).

WAVE Members are responsible for dissemination and collection of information on violence against women in their countries. The WAVE Office continually provides Members with relevant information (for instance, exchange of national and international news) and vice versa, good practice examples, international recommendations, policy papers, and



legal as well as policy changes regarding violence against women. While at the same time, Members report on current developments in their respective countries. Members are also primary contacts for inquiries by women affected by violence and research inquiries. Over the years, WAVE has been advised and supported by numerous experts in the field, which affirms the importance of WAVE keeping this expertise within the association.

WAVE Advisory Board Members, considered to be international experts in the field, support the Board in the development, implementation and evaluation of policies and activities of the association. The Advisory Board consists of one Delegate and one Co-delegate (substitute) from each country. Delegates and Co-delegates are appointed by the Member organisations of the respective country for a certain period. WAVE statutes, and information about how to become a Member of the WAVE Network, are available on the WAVE Website: www.wave-network.org

3. WAVE Activities 2020

3.1. Advisory Board Meetings

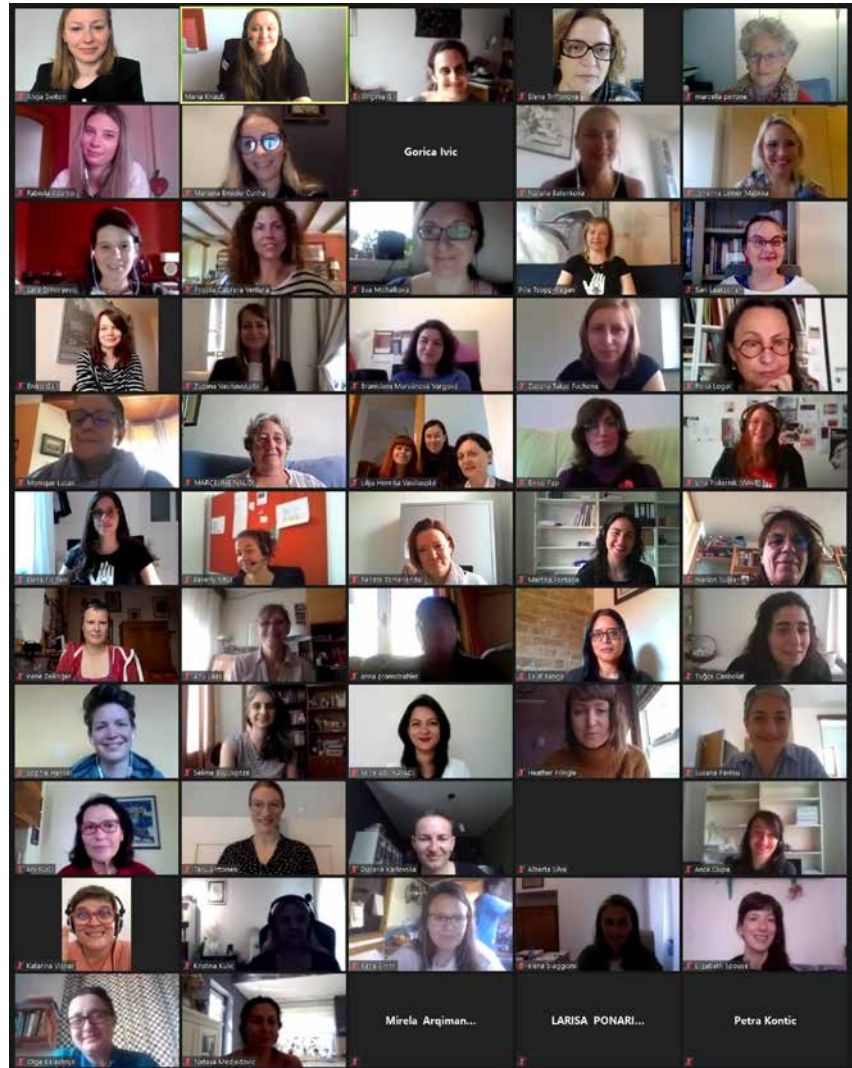
This year's spring WAVE Advisory Board Meeting on 11 May marked a premiere in that it constituted the Network's first ever online meeting due to the travel restrictions caused by the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. 43 Delegates and Co-Delegates, eight WAVE Board and twelve WAVE staff members participated, representing in total 27 countries. The meeting's agenda was developed in consultation with the Advisory Board. The impact of COVID-19 on VAWG and on WAVE Member organisations was decided to be the main priority.

The full day was split into three sessions for an encompassing coverage of the pandemic's impact. Session I was dedicated to information and good practice exchange, sharing strategies on supporting women and communicating with the public and policymakers. Participants were split into three smaller discussion groups for a more in-depth debate on the impact of COVID-19. After a lunch break, the results from these focus groups were shared in the plenary, leading into a discussion on the Network's strategic positioning in the next 18–24 months. The newly acquired Oak Urgent Response Fund was then presented with the intent of gathering input on the grant's criteria and grantee selection process. The meeting ended with a discussion on the WAVE Conference 2020 including feedback on the feasibility of a virtual meeting and on content-related input.

The fall ABM was held online on 12 October. 38 Delegates and Co-Delegates, eight WAVE Board and twelve WAVE staff members participated, representing in total 29 countries. Main discussion points centred around the Network's response to emergency situations, feedback on the planned Country Report 2021 and improving Network structures such as the Board elections as well as inclusivity and diversity within the Network.

3.2. Board Meetings

Throughout the year, eleven Board meetings were held to discuss pressing issues (e.g. fundraising, strategic planning, annual work plan, monitoring of vision and strategy, and



WAVE Delegates and Co-Delegates at the online Spring Advisory Board Meeting.

membership issues), as well as guide Network activities and work plans for upcoming years. Since the Board brings together women professionals from different European countries, most of the meetings were held online already prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. A face to face meeting was held on 17–18 February in Vienna with the focus on topics such as working together efficiently, WAVE's 4-year strategic plan as well as planning for the Advisory Board Meeting and Conference.

3.3. 5th WAVE General Assembly

Following the second day of the online WAVE Conference, the first ever virtual WAVE General Assembly took place on 8 October and gathered 70 participating Members from 35 countries. Activities of the General Assembly included the presentation and approval of the 2020 activity and financial report, display of the budget forecast 2021, presentation and voting on the membership fee reduction requests, election of auditors and election of the new Board Members. The voting took place via a secure online tool, ensuring integrity of each vote.



Behind the scenes at the General Assembly live broadcast.

The following individuals were re-elected as Board Members: Dušana Karlovská (Fenestra, Slovakia), Branislava Marvánová Vargová (ROSA, Czech Republic) and Susana Pavlou as Treasurer (Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies, Cyprus). Current Board Members which will continue without the need for re-election are: Baljit Banga (Imkaan, UK), Sari Laaksonen (Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters, Finland), Rosa Logar (Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre Vienna, Austria), Marcella Pirrone as President (D.i.Re, Italy) and Pille Tsopp-Pagan as Vice-President (Women's Support and Information Center, Estonia).

3.4. Capacity building and collaborations

Capacity building plays a crucial role in ensuring sustainable growth by strengthening collaborations, sharing good practices and expertise as well as improving overall network structure. In 2020 the WAVE team participated in a

number of trainings to develop and consolidate relevant knowledge.

On 6 February, the WAVE team conducted a public speaking training facilitated by Martina Ganser of the Toastmasters Club Vienna. The team was able to brush up their knowledge on essential tools and methods that make a good speech such as storytelling, speech writing and presentation. The training consisted of theoretical input and practical exercises.

On 1-2 December, the WAVE team received an online training on the foundations of counselling women survivors of violence. The training was conducted by Karin Macke of [frauen* beraten frauen*](#), a Vienna based WSS organisation. The training entailed an input on the basics of feminist counselling and theories on communication and questioning techniques. Exercises in smaller break out rooms enabled the team to practice active listening and questioning techniques. The first day of the training wrapped up with a Q&A session, while the second day concluded with a creative writing exercise on self-care. In addition to these team trainings, staff members also attended individual trainings on project management and finances.

On network level, capacity building activities were heavily influenced by the pandemic and thus centred around sharing, learning and developing good practice examples of supporting women survivors of violence during this crisis. The WAVE team created a [COVID-19 knowledge database](#) on the website as a collection of useful resources, reports and general information for WSS, NGOs, media, academia and the general public. The WAVE headquarter as a linchpin of communication between WAVE Members proved to be especially relevant as WSS were faced with the pandemic and lockdown measures. During the first weeks of the pandemic, the WAVE team coordinated numerous requests of WAVE

The WAVE team conducting a training on public speaking.





Interim Executive Manager Alicja Switon handing over WAVE publications to the Stichwort team.

Members and information on COVID-19, sharing good practices, project collaborations, funding opportunities and other relevant information. WAVE helped its Members submitting successful project proposals with five support letters. One successful collaboration that emerged from this is a promising research project led by the Centre for Child Wellbeing and Protection of the University of Stirling. [This project](#) maps and tracks how 12 countries in Europe respond to the risks posed to the rights of women and children experiencing VAWG and features insights provided by WAVE Members.

The WAVE team further focused on increasing the Network's profile through cultivating relationships with local as well as international organisations. Since the beginning of 2020, WAVE had been preparing for a donation of publications to an archive. On 30 June, Alicja Switon and Martina Fontana visited the Archives of the Women's and Lesbians Movement "[Stichwort](#)" in Vienna to donate WAVE publications. The team of Stichwort welcomed them at the archive and presented their collection. Thanks to Stichwort, historic WAVE publications will be archived and available to researchers in the years to come.

With VAWG rates increasing during the pandemic, media representatives increasingly reached out to WAVE to receive feminist commentary and data on this "shadow pandemic". WAVE received up to 16 interview requests in the first weeks and was subsequently featured in news articles such as the Austrian magazine [Frauen*solidarität](#) and the [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#). Most notably, in summer 2020 the Austrian community-based TV channel Okto portrayed the WAVE team for an episode of their [series "gender challenges"](#).



Youth Ambassadors Coordinator Beverly Mtui speaking in an episode of "gender challenges" on Okto TV.

Data on the availability and quality of WSS from the WAVE Country Report was integrated into the [Gender Statistics Database](#) of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). The WAVE database was further listed as a resource on the website of the [Coalition against Stalkerware](#), enabling survivors of stalking and cyberviolence to find support in their country.

3.5. Conference Participation

WAVE is often called upon to participate at numerous international conferences and to present on latest developments and research in the field of gender-based violence. In 2020, the WAVE Office and WAVE Board Members represented WAVE at 48 conferences, events, project meetings and trainings. Some of the highlights are listed here.

- **24 January | 2nd Conference of the Austrian network Allianz GewaltFREI Leben (Vienna, Austria)** Communications & Research Officer Elena Floriani attended the second conference organized by the Austrian network Allianz GewaltFREI Leben, which took place in Vienna. This network was founded in 2016 and its members are civil society organisations and institutions working to tackle violence against women. The Allianz GewaltFREI Leben was also responsible for the preparation of the shadow report on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Austria. The conference focused on the improvement of victims' protection, especially regarding the effectiveness of prosecutions, that often do not result in a conviction of the perpetrator, and the adequate support of victims throughout the whole process, both from a legal and psychological perspective.
- **20 February | Launching conference of the HELP Course(s) on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Pristina, Kosovo¹)** Membership & Legal Project Coordinator Anca Ciupa attended the launching conference

1 All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.



Participants at the TISOVA steering committee meeting in Heraklion, Greece.



Participants at the Cybersafe project meeting in Tartu, Estonia.

organized by the Council of Europe office in Kosovo and the Academy of Justice in Kosovo within the frame of the project "Reinforcing the fight against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, Kosovo". The purpose of the conference was to launch the Council of Europe HELP (Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals) course. It welcomed 50 participants from all legal professions. Anca Ciupa held a presentation on the Council of Europe standards for prevention and combating of violence against women and domestic violence.

● **26–29 February | TISOVA steering committee meeting (Heraklion, Greece)** The partners of the TISOVA project met in Greece for a steering committee meeting and training. The first day was spent discussing the intellectual outputs and dissemination strategies of the project while the second and third days were used for a training on MOOC and individual consultations. Together, the partners discussed the last outputs of the project, which were to be finalized at the end of August 2020. Partners in attendance were WSIC, Uni Tartu, VoiVa, UWAH, and WAVE.

● **4–5 March | Cybersafe project meeting (Tartu, Estonia)** The project partners worked together to guarantee the successful implementation of an educational online tool to be used in schools, in order to tackle online violence against girls. International Child Development Initiative (ICDI) presented the Educational Prevention Programme for teenagers, while Serious Games Interactive (SGI) updated the partners on the development of the online tool. The University of Tartu is following the implementation of pilots in schools in Greece (done by The Union of Women Association Heraklion), Italy (done by Retesalute Azienda Speciale) and Northern Ireland (done by NexusNI). WAVE informed the partners about the dissemination of the project results, while the University of Ljubljana and the Women Support and Information Centre (WSIC) supported the partners with content-related work, such as the report on online violence against girls. The second day was used for a train the trainer workshop on how to conduct structured pilot intervention and evaluations in the partner countries. The online tool, as

well as the project outputs, will be available online for all the interested stakeholders/schools/organisations.

● **6 March | Light up. Believe. Act (Podgorica, Montenegro)** WAVE Coordinator Maria Knaub had the pleasure of participating at the conference "Light up. Believe. Act" in Podgorica, Montenegro. The conference was organized by Women's Safe House, SOS Telephone Niksic and NGO Prima. They presented their joint study on procedures and standards of sexualized violence offences in Montenegro. The research marks a new milestone as Montenegro's first comprehensive study on sexualized violence and is comprised of: an analysis of jurisdiction and compliance of Montenegro's legislative and strategic framework with European standards; in-depth interviews with representatives of authorities; qualitative research including experiences of women and girls survivors of sexualized violence; and an analysis of media reports. Maria Knaub joined the panel discussion on "mobilizing the public to combat sexual violence", along with Elin Sundin with the Power Agency Sweden, WAVE Member Tanja Ignjatovic with the Autonomous Women's Center, Serbia, actress and activist Jelena Veljaca of the "Justice for Girls" movement (Croatia) and WAVE Member Nataša Mededović of SOS Telephone Niksic.

● **5 May | COVID-19 and Violence against Women: A holistic response based on the standards of the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention' (online)** The one hour online conference was organized by the CoE Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence and highlighted good practice examples providing support to women affected by GBV during the COVID-19 health crisis. The speakers put a strong emphasis on the Istanbul Convention, which is to be adhered to even during crises. The DIS.CO project on distant counselling services, of which WAVE is a partner, was highlighted as an efficient tool to support victims in these times but also beyond the crisis.

● **14 May | Domestic Violence in times of COVID-19 (online)** WAVE interim Executive Manager, Alicja Switon, and WAVE President, Marcella Pirrone, took part in this panel



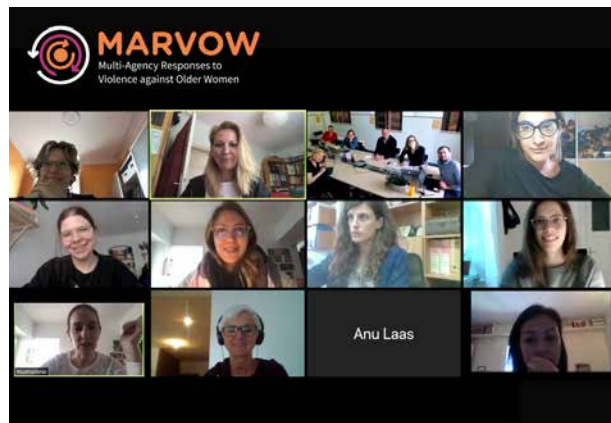
WAVE's Maria Knaub speaking at the Light up. Believe. Act. Conference in Podgorica, Montenegro.

discussion organized by Equal Rights Group of AEGEE. Alicja Switon talked about the main challenges faced by WSS during the COVID-19 pandemic. She highlighted the impact of the pandemic and confinement measures on marginalised groups such as refugee women and Roma communities and presented main recommendations from WAVE's policy statement on COVID-19 impact on VAW.

- **19 May | EU Mutual Learning Programme in Gender Equality (online)** WAVE Vice-President Pille Tsopp-Pagan, together with Irene Rosales from the European Women's Lobby, presented good practices for tackling domestic violence in the context of COVID-19. They gave an overview of the situation of VAWG as a long-term systemic issue across Europe. They highlighted the importance of WSS during the pandemic, as they are leading the response to this crisis, continuing to operate and finding new ways to reach out to victims. Long-term recommendations and demands at EU and member state level were also given, focusing on prevention, protection and secure funding.

- **25–26 May | MARVOW second steering committee meeting (online)** The partners of MARVOW met for the second steering committee meeting and the first Train of Trainers meeting. During the first day of the meeting, the project leader and Austrian WAVE Member AÖF welcomed participants and presented the developments in terms of project

WAVE's Alicja Switon and Marcella Pirrone speaking at the AEGEE panel discussion on violence during the pandemic.



The second MARVOW steering committee online.

management and reporting. WSIC (Women's Support and Information Centre) introduced the first steps towards developing a multi-agency cooperation model, namely three reports analysing the situation in the partner countries and the use of multi-agency cooperation around Europe, both in women's support services and in perpetrator programmes. UWAH (Union of Women Associations of Heraklion Prefecture) presented the case studies developed for the regional meetings and UT (University of Tartu) explained how the evaluation of the multi-agency cooperation model will be conducted. To conclude the first day's activities, WAVE presented the developments in the dissemination of the project, such as the new project website, the leaflets, and the upcoming social media campaign for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The second day was dedicated to the Train of Trainers, which is a preparatory meeting for the activities that will take place at a national level with different stakeholders.

- **28 May | Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on specialist services for victims and survivors of violence in the Western Balkans and Turkey: A proposal for addressing the needs (online)** UN Women Europe and Central Asia Regional Office launched the results of the [rapid assessment report](#). The assessment was undertaken within the EU-UN Women regional programme "Implementing norms, changing minds". Over 70 participants attended the online meeting, from the seven partner countries involved in this programme (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey). The rapid assessment was carried out with the scope of better understanding the needs of women's CSOs/NGOs and identifying solutions to better support CSOs/NGOs to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. The meeting highlighted some of the key findings and recommendations, focusing on the following aspects: how service providers are forced to adjust to this new situation, how women's access to such services and

help seeking from formal and informal sources is affected and what are the new short and medium term needs arising. 40 organisations providing services, beneficiaries of the programme “Implementing norms, changing minds” were interviewed. Anca Ciupa and Alicja Switon from the WAVE Office attended this meeting.

- **17 June | OSCE Webinar on “Combating the pandemic within the COVID-19 pandemic: violence against women” (online)** The OSCE Secretariat’s Programme for Gender Issues and the OSCE Transnational Threat Department’s Strategic Police Matters Unit, with the support of the Albanian OSCE Chair, organized a webinar to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on VAWG, with a focus on the role of law enforcement and the justice sector. It was attended by more than 120 participants, including representatives from 34 OSCE delegations, OSCE executive structures, international organisations and civil society organisations. WAVE interim Executive Manager Alicja Switon attended this meeting and spoke on the WAVE Network’s response to the pandemic.

- **28 July | Focus on violence against women in times of COVID-19 in Latin America (online)** WAVE Vice-President Pille Tsopp-Pagan attended this webinar organized by RIRE, the Inter-American Network for Women’s Shelters. She talked about the pandemic situation in Europe and how the WAVE Network and its Members have been reacting to the crisis.

- **10–11 September | MARVOW partner meeting (online)** The first day of the third official partners meeting was dedicated to three work packages of the project, which include its management and coordination, the implementation and testing of a multi-agency cooperation model for working with older women victims of abuse and perpetrators, and the evaluation of this model. Since the project has been extended, the activities at a national level and the overall timeline of the project have been subject to changes, which required a joint collaboration of all the partners. The second

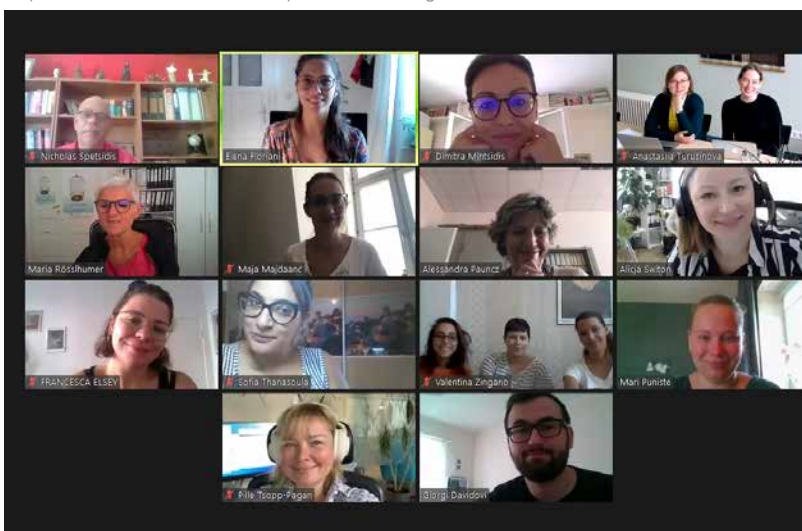
day was dedicated to the dissemination and communication strategies of the project and to the analysis of the training materials that will be used by the partners to introduce local stakeholders to the concepts of multi-agency cooperation and the characteristics of elder abuse. Despite the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the partners are successfully collaborating to achieve the project’s goals: older women are even more at risk of being abused and neglected during these challenging times. For this reason, it’s even more crucial to work together and ensure improved knowledge of the stakeholders on how to identify and respond to abuse against older women.

- **16 September | Meeting with the President of the European Council Charles Michel (Nicosia, Cyprus)** WAVE Board Member Susana Pavlou and WAVE Member Mine Atili from Kayad were invited to an official visit with the President of the European Council during his visit in Cyprus. At the meeting, Susana Pavlou focused on addressing the backlash on women’s rights, the impact of COVID-19 and the need to invest in women’s specialist services through an increase in EU funding allocated to combating VAW and promoting gender equality.

- **22 September | European Commission High Level Conference on the EU Strategy on victims’ rights 2020–2025 (online)** WAVE Executive Manager Stephanie Futter-Orel and President Marcella Pirrone attended this high level conference. It featured the launch of the Victims’ Rights Platform which monitors the effective implementation of the new victims’ rights strategy. Key speeches were given by ministers from EU countries with current and future EU presidencies such as Germany, Portugal, Slovenia and France.

- **22–23 September | EIGE Virtual Experts meeting (online)** WAVE Vice-President Pille Tsopp-Pagan attended this training on recent and future developments of the EIGE Gender Statistics database as well as discussions and feedback on its key sections (introduction to women and men in decision making, data collection and related milestones and developments, intimate partner violence, achievements and statistics communication).

September’s online MARVOW partner meeting.



- **2 October | Bilateral meeting with European Commissioner for Equality Helena Dalli (online)** WAVE President Marcella Pirrone and Executive Manager Stephanie Futter-Orel met with European Commissioner for Equality Helena Dalli. They provided an overview of WAVE’s work and highlighted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Network’s Member organisations. A special focus was laid on the need to increased and sustainable funding for WSS across Europe.



Rosalba Taddeini of the Italian WAVE Member Differenza Donna speaking at the European Inclusion Summit.



WAVE President Marcella Pirrone speaking with moderator Irina Izotova at the Moscow FemFest.

- **16 October | Meeting with High Level Group on Non-Discrimination, Equality and Diversity (online)** WAVE President Marcella Pirrone and Vice-President Pille Tsopp-Pagan together with representatives from the European Women's Lobby and End FGM met with Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the High Level Group on Non-Discrimination, Equality and Diversity Dimitrios Papadimoulis. The discussion concentrated on the need to ensure that the EU's long-term budget as well as recovery plans match political commitments to promote and protect fundamental rights of women and girls.

- **27 October | Bilateral meeting with FEMM Committee (online)** WAVE Executive Manager Stephanie Futter-Orel, President Marcella Pirrone as well as Vice-President Pille Tsopp-Pagan met with representatives of the FEMM Committee. The meeting centred on a mutual exchange on main working priorities of WAVE and the FEMM Committee. Special attention was brought to the concerning situation regarding funding for WSS and women's rights in Europe. A follow-up meeting was held on 11 November.

- **17 November | European Inclusion Summit (online)** WAVE Coordinator Maria Knaub attended the virtual European Inclusion Summit (EIS). Previously, the EIS organizers got into contact with the WAVE Information Centre to identify good practices on supporting women survivors with disabilities. Thus, Rosalba Taddeini (Italian WAVE Member Differenza Donna) was invited to speak on the panel on "Protection of Women and Children with Disabilities against Violence".

- **21 November | Moscow FemFest (online)** WAVE President Marcella Pirrone was invited to speak at the Moscow FemFest, the biggest educational festival in Russia dedicated to gender equality. As part of the panel with Russian WAVE Member and the head of the National Center for Prevention of Violence (ANNA) Marina Pisklakova-Parker, she focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the well-being of women.

- **2 December | EU-NGO Roundtable led by Victim Support Europe (online)** A total of 23 NGOs participated at the meeting to discuss key working priorities in relation to victims' rights in the upcoming year. WAVE was represented by Executive Manager Stephanie Futter-Orel and President Marcella Pirrone. Katarzyna Janicka-Pawlowska, EU Coordinator for Victims' Rights, presented the plans of the European Commission for 2021.

- **4 December | Women in Europe raise their Voices (online)** The online conference, organized by the AÖF, was dedicated to women raising their voices for women's rights, against gender-based violence and for freedom and democracy. The spotlight was put on the situation of women in Belarus, Poland, Russia, Ukraine and Turkey and featured WAVE Members such as Urszula Nowakowska from the Polish organisation Praw Kobiet and Marta Chumalo from Women's Perspectives, Ukraine. WAVE Executive Manager Stephanie Futter-Orel gave an introduction, highlighting WAVE's initiatives to create positive awareness about the Istanbul Convention.

- **16 December | Victims' Rights Platform (online)** Having become an official member of the platform in autumn, WAVE Executive Manager Stephanie Futter-Orel and President Marcella Pirrone joined the ad hoc meeting. This meeting started the exchange between the European Commission and NGOs on the implementation of the EU Strategy on Victims' Rights (2020-2025). WAVE gave an overview of the Network's work priorities in 2021, such as the positive promotion of the IC, strengthening WSS particularly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and initiatives to amplify the voices of different demographics, such as elderly women and young people.

3.6. Thematic Working Groups

In April 2016, Advisory Board Members voted on the top three most important issues for the Network to focus on. Gender neutrality, sexualized violence, and the strengths-based, needs-led approach were the top three topics as determined by Members. In 2020, a fourth working group comprised of legal experts was established in addition. The four working groups have carried out extensive work over the years. Below is an update on the developments of each thematic working group.

Gender Neutrality in Women's Specialist Services Working Group

In 2020, the WAVE thematic working group on protecting women's specialist support services from gender neutral policy and practice came together and wrote the 2020 WAVE Handbook "[How Gender Neutral Policy and Practice Is Dismantling Women's Specialist Support Services and Ways to Counteract It.](#)" This handbook was co-authored by seven working group members with diverse expertise coming from various women's organisations and countries around Europe. The working group met on a regular basis to divide the tasks and agree upon the proceedings of the handbook. It is a reflection not only of individual expertise, but an accumulation of learning throughout the previous two years of working group activities and knowledge sharing (see section 18).

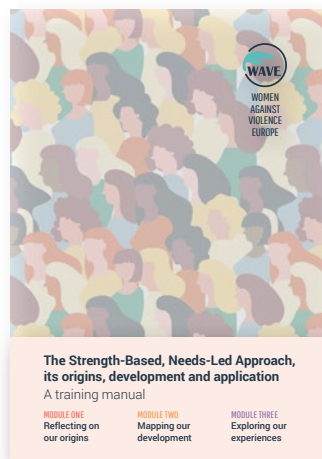
Legal Experts Working Group

The recently established Legal Working Group focused on establishing the parameters and most important issues to focus on in 2020 and in 2021. The ten participants of the working group focused mainly on the issue of child custody and contact proceedings, which led to organizing a webinar on the "Legal arguments used in the Kurt vs. Austria case, pending at the European Court of Human Rights". The case concerns the murder of the applicant's son by the father after previous allegations of domestic violence by the applicant against the father. The purpose of the webinar was to support legal practitioners on how to use international and European standards such as the ones enshrined in the IC.

Strengths-Based, Needs-Led Approach Working Group

The Working Group on the Strength-Based, Needs-Led Approach (SBNL WG) had eight active members in 2020. The group met regularly online, since some of the in-person activities had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. In May, a survey was sent out to WAVE Members to identify the trainings they offered to their staff and to help inform the direction of the training manual that needed to be developed by the working group. This inspired the idea of including the history of the women's movement in the training materials, which the group felt was especially important given the growing threats of far-right governments not honouring the IC. The group contacted Prof. Liz Kelly to include her exper-

tise in the development of the SBNL training manual. From September to December the SBNL WG met numerous times and worked intensively on the development of the training manual, that was finalized and piloted in December. In 2021, the working group members will organize SBNL trainings in their own countries, using the training manual developed in 2020.



The SBNL train the trainer manual is available for WAVE Members.

Train the trainer manual: The SBNL Working Group developed a training manual containing basic guidance, curricula and associated material to support the delivery of a training on the SBNL method of work in WSS. The training is organised into three modules each covering a different though connected element of understanding the SBNL approach and its application. Modules one and two were written by Fiona Vera-Gray and Liz Kelly. Module three was written by the working group members. The train the trainer manual is available for WAVE Members.

The training aims are:

- ▶ to provide an introduction of the history and principles of the women's movement to set up women-only provision across Europe;
- ▶ to produce a timeline of international and European legislation and policies relevant to violence against women and girls;
- ▶ to establish what it means and looks like to deliver strength-based, needs-led principles and provision in practice, through the exploration of examples of SBNL provision across Europe.

Working Group on Sexualized Violence

The Working Group on Sexualized Violence is comprised of 14 active members. Members met regularly online throughout the year to discuss current developments in relation to sexualized violence and the pandemic, and share good practices as well as resources to support one another. One work priority was laid on editing and finalizing a report on national legislation on sexualized violence which was initiated the year before. The main purpose of the study that this report summarises is to gather data on how rape and



The first day of the WAVE MDT 2020 focused on the Swedish consent legislation.

consent are defined within the legal frameworks in the countries represented in WAVE, how the legislation is applied in practice, for instance, when it comes to reporting and investigation, victims/survivors' access to justice and compensation, health responses, etc. The aim is to create a better understanding of the legal contexts, highlight the main challenges and provide a solid base for developing strategies on preventing rape both on national and European levels. The report will be shared with WAVE Members internally in the beginning of 2021. Additionally, the working group was instrumental in organizing the WAVE Multidisciplinary Training in September (see section 7 below).

3.7. Multidisciplinary Training

This year's Multidisciplinary Training was a two half-day digital event on 29–30 September, focusing on how effective collaboration between specialist WSS and the legal system can ensure effective, survivor-centred support for women survivors of rape. The training consisted of presentations and interactive sessions in breakout groups, giving space to learn, share and exchange good practices and experiences. Balancing the composition of the participants to ensure representation from different target groups was a priority (counsellors and psychologists from WSS, legal professionals, NGO coordinators, academics).

During the first day of the training Olivia Björklund Dahlgren, Chairperson of the Swedish organisation Fatta, presented good practices on integrating explicit consent into the national legislation. Fatta started as a reaction to the earlier sexual offences legislation with two demands: laws that reflect that the boundary of whether an act is rape or not, is based on consent, as well as a consent-based culture in society. By organizing demonstrations, clubs, dance and music



manifestations, writing articles, having meetings with politicians and other NGOs, Fatta created a movement for consent and finally managed to get a consent-based criminal law that went into force in 2018. Olivia Björklund Dahlgren talked about how Fatta managed to create such a movement, what impact the new legislation has had so far, and what Fatta sees as possible next steps to end sexualized violence. 26 participants from 13 countries joined on day one.

On day two Virginia Gil, Director of Foundation Aspacia, a non-profit organisation which works against sexualized violence, presented their

experience in establishing the first Spanish 24/7 rape crisis centre and talked about how to support survivors when consent legislation is not in place. The importance of the Istanbul Convention was discussed as it played a key role for this rape crisis centre to become a reality in Spain. Virginia Gil also talked about her organisation's experience in finding practical solutions despite legal challenges, for example how to talk to stakeholders about consent and engage with civil society. 23 participants from 12 countries joined on day two.

3.8. WAVE Training Institute

The 2020 WAVE Training Institute (WTI) took place on 10–11 November and was held online for the first time. 38 WAVE Members from 17 countries joined the training. This year the WTI focused on fundraising and writing effective project proposals, to help women's organisations diversify their funding methods and access a wider international range of funders.

Impressions from the WAVE Training Institute 2020.





The WAVE team, He For She Vienna and poetry slammers celebrating International Women's Day.



Visitors at the SHERO exhibition in Vienna.

During the first day of training, Emma Collins, in association with the Women's Resource Centre, presented a training course on creating an effective case for support. Trainees explored what funders are looking for and pitfalls to avoid in order to make a proposal stand out and attract funders. This section focused on grants from trusts, foundations and government sources of funding. On day two, Rosalyn Park from The Advocates for Human Rights conducted a training on fundraising and resource strategies. The goal was to increase the capacity of NGOs and advocates to expand the resources available to them in order to accomplish their missions through alternative fundraising and increasing contributions. This training focused on flexible, alternative resources to support core operations/general operations rather than foundation grants or government funding.

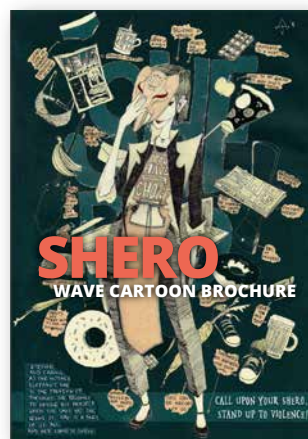
month, highlighting the importance and need for strategic online campaigning.

International Women's Day

Besides launching the second WAVE Youth Ambassador Call, the WAVE Step Up! Campaigners joined International Women's Day protests across Europe with campaigning material, such as flags and banners. European-wide accompanying events were conducted with the campaigners at the forefront to highlight feminist resilience and strength. For IWD 2020, the Step Up! Campaign collaborated with [HeForShe](#) Vienna and brought the SHERO exhibition under the theme "Solidarity and Empowerment" for the first time to Vienna, Austria.

3.9. Step Up! Campaign

In 2020, 25 EU as well as non-EU countries represented the WAVE Step Up! Campaign to mobilise widely for women's rights and the implementation of the IC across Europe. The framework of the Step Up! Campaign activities in 2020 included the aim to increase the visibility of the campaign, particularly in the digital sphere. With the COVID-19 outbreak, intensifying and fortifying online campaigning appeared to be essential to strengthen the campaign as a part of call for campaigners, ambassadors as well as the general public as multipliers of effective positive change to engage and learn about the progress of the campaign's activities and efforts to eliminating VAWG.



"SHERO: Art as a tool to end violence against women" was initiated by the WAVE Network and first exhibited in Brussels, Belgium in 2019. This year, the exhibition was themed "Solidarity and Empowerment" and showcased the artworks that resulted from the 2018 WAVE Step Up! Campaign call and the subsequent 28-page [interactive booklet](#) with original cartoons authored by female artists, who imagined and presented their vision of a role model, a female hero (=shero), who is advocating for positive and effective change within society to counter domestic, psychological or sexual violence against women and girls.

In March, the Step Up! Campaign conducted an impromptu online campaign to raise awareness on the increased risk of intimate partner violence amid the COVID-19 pandemic and provided information on local support services and local helplines in close cooperation with the Step Up! Campaigners and WAVE Members. Due to this proactive initiative, the Step Up! Campaign Facebook page gained 288% more followers and 292% more likes than in the previous

During the exhibition in Vienna, a selection of feminist literature was presented as well, which was supported by local independent bookstores. The day concluded with a poetry slam; six poetry slammers based in Vienna performed their inspirational texts on the topic of solidarity and empowerment. The event, which was held in Amerlinghaus, an open space that encourages solidarity-based action, welcomed around 50 participants throughout the day. The exhibition was successfully organised by Olivia Schneider, HeForShe Vienna Project Coordinator, and Beverly Mtui, WAVE Youth Ambassador Coordinator.

Step Up! Campaigners' International Women's Day Actions

ALBANIA The staff of the campaigning organisation Woman to Woman in Albania, the Office for Boys and Men together with youth of the Youth Social Club supported girls and women who work in a local factory. Under the slogan "onlylovenotonlyon-March8", the ten organizers donated flowers and postcards to 15 girls and women, as a sign of gratitude for their work, sacrifice and energy. According to Woman to Woman, this activity had a great impact on the girls and women they met expressed through tears and kind words. Due to this action, the organisation also reported positive results online, fortifying the visibility of the organisation and the campaign through an increase in engagement on social media platforms.



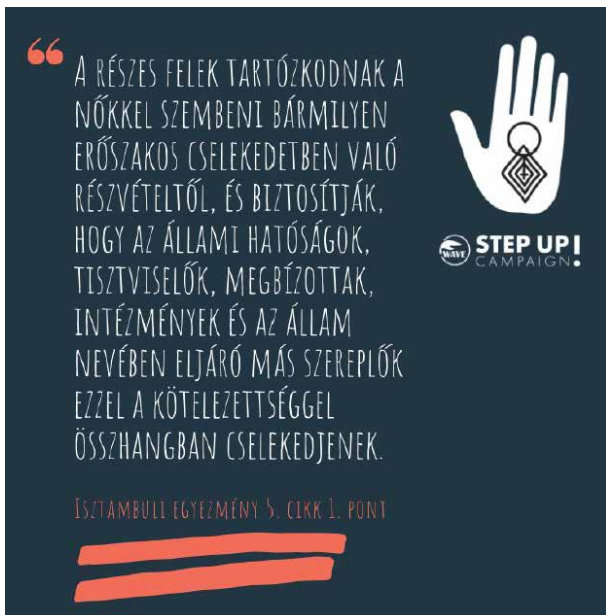
GERMANY German Step Up! organisation GESINE brought information and campaigning material to several IWD events in different cities such as Hattingen, Witten, Schwelm, focusing on the sexual violence/consent flyers. Altogether, about 300 women participated in these events. To multiply its effect, the flyers and campaigning material were also shared with local institutions.

BOSNIA On IWD 2020, Bosnian Step Up! Campaigners United Women Banja Luka conducted a street action in Banja Luka under the motto "silence does not protect us". People from all generations joined forces to mobilize for the rights of women and girls, and ensure their safety. According to United Women Banja Luka, the action's impact could also be translated to the digital sphere with positive, supportive and hopeful reactions from their Facebook audience, reaching 2.792 people through sharing the pictures of the street action.

BULGARIA Association NAIA, campaigning organisation in Bulgaria, focused during the International Women's Day on the theme "know that no one is silent, though many are not heard. Work to change this!". Therefore, the association conducted an action for which 20 volunteer students made e-cards with positive messaging of the campaign. They were sent to members of the national parliament and to local members of the European Parliament. In total, the e-cards were sent to 360 politicians.

A street action by Bosnian campaigners Banja Luka under the motto "silence does not protect us".





Article 5 of the Istanbul Convention in Hungarian.



Step Up! Campaign actions for the 16 days of activism in Estonian.

Youth Week & the SUC Anniversary

During Youth Week, strong intergenerational activism was given priority with the second generation of WAVE Youth Ambassadors being announced. In total, eight EU as well as six non-EU campaigning organisations welcomed 14 WAVE Youth Ambassadors. The campaigning countries that are currently working with an ambassador are **Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine, Wales (UK)**.

International Peace Day

During the week of the International Peace Day, the campaigners highlighted articles from the Istanbul Convention to emphasise the need for its ratification and implementation on social media. **NANE**, Step Up! campaigner from Hungary, said that they found the theme of the action particularly relevant, because the Hungarian government refused to ratify the Istanbul Convention in May [2020]. Using customised Step Up! Campaign templates, the campaigners disseminated information, sources and links about the Istanbul Convention as well as promoted articles of the Istanbul Convention, which evidences that violence against women is a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women, in their respective languages to social media. In Serbia, around ten local NGOs joined our campaigner **FENOMENA** in this action and shared their posts on social media, which according to FENOMA, reached up to 2,000 people. **KAYAD**, campaigning organisation in North Cyprus, conducted an online workshop about the Istanbul Convention and the Domestic Violence legal text draft that has been prepared by KAYAD. The workshop was conducted with the domestic violence network members in North Cyprus with 21 people in attendance. Around that time, our campaigning organisation **Društvo SOS telefon** in Slovenia participated

in a discussion on different forms of violence, which was held at a local library, to raise awareness as well as reach the general public. Around 300 people attended the event, which was also broadcasted online. In addition to that, **Alliance of Women** in Slovakia supported a campaign for reproductive rights of women called "WE WILL NOT BE SILENT" and wrote letters to the Parliament to encourage advocacy and awareness raising. Lastly, the Step Up! Campaign also announced the winner of the motif of the WAVE Bag 2020. An Artist Call 2020 was launched in July, translated and disseminated by the Step Up! campaigners. In September, the winning artwork was chosen after receiving more than 40 applications from across Europe.

16 Days of Activism against VAW

During the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, the Step Up! Campaigners and WAVE Youth Ambassadors collaborated on a European-wide online campaign around the Istanbul Convention. Campaigners and ambassadors prepared graphics which included information from the WAVE Country Report 2019 to explain how their respective countries would look like, if the Istanbul Convention was effectively implemented. The graphics were disseminated on all of WAVE's and the Step Up! Campaign's social media platforms, as well as the campaigners' and ambassadors', magnifying the reach and engagement of this action. Not only did this online campaign have a positive impact on the audience targeted through social media, it also exemplified the need for all generations of feminists to join forces in order to ensure, strengthen and fortify the advocacy to #Sign-RatifyImplement the Istanbul Convention.

Austria: Frauenhaus Tirol connected with a local band to raise awareness through music and merchandise across the region.

Kosovo: Women Wellness Center created a brochure about the Istanbul Convention and delivered it to the local members of the mechanism on protection against domestic violence.

Poland: Women's Rights Center launched a campaign concerning femicide including a website with a petition and stories of women killed as a result of gender-based violence.

Despite the challenges amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Step Up! Campaign has shown its resilience and determination with the aforementioned as well as various other actions, events and workshops across Europe. We are thankful for their efforts, engagement and work.

3.10. Youth Ambassadors

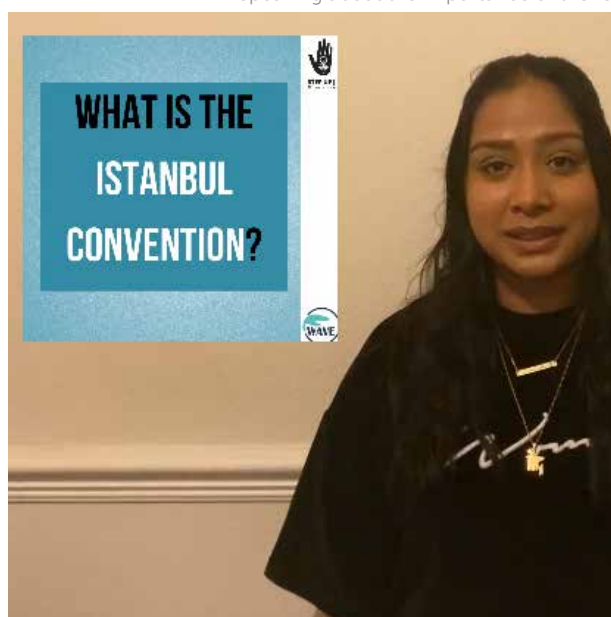
The WAVE Youth Ambassador initiative aims to provide a space to youth activists across Europe to encourage as well as promote youth engagement, youth participation and youth inclusion within the context of preventing GBV and discrimination since 2018. The WAVE Call for the second generation of WAVE Youth Ambassadors was launched on the International Women's Day with almost 200 applications. On 25 May 2020, the fourth anniversary of the Step Up! Campaign, 14 candidates were selected to become the next WAVE Youth Ambassadors. Before ending their term, however, the first generation of WAVE Youth Ambassadors

executed an online campaign during youth week, which was dedicated to tackling sexism. The ambassadors collected stories revolving around sexism and provided their perspective on the issue. The stories, which were illustrated on graphics, were disseminated on social media, and enabled an open discussion around sexism with followers who shared their input, particularly in direct messages on Instagram.

On 14 July 2020, the WAVE Youth Ambassador Mini Conference was scheduled. The online meeting welcomed both generations of WAVE Youth Ambassadors, the Step Up! campaigners as well as members of the WAVE team such as the Executive Manager, Membership & Legal Project Coordinator and Digital & Social Media Coordinator. The meeting was dedicated to finding synergies between WAVE projects and WAVE Youth Ambassadors, and provided a platform for campaigners and ambassadors to become further acquainted with each other as well as with the framework of the campaign. The second half of the online conference was dedicated to the WAVE Youth Ambassadors handover, and was solely by and for the WAVE Youth Ambassadors of the first and second generation as a safe space to exchange and engage with each other.

The first action of the 2nd generation of WAVE Youth Ambassadors was a series on the WAVE Blog entitled THE POWER OF YOUTH starting on the International Youth Day. In the WAVE Youth Ambassador mini Conference, the WAVE Youth Ambassadors from all generations expressed that they felt like young activists often remained invisible in feminist movements or were not taken seriously enough, despite their efforts to making effective positive change in their community. Therefore, the WAVE Youth Ambassadors shared different experiences on how youth are making a change in their community in regard to ending violence against women and girls. Furthermore, the ambassadors

Youth Ambassador from Wales Sabiha Azad speaking about the importance of the IC.



highlighted the works and efforts of young activists in their respective countries, shared their own experience and encouraged the inclusion of youth in campaigning and activist movements. The idea behind this series was adapted to a webinar, which was held by Zvezdana Radulović, 2nd generation WAVE Youth Ambassador from Montenegro, and Beverly Mtui, WAVE Youth Ambassador Coordinator, at the end of August. The aim of the webinar was to reiterate the importance and influence of youth inclusion in feminist contexts, and exemplified how this has been implemented within the WAVE Network and the WAVE Step Up! Campaign.



Youth Ambassador Hannah Svoboda from Austria stepping up for the IC.

For the International Peace Day, the WAVE Youth Ambassadors responded to the backlash of right-wing governments, which resulted in several European countries planning to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention. The ambassadors mobilized youth across Europe to highlight that peace can only be achieved, if violence against women and girls in all its dimensions and forms is fully eliminated and eradicated. The youth's input was made into a video that was published to the WAVE Network's YouTube account as well as shared on the WAVE Blog. In September, the collaboration between the Civil Society Strengthening Platform and the WAVE Youth Ambassadors from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia started. The ambassadors supported the CSSP project in strengthening women's voices and agency by producing videos in their respective languages that aimed to take a stance on violence against women, particularly sexualized violence, to offer words of encouragement to women and girls affected by violence, and share information on where to get help. The inclusion of the WAVE Youth Ambassadors contributed to multiplying the message of the CSSP project. This action showed the positive impact of including youth in amplifying the voices of the CSSP project partners and the importance of joining forces in highlighting issues regarding violence against women and girls.

Besides proactively collaborating with the Step Up! Campaigners during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence and creating content to illustrate a Europe in which the Istanbul Convention is ratified and implemented in their respective countries, the WAVE Youth Ambassadors adapted their videos from September 2020 to the importance of the Istanbul Convention considering the COVID-19 pandemic. The content was very well received online with a significant increase of followers on the Step Up! Campaign Instagram account. Despite the uncertain circumstances, the second generation of WAVE Youth Ambassadors were quickly familiarised with campaign actions,

and showed enthusiasm, engagement as well as motivation to stopping violence against women and girls.

A big thank you to our first generation of WAVE Youth Ambassadors, and a warm welcome to our second generation of WAVE Youth Ambassadors (2020–2022):

- Çeçilia Gazulli from ALBANIA
- Hannah Svoboda from AUSTRIA
- Zehra Šarić from BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
- Mia Bradić from CROATIA
- Myrto Karydi from GREECE
- Krisztina Les from HUNGARY
- Ginevra Candidi from ITALY
- Alina Cebotari from MOLDOVA
- Zvezdana Radulović from MONTENEGRO
- Adriana S.Thiago from PORTUGAL
- Alexandra Muntean from ROMANIA
- Teodora Stojilković from SERBIA
- Viktorii Shvaher from UKRAINE
- Sabiha Azad from WALES (UK)

"We want to raise public attention, both online and offline. We want to support women's and girls' voices. We want to strengthen women's and girls' voices. This, however, is not just our task for the next two years of being WAVE Youth Ambassadors. This is our lifelong commitment as being dedicated activists across Europe."

– Second generation of WAVE Youth Ambassadors.



3.11. Policy Work & Lobbying

In 2020, the WAVE Network amplified advocacy and lobbying efforts on European and national level. In addition to representing the Network at high level meetings outlined in section 5, the WAVE team engaged in the following activities.

In the beginning of the year, WAVE decided to submit a so-called third-party intervention to the European Court of Human Rights. It addresses the legal case of Kurt v. Austria in which two children were murdered by their abusive father. This case raises a plethora of issues, namely regarding the effective protection given by barring orders where violence is perpetrated against women in cases of domestic violence. The European Court of Human Rights granted leave to intervene and submit written observations in the case. WAVE's submission addresses issues arising from the case concerning the implementation of the Istanbul Convention: risk assessment in domestic violence cases, the heightened risk of harm to children in the context of separation and the effectiveness of barring orders as opposed to less lenient measures such as pre-trial detention.

In April, WAVE signed a [joint European civil society statement](#) initiated by the Center for Reproductive Rights, urging European governments to ensure safe and timely access to abortion care during the COVID-19 pandemic. In May, WAVE released a [policy statement](#) on the impact of the pandemic on WSS, calling upon stakeholders and governments to prepare for the long-term consequences of the crisis and its implications for VAWG.

In July, WAVE together with 14 members of the European Coalition to End Violence against Women and Girls sent a [joint open letter to the EU Heads of State](#) with a statement on the released five-year Gender Equality Strategy and the proposed EU budget. The Coalition appreciated the decision to reverse a previously outlined cut of 20% to the EC Rights and Values Programme and insisted that all EU pandemic recovery plans must be gender mainstreamed to address women's discrimination and to respond to the increase of VAWG witnessed throughout the EU.

During the summer, WAVE joined campaigning actions under the slogan #SalzburgStehtAuf to show solidarity with colleagues at the women's shelters in Salzburg, Austria, after the local government decided to issue an European-wide call for bids to identify another service provider, neglecting



WAVE's Alicja Switon and Elena Floriani joining the #SalzburgStehtAuf campaign actions.

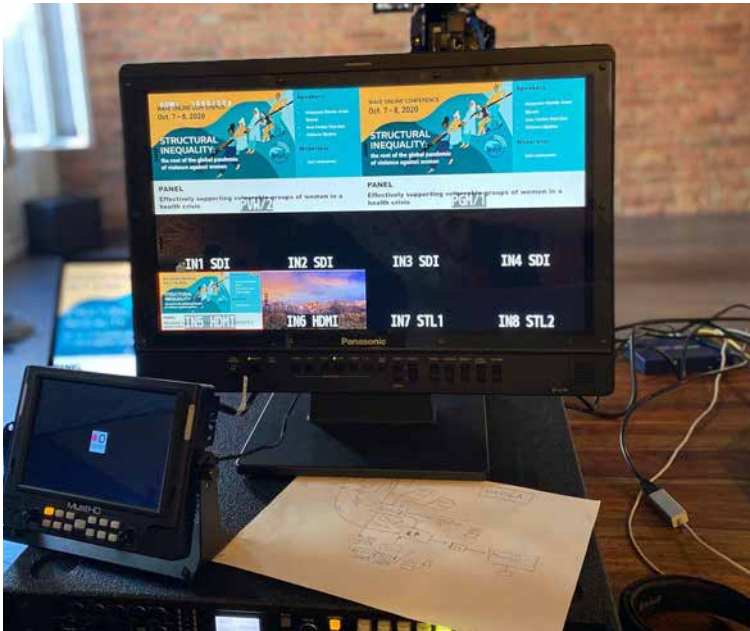
decades of feminist expertise and knowledge. WAVE supported their petition and issued a statement letter to national stakeholders, arguing for the protection of Austria's solid and internationally acclaimed women's support system.

Following the death of Madina Umayeva in Chechnya and the lack of proper investigation, the WAVE Network supported its Russian Members in their appeal to get justice. WAVE joined a [petition](#) and together with 22 organisations signed an urgent letter to the Russian Federation's Investigation Committee, demanding that all evidence be sent to the Main Investigation Department of the Investigative Committee of Russia, and to carry out a swift, impartial and effective investigation into the circumstances of Madina Umayeva's death.

The WAVE Network furthermore issued a letter to Romanian President Klaus Werner Iohannis concerning a draft law passed in the Senate that forbids discussion of any gender identity or concepts in schools, universities and other educational spaces, following in the steps of other conservative governments. The President contested the law to the Constitutional Court which annulled the law in December 2020.

In August, WAVE released [a statement in support of the IC](#), urging governments and international bodies to uphold their commitment to ending violence against women and girls by





Behind the scenes at the WAVE online Conference.

continuing to support the ratification and implementation. The statement was disseminated proactively to key European institutions and bodies, such as the European Commission, the EC Gender Task Force, the EU Parliament, the FEMM Committee and the Council Europe. The statement had a successful impact as it opened the door for advocacy meetings with these key stakeholders as described in section 5. In response to the statement, WAVE was further able to secure a grant by the Council of Europe designing a methodology in promotion of the IC (see section 25).

Towards the end of the year, WAVE joined 12 other women's organisations and signed the [2020 Declaration on Women's Rights](#) conceived at the transnational meeting hosted by the Women's Platform for Equality Turkey in October which was also attended by WAVE representatives. In December, WAVE supported a statement by Missing Children Europe (MCE) in criticizing the European Electronic Communications Code which de facto renders technology used by service providers scanning messages for child sexual abuse material illegal. WAVE supports MCE in insisting that the European Parliament, Commission and Council swiftly agree on a temporary exception to enable tech companies to continue their voluntary reporting and in urging all stakeholders to work swiftly towards long term legislation that makes reporting and takedown of child sexual abuse material and grooming on their platforms mandatory for service providers.

3.12. 22nd WAVE Conference

"Structural inequality: The root of the global pandemic of violence against women" was the title of the 22nd WAVE Annual Conference. This conference marked a new milestone in the history of the WAVE Network as the first ever complete online conference, held on 7–8 October. Hosting a complete digital conference proved to be a new challenge, with considerations on the technical feasibility and capacity of the organizers, speakers and participants. WAVE cooperated with the Vienna-based production company Braintrust. This enabled a professional web presence of the conference, an automatized registration system, interactive chat functions and a seamless live-streaming. The conference was structured into panels and workshops, with Executive Manager Stephanie Futter-Orel partly moderating from a studio in Vienna, while international speakers joined virtually from their countries. The keynote speeches and panels were live-captioned to ensure inclusivity. All in all, the WAVE Conference received 983 visits by various users over two days for all streams and 397 for all workshops.

The conference was officially opened by Executive Manager Stephanie Futter-Orel and President Marcella Pirrone. The morning continued with keynote speeches by Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Dunja Mijatović and UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia Alia El-Yassir. This was followed by a panel exploring the impact of the pandemic on WSS, featuring Antonella Veltri of Italian organisation D.i.Re, Elaine Mears from the Rape Crisis Network Ireland and Iris Luarasi from the Counselling Line for Women and Girls, Albania. The conference concluded with four simultaneous workshops that allowed for face-to-face interaction and direct engagement between participants and speakers. The workshops focused on the Istanbul Convention, digital violence, child contact and custody proceedings, and gender-neutral policies.



The panel on day one of the WAVE Conference.



Day two of the WAVE Conference.

Day two of the WAVE Conference opened with a panel on the topic of effectively supporting vulnerable groups of women in a health crisis. Sari Laaksonen of the Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters, Finland, moderated the discussion between Umayma Elamin Amer of the Migrant Women Association Malta, Ana Peláez Narváez, Member of the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and Liridona Sijarina of the Kosovar Gender Studies Center. The following four simultaneous workshops centred on the following topics: the importance of allyship, sexualized violence, the independent shelter movement, and the impact of VAWG on marginalised groups.

Participants were invited to be as interactive as they wished by using the WAVE hashtags #endStructuralInequality and #eradicateVAWG to be disseminated on social media when reporting about the conference online. They were also encouraged to engage with the StepUp! Campaign by printing out an action template, adding their own contribution to ending violence against women, posting the photo on social media and tagging WAVE.

3.13. WAVE Information Center

The WAVE Information Center is an essential component of the WAVE Network. WAVE staff are available Monday to Friday to provide information on available services for women survivors of violence in 46 European countries, refer individuals to relevant contacts (service providers, experts and academics) in Europe, and support WAVE Members with their inquiries. The Information Center can be reached by e-mail, phone and through social media. In 2020, the WAVE team responded to 52 information requests.

Each month, WAVE receives cross-border support requests from women survivors of violence, or from family members

of the survivors, from women's support service, or from different institutions. The requests are often received when women have not been able to find sufficient support in their own countries, are in dangerous and high-risk situations, are not aware of the support provided in their countries, or the situation is especially complex and requires cross-border assistance. In such cases, WAVE has served both to refer the survivors to appropriate services in the relevant countries, and to provide support to survivors, whenever possible. In 2020, WAVE handled 28 help requests, mostly cross-border cases.

In many cases, situations involve women needing to relocate to other countries to escape violence as well as to seek support such as shelters or counselling. Therefore, WAVE initiates contacts with relevant women's organisations or authorities to provide the necessary support to women. In some cases, WAVE often remains involved throughout the case to ensure the woman's safety and a positive outcome. The cases in 2020 varied and included women from various countries not only in Europe but around the world.

The Information Center also responds to information requests from experts and academics, women's and other civil society organisations, and from the general public. These include requests for specific information on WAVE's publications and work, partnership requests, and communication with international and European institutions. WAVE also provides information for professionals from different organisations who are seeking information for victims (e.g. legal and migrant processes), responds to questionnaires and surveys, and contacts colleagues in other countries for cross-country cooperation and exchange. In addition, an important aspect of the work of the Center is to provide information and support to all WAVE Members and to ensure that all are consistently kept updated on various activities and developments.



3.14. Database

The [WAVE Database](#) on women's specialist support services includes approximately 1,550 services throughout Europe, covering women's shelters, women's helplines, women's centres and counselling centres in 46 European countries. Useful information about these services, such as contact details, addresses, and other relevant information, are available on the WAVE Website and can be easily found by anyone who is interested. The Database encompasses information collected by WAVE through its Member organisations and is regularly updated. The search engine is user-friendly, as has been modernised together with the new WAVE Website in 2017. The Database is a useful resource for women affected by gender-based violence, women's organisations, and practitioners working in the field. In 2020, the Database has been accessed 6,382 times.

3.15. Social Media & Awareness-Raising

WAVE is active on four social media platforms: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#). These platforms have proven vital to disseminating information on GBV to the public, academics, organisations and stakeholders, as well as to display solidarity to all women survivors of violence at a European and international level. Every day, new posts are shared on social media platforms, which promote not only the work and activities of WAVE, but also the activism of WAVE Members and any relevant campaigns and articles on research on GBV. Moreover, WAVE informs the public about news from women's rights movements by contributing at least one post per day about a wide-range of topics such as the ratification of the Istanbul Convention in a country, sexual and reproductive rights, information sharing on international events or conferences and political developments.



The number of people reached and interaction via all social media channels continues to drastically increase. As of December 2020, the WAVE Facebook page has 6,241 followers, while Twitter attracted 2,920 followers and Instagram has 1,921 followers.

Most WAVE projects, such as [Cybersafe](#), [TISOVA](#) or [MARVOW](#), also have their own Facebook and Instagram pages. These pages are primarily used to disseminate information about the topics of the projects, such as elderly abuse (TISOVA, MARVOW) or cyber violence against women (Cybersafe). WAVE shares all contributions from these Facebook pages.

This year, the Cybersafe project launched an online tool intended for teachers or other professionals working with young people, who want to address online violence against women and girls. The tool helps to recognize signs of online violence, possible consequences and to understand how to prevent online violence. Cybersafe social media as well as WAVE social media was used to promote this online tool as much as possible. Some of the hashtags used on Cybersafe social media are #endcyberVAWG and #Cybersafespace. Furthermore, WAVE acts as the dissemination partner of MARVOW, a European project that aims to tackle abuse against elderly women and developing practical tools for people working with the elderly.

WAVE naturally likes to take the opportunity to use international days to promote the feminist cause as well as own



projects. On International Women's Day, WAVE kicked off a week-long campaign in order to share key findings of the 2019 WAVE Country Report. This Report is a key tool to assess the implementation of the Istanbul Convention standards in Europe and to lobby for better support services for women survivors of violence. The WAVE Country Report 2019 gives an overview of the situation of women's specialist support services in Europe, putting an emphasis on four key areas of service provision – women's helplines, shelters accessible to women, women's centres, and specialist services for survivors of sexualised violence. The campaign presented key data concerning the aforementioned country report according to the standards of the Istanbul Convention, on the number of beds available in shelters, the percentage of services of sexualized violence missing, women's helplines, and finally the last day of the campaign presented numbers on femicide. In addition to that, the WAVE Country Report 2019 was also referenced during the 16 Days of Activism against VAW, during which WAVE and the Step up! Campaign shared several infographics with information about WAVE Members and their fight to eliminate violence against women and girls. During this action, the WAVE Country Report 2019 was used to exemplify what the countries of the WAVE Members were lacking in regard to providing safe and sufficient accommodation, receiving adequate funding or establishing services for survivors of sexualized violence, according to the standards and articles of the Istanbul Convention.

WAVE Step Up! Campaign

The WAVE Step Up! Campaign runs two independent social media pages, being [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), where information about the campaigners, their activities as well as the campaign itself is disseminated. In addition to that, news relating to the fight against violence against women and girls is also shared. On Facebook, almost 2,000 people like and follow the WAVE Step Up! Campaign. The campaign's Instagram account was launched on the International Women's

Day 2020 and is thus fairly new; however, it already has over 280 followers .

The target group of both platforms is the general public, to inform about the prevalence of GBV and encourage the civil society to become multipliers of positive change. The overall aim is to strengthen the visibility of the campaign via social media to delve into the progress of the campaign's activities and efforts to eliminating violence against women and girls. Throughout the year, the Step Up! Campaign develops online campaigns and actions to ensure traction and engagement.

The WAVE [Step Up! Campaign website](#) is also a place for the public as well as stakeholders to obtain information about the campaigning countries and the campaigning activities. In 2020, the website welcomed 134,194 visitors, reaching almost 25 % more people than in 2019.

Psychologist Valeriia Bondar from WAVE members La Strada-Ukraine joining in the SUC actions during the WAVE Conference.





This year, WAVE launched their own podcast called [“What the WAVE?”](#) which was used as another source of information sharing from the feminist and women’s rights world, activities of WAVE, and uplifting messages as well as stories by WAVE Members. The three pilot episodes that each were released in the weeks following the end of the first lockdown 2020 aimed to strengthen and further inform the WAVE community on news during this pandemic, notably with a feminist angle. Altogether, the episodes received almost 60 plays.

The [WAVE Blog](#) which is another tool of sharing information has five categories: #25yearsWAVE, Voices, Speak up to Step Up!, Fempower and Inspirational Women. In the Voices category, WAVE staff and Members are encouraged to write editorials about their personal beliefs regarding feminist issues. Moreover, the Thankful Thursday blog column, which is posted every Thursday (with a two weeks Holiday pause in December), is dedicated to covering women who not only have been forgotten by the history books but also women who are shaping the present and the future. A blog series that started in October 2019 to celebrate WAVE’s 25th anniversary continued until October 2020. The posts were shared on the blog and on social media biweekly, and the aim was to celebrate the achievements of the WAVE Network and its Members in the last 25 years, starting from the

history of the Network, moving through the experiences of founders and Members, and concluding with the visions for the future. From January to July 2020, 13 WAVE Members had the chance to use WAVE’s Europe-wide platforms to present themselves and their work with videos and articles. In the year 2020, the WAVE Blog had a total of 53,238 visitors who were accessing the site, which is an increase of 33,90 % compared to 2019.

The WAVE Website is also a critical platform for showcasing the Network’s activities and disseminating information about developments around Europe and the world regarding women’s human rights and GBV. The website also provides the opportunity for target groups such as Members, stakeholders, academics, media and the general public to access information (such as download WAVE publications), to browse the Database about specialist women’s support services in Europe, and to receive contacts of WAVE Members or to receive cross-border support through the WAVE Information Centre. In 2020, 171,553 people visited the WAVE Website, with the WAVE Members and “contact us” sections being amongst the most frequently accessed sections on the site.

3.16.WAVE Newsletter

The [WAVE Newsletter](#) is disseminated bi-monthly to over 1,000 subscribers on the mailing list. The newsletter is structured around several core sections: WAVE news, a section on WAVE messaging and a joint approach for addressing the backlash, upcoming events and international news. The first section announces upcoming WAVE events such as conferences or webinars. The second section highlights news from the Network, such as new Members, changing staff or current project activities. The third section centres around international news, such as political developments and updates from Members.

Hungarian WAVE Member NANE and Albanian WAVE Member Women Center Lights Steps featured on the WAVE Blog



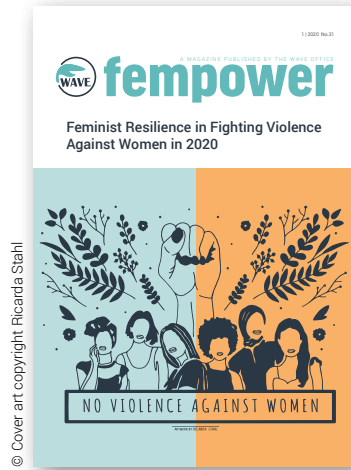
#WAVE members: NANE, Hungary



#WAVEmembers: Women Center Light Steps, Albania

3.17. Fempower Magazine

The **31st issue of the WAVE annual Fempower magazine** is dedicated to “Feminist Resilience in Fighting Violence Against Women in 2020”. In the spirit of learning from each other and supporting the Network, this year’s magazine is meant to be used as a resource for sharing and reflecting on good practices discovered throughout 2020 in the fight to continue advancing women’s rights to live a life free from violence. The articles showcase feminist resilience and good practices in fighting VAW in Europe during 2020, particularly regarding political backlash, right-wing extremism, gender neutral policy, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing demands for support.



in the field to combat violence against women.

3.19. Webinars

Seven webinars were hosted by the WAVE Office throughout the year.

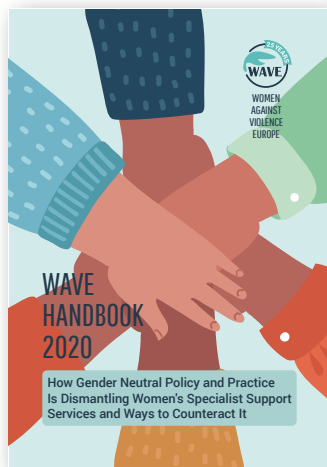
The Story of the Step Up! Campaign (19 February) Welcoming 23 participants, the webinar introduced and freshened up knowledge on the Step Up! Campaign. From the campaign blueprint drafted in 2015 to the official launch in 2016, the webinar went through important milestones in the history of the campaign such as the Youth Video Award, the Meme contest, the campaign website’s relaunch and the 2019 EU parliament election actions. A questions and answers session at the end of the webinar gave space for discussions.

COVID-19 webinar 1: The situation of women’s support services during the pandemic and the response of WAVE Member organisations (9 April)

This webinar served as an important platform to exchange good practices and experience during the uncertain first weeks of the pandemic and the following lockdown. Lina Piskernik, Digital & Social Media Coordinator, gave an update on the WAVE Office’s work regarding COVID-19 and shared tips on the use of technology such as tools for distance counselling. Updates and voices from WAVE Members followed, in particular from Albania, Czech Republic, Italy, Ireland, Serbia and Spain. The webinar concluded with a motivational speech and tips for self-care

3.18. Handbook

The **WAVE Handbook 2020** was written by the Gender Neutrality Working Group on the topic: “How Gender Neutral Policy and Practice Is Dismantling Women’s Specialist Support Services and Ways to Counteract It”. The purpose of this handbook is to inform employees and volunteers of women’s specialist support services (WSS) about the dangers of gender neutral policy and practice, as well as to help them counteract it by providing good practice examples which they can apply to their own region and organisation. As the reader opens the handbook to the first chapter, they begin their journey with background information about what gender neutrality is in the social, economic and political context, emphasizing the importance of intersectionality. The following chapter lets case studies solidify what strategies are needed in order to protect women’s support services from gender neutral policy. After this, the historical context of gender neutrality illustrates the causes behind the backlash against the gendered language of the Istanbul Convention in Bulgaria and Slovakia is discussed, followed by techniques on how to navigate hostile spaces when one’s organisation is underfunded or not funded at all. This is followed by a chapter on a case study of the UK which shows the impact of public procurement policy on specialist women’s organisations and Black and minoritised women’s organisations. The next chapter covers the responsibility of the state which is then analysed more closely by the examination of the Istanbul Convention, CEDAW and the European Convention on Human Rights. Promising communication strategies for the battle against gender neutral policies are underlined and analysed. These are illustrated by good practices from several organisations which are then followed by short explanations of the outcome as well as pointers on how to use those strategies for your own organisation. The handbook ends with a chapter on self-care techniques for those who work



from Italian Member Silvia Menecali. 67 participants attended this webinar.

COVID-19 webinar 2: The current political situation and policy making with focus on the status of women (16 April)

The second webinar focused on the political situation in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Interventions and updates came from Poland, Spain, Turkey, Hungary and Scotland, outlining how governments across Europe have responded differently to the pandemic. This was followed by a Q&A session and self-care tips from WAVE Vice-President Pille Tsopp-Pagan. 65 participants attended this webinar.

COVID-19 webinar 3: Best and promising practices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (23 April)

The final webinar in this series was dedicated to showcasing good practices of WAVE Members in response to the pandemic. Examples featured experiences from the UK, Spain, Italy, Austria and Finland. Practices cited to be prominent featured “code word” campaigns in pharmacies across Europe, digital counselling and collaboration with hotels. 82 participants attended this webinar.

Domestic Violence & Child Contact: European Perspectives (10 June)

This webinar was hosted by the Improving Justice in Child Contact (IJCC) project in partnership with the WAVE Network and the European Women’s Lobby. IJCC explores child contact decisions in families affected by domestic violence. The webinar presented European perspectives on domestic violence and child contact such as gaps in the implementation of the IC, domestic abuse in English family courts and showcased key findings from the IJCC project. Over 80 participants attended this webinar and can be [viewed here](#).

Legal arguments used in the Kurt vs. Austria case, pending at the European Court of Human Rights (24 June)

On the 24th of June 2020, the Legal Working Group of the WAVE Network organized a one hour and a half webinar focusing on the: ‘Legal arguments used in the Kurt vs. Austria case, pending at the European Court of Human Rights’. The purpose of the webinar was to support legal practitioners on how to use international and European standards such as the ones enshrined in the IC, and in the European Convention on Human Rights, in national and international litigation. The webinar welcomed four speakers, that tackled the pending case at the European Court of Human Rights. 37 participants attended this webinar which can be [watched here](#).

The power of youth activism: How youth are making a change in their community to stop violence against women (28 August)

Beverly Mtui, WAVE Youth Ambassador Coordinator, was moderating the webinar which began with an outline of the WAVE Youth Ambassador’s current activities. This was

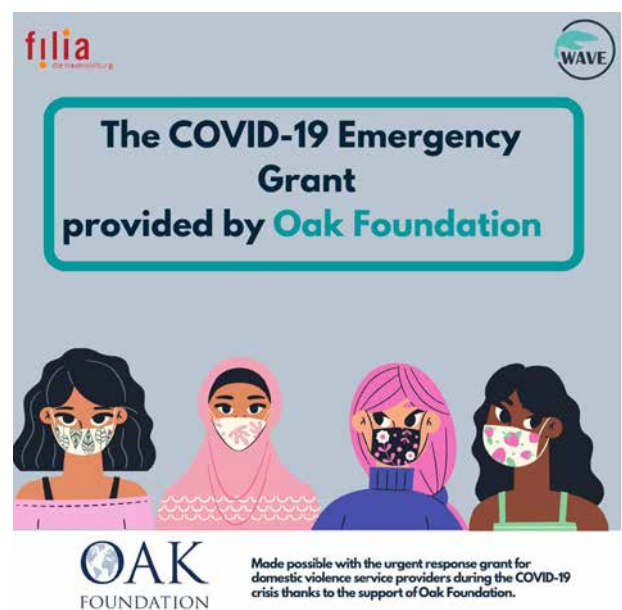


followed by an intervention from the newly minted second generation of WAVE YAs, shedding light on the impact youth has on feminist movements from her experience: Zvezdana Radulović (Montenegro). The webinar ended with a dynamic Q&A session, having welcomed nearly 20 participants over its entire span. The webinar can be [watched here](#).

3.20. Oak Foundation Core Funding and Urgent Response Fund

Core Funding

Thanks to generous core funding from the Oak Foundation, WAVE was able to continue its core activities as well as support WAVE Member organisations from outside of the European Union. Without Oak Foundation funding, it would be even more challenging to allow for participation of our Member organisations not within the European Union. As WAVE has membership throughout 46 European countries, with only 27 being EU countries, several countries are therefore excluded from EU project and operational funding; this often means that women’s NGOs (many of which are experiencing a right-wing backlash) are excluded from EU policies and the general framework in combating and preventing GBV throughout Europe. Members from under-funded regions of Europe attest to the value of being involved in a European Network, as it enables them to stay connected with other women’s organisations and share good practices.





Additionally, the WAVE advocacy work also ensures that the issues our Members experience are being communicated to key policy- and decision-makers in Europe. Thus, the valuable support by Oak Foundation is of significant importance to increase the involvement of Members from countries outside of the EU, particularly Eastern and South-Eastern European countries.

Thanks to the Oak Foundation, women's NGOs from outside of the EU are able to participate in network activities, share their own valuable experiences, learn good practices from other countries, and highlight their own work and developments in the region. The Oak Foundation provides critical funding to other operational activities of the Network, including hosting key events such as the Advisory Board Meeting, covering staff costs, and allowing the WAVE team to participate at various events. Oak Foundation funding has furthermore contributed to organisational and structural improvements and built the capacity of the WAVE Office to carry out their work in a timely and efficient manner.

COVID-19 Urgent Response Fund

In spring, the Oak Foundation provided WAVE with a very timely and generous Urgent Response Fund aimed at supporting WAVE Members in addressing the early stages of the pandemic. In consultation with the WAVE Board, the management of this grant was given to the German fund [filia. die frauenstiftung](#) to ensure compliance and impartiality when distributing the grant. In consultation with the WAVE Advisory Board, a set of criteria and maximum number of grantees was agreed upon. It was decided to limit the number of supported Members to 20, to allow for adequate, effective and equal distribution of the grant. After the selection process, our colleagues from filia reported back that situations described in the applications showed how drastically the situation for women has worsened during and because of COVID-19 – and how urgent the need for financial support is for the organisations. The grantees are currently continuing their work and detailed reporting will be

available in spring 2021. Preliminary reports and feedback from grantees show that the grant proved a huge aid and support during this pandemic. The main needs met by the grant was dedicated to easing the cost of implementing emergency measures.

“COVID-19 is already testing us in ways most of us have never previously experienced, providing emotional and economic shocks that we are struggling to rise above. The violence that is emerging now as a dark feature of this pandemic is a mirror and a challenge to our values, our resilience and shared humanity. We must not only survive the coronavirus, but emerge renewed, with women as a powerful force at the centre of recovery. The Oak Emergency Grant provided us with desperately needed support to experiencing unprecedented and unforeseen needs as a result of the pandemic.”

– Women's Wellness, Centre Kosovo

A good part of the grant was hence used to accommodate additional staff to manage the increased demand of support services needed. There was an increased need of basic living items such as food, sanity or health products. Many grantees had to rent out additional accommodation spaces for women and children fleeing from violence. Digital infrastructure played a crucial role in continuing support services. Thus, grantees invested in purchasing of digital devices to maintain the service provision during confinement measures, such as laptops, telephones and internet plans. This also entailed training for staff members, on online counselling as well as cybersecurity.

“This fund came to our organisation at a time of hardship, as previously our staff cost and overhead expenses were mostly funded through a catering project, which was suspended due to COVID-19. The needs of the target group grew throughout the pandemic, as isolation and vulnerability increased. We support refugees and asylum seekers women survivors, that are also at risk of sexual and gender-based violence. Therefore to not be able to sustain our services during a period of the crisis was unthinkable. This fund allowed us to do just that, sustain the services, and reach over 60 women in need of support throughout the summer and autumn.”

– Migrant Women Association, Malta

Testimonials from WAVE Members attest to the value of this grant which was able to give quick and unbureaucratic support. In many countries, the financial situation of WSS has deteriorated with sponsors withdrawing or postponing their support due to the pandemic. In addition, donations also

decreased. This affects WSS, but also women's economic independence in general. Early on, many of the grantees took measures to alleviate this and supported women's economic empowerment.

"The financial crisis that is following the pandemic puts women victims in a very unfavourable economic position. So, the network team decided to put the focus on economic empowerment through skills trainings, especially soft skills trainings aiming at increasing the employability of women victims and achieving economic independence."

– National Network to end Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, North Macedonia

We strongly thank Oak Foundation for making this grant possible and enabling WAVE Members to support women and children in their communities. A big thank you also goes out to our colleagues from filia for the pleasant collaboration.



3.21. UN Women Project: Civil Society Strengthening Platform

The Civil Society Strengthening Platform (CSSP) supported through the EU/UN Women project, of the programme "Ending Violence against Women: Implementing norms, changing minds", focused in 2020 on the lack of specific support services for victims of sexual violence in the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia) and Turkey. Furthermore, the nine partners in the afore-mentioned countries and WAVE also focused on the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the measures imposed by national governments, and the impact of lockdown measures on domestic violence cases as well as on WSS. Therefore, from May 2020 to April 2021, the project's expected result is that CSSP partners' and and/or other CSOs/CSOs platforms' voice and agency are strengthened to advocate for the development and implementation of laws, policies and services to address the needs of survivors of sexual violence as required by the standards of the Istanbul Convention.

To achieve this result, CSSP partners together with WAVE developed a set of guidelines in English and in all seven partners' languages, to better support women and girls victims of violence throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and in times of crisis. Over 150 stakeholders from the Western Balkans and Turkey were provided with this set of guidelines. The guidelines have been adapted according to countries' current needs and realities. CSSP partners also prepared seven short videos on promoting support services that victims of violence can access during lockdown and after. Videos were



prepared in different languages to access women from disadvantaged groups as well. Partners reported an increase in the number of calls/messages of women experiencing GBV, including young women (e.g. Albania). The videos were promoted on social media, and disseminated by WAVE and UN Women.

Following the launch of the guidelines a statement urging governments and international bodies to uphold their commitment to ending violence against women and girls by continuing to support the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention was released by WAVE Network. WAVE Youth Ambassadors in Albania, Montenegro and Serbia launched to short videos to shed light on sexual violence and highlight where women can find support. The videos have been shared on WAVE's social media platforms, CSSP partners' social media platforms from Albania, Montenegro and Serbia and on the [CSSP website](#).

When it comes to the lack of specific sexual violence services, WAVE prepared a desk review, compiling information and previous work that has been done to establish support services for victims of sexual violence in countries such as Belgium, Croatia, Ireland and Serbia. The desk review will serve as a learning tool for future CSSP activities, such as: the capacity building training and policy paper, both focusing on developing good practice standards for when working with victims of sexual violence.

Furthermore, on 29 November 2020, International Women Human Rights Defender's Day, the CSSP project partners and WAVE Youth Ambassadors from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia got together for a second time to further strengthen the collaborative efforts from their first action and put an emphasis on the need for intergenerational collaboration. The WAVE Youth Ambassadors drafted questions for CSSP partners in regard to defending human rights and tackling sexual violence. The answers of the CSSP partners have been included in an article on the [WAVE blog](#) which was disseminated by WAVE, UN Women and CSSP partners on social media and own websites.



3.22. TISOVA Project

TISOVA – the Training to Identify and Support Older Victims of Abuse – is a European Erasmus+ project launched on 1 September 2017, intended to establish associated and strategic partnerships with senior centres from each of the partner countries Austria, Estonia, Greece and Finland. The aim is to counteract any form of violence against the elderly, especially women, for the duration of three years.

During the year, project partners met in person at the steering committee meeting in Heraklion, Greece, in February. The project partners carried out different activities aimed at increasing awareness as well as translating and disseminating the training manual. An expert roundtable was organized in November, followed by a 3-day social media campaign. The training course is available in different languages [online](#).



3.23. MARVOW Project

The MARVOW Project develops and implements a comprehensive multiagency cooperation model for working with older women victims of abuse. It brings together a wide range of stakeholders in Austria, Estonia and Greece, to identify the gaps that exist within the current systems that hinder their ability to adequately serve older victims. WAVE is the responsible partner for the communication and dissemination of the project at the international level. In 2020, WAVE consolidated the project identity, launched the project website, the Facebook profile, and created the project leaflets for dissemination at a national level. The first online thematic campaign took place in June 2020, to mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The creative room, which is the project group dealing with communication activities and strategies, met four times in 2020. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, some project activities had to be postponed and the project was extended for six months.



3.24. Cybersafe Project

The Cybersafe Project entered its second year in 2020, and due to COVID-19 and the impossibility of conducting activities in schools, it was extended for six months. Nine project partners from various European countries have developed an innovative experiential educational prevention programme that includes playful online tools to address the issue of online violence against women and girls among young people in a classroom setting. WAVE is responsible for the communication and dissemination of the project and in 2020, despite the difficulties and delays due to the global pandemic, the online activities continued. Social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) are active and significantly increased their reach in 2020, and two newsletters were sent in 2020. Project information materials (pamphlets and banners) were developed in order to promote the project at a local level. The Cybersafe Toolkit was completed and a video teaser to advertise the online tool was developed and released. The project was presented at the 2020 WAVE Conference. The project partners are meeting on a regular basis, and two steering committee meetings were held in 2020: one in person meeting in Tartu in March, and one online meeting in November.

3.25. Council of Europe Project

In August 2020, the WAVE Network issued a statement urging national governments and international bodies to uphold their commitments to ending violence against women and girls by continuing to support the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention, in response to the recent backlash against the Istanbul Convention.

Despite the clearly stated aims of the Istanbul Convention, the seriousness of the phenomenon and its impact on victims and on society, a number of religious and ultra-conservative groups have, in recent years, been spreading false narratives about the convention, especially around the concept of "gender" included in the text. These misrepresentations must be exposed and addressed by highlighting the aims of the Istanbul Convention: eradicating violence against women and protecting women's human rights.

In light of the spreading myths and misconceptions around the Istanbul Convention there is an increased demand to raise awareness and understanding among the general public and decision makers of the different manifestations of all forms of violence covered by the convention.

Therefore, in October 2020, the WAVE Network was granted a three months funding by the Council of Europe with the aim to design the vision, methodology and tools – from



a human rights-based gender-sensitive victim-centred approach – to run national campaigns adapted to local contexts and implemented by civil society organisations (CSOs). The campaigns should aim to promote the values, aims and provisions of the Istanbul Convention and dispelling myths and misinformation about it in Council of Europe member states where civil society organisations encounter a backlash against the Istanbul Convention. In case of countries that have not yet ratified the Istanbul Convention, the final aim of the national campaigns would be to pave the way towards ratification of the convention.

To achieve these results, WAVE developed with financial support from the Council of Europe and in co-operation with UN Women, a vision on how to better address and counter the misconceptions around the values, aims and provisions of the convention. This included an analysis of the current state of play regarding public understanding and support to the convention, main obstacles and challenges for ratification as well as identifying ways to build positive narratives around the convention. Based on this document, WAVE furthermore developed a methodology for awareness raising campaigns to be run by civil society organisations, addressed to the general public and decision makers, in Council of Europe member states where CSOs encounter a backlash against the convention. Lastly, a set of proposed tools and means of communication were also developed to be used as a model for running awareness raising campaigns based on the above vision and methodology/strategy.

All these tools will be piloted by the Council of Europe in five selected countries: Croatia, Czech Republic, Latvia, Poland and Turkey, as part of an awareness raising campaign to support the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention. These five countries were selected as pilot countries as they experience significant political backlashes against the convention, but they still offer opportunities that can pave the way to a ratification or proper implementation of the convention.

4. Annex

4.1. Board List of CVs (as of December 2020)



Marcella Pirrone (President)

Marcella Pirrone is a feminist lawyer who has worked for over thirty years in Italy. At international level, she has continuously promoted and advocated for the rights of women, specifically women victims of violence. She works as a family and criminal lawyer, public service commissioner for sexual harassment and discrimination. Her career encompasses numerous feminist achievements. She is co-founder and President of a women's shelter, co-founder of D.i.Re (the Italian umbrella association for autonomous women's shelters) and member of its board, and university law professor.

Moreover, she has participated in several international projects, plays an active role in WAVE, as she has represented Italy for over 20 years and most recently as a member of its Advisory Board. In 2018-2019, she coordinated together with Elena Biaggioni on behalf of D.i.Re and 25 other Italian women's NGOs the shadow report GREVIO, outlining Italy's response to the Istanbul Convention.



Pille Tsopp-Pagan (Vice-President)

Pille Tsopp-Pagan is a Board Member and co-founder of the Tartu Women's Shelter in 2002, which at the time was the first domestic violence shelter in the Baltics. For the past seven years, she has served as its Executive Director, working to rebrand the organisation as the Women's Support and Information Center (WSIC), a more internationally-oriented organisation that participates in policy analysis and advocacy, research and education. In this role she has managed national and international projects supported by EU Justice, Erasmus and other funders.

She helped to write the 2007–2014 UN CEDAW shadow report on Estonia and presented it to the CEDAW Committee in Geneva. Within Estonia, she has advocated for changes to the penal code and worked with policy makers to bring the country in line with the Istanbul Convention. Furthermore, she has over twenty years of experience in financial management of both non-profit and for-profit firms. She has been responsible for financial management of dozens of international projects and for several large and small organisations.



Dušana Karlovská

Dušana Karlovská is a feminist activist and practicing psychologist. Over the past 17 years, she has been directly supporting women and their children, developing and carrying out trainings, campaigns and advocacy activities on violence against women. She is the Program Director of Fenestra – a grass-roots feminist organisation, being one of the first in Slovakia to work with women survivors of violence. Within the organisation, she is responsible for creating dialogue with different authorities, NGOs and with the Slovak government. She has initiated the establishment of multi-agency cooperation in Kosice and the founding of an informal network of women's NGOs in Slovakia.

She is the author of several publications and a member of the Gender Equality Committee, an advisory body under the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family in Slovakia, as well as of the Government Council for Crime Prevention. At international level, she has participated in many international projects. She has been involved in the WAVE Network since 2005. She has been an Advisory Board Member representing Slovakia in the recent years.

She strongly believes that feminist women's groups, organisations and networks play a key role in changing the lives of women and girls.



Sari Laaksonen

Sari Laaksonen is a development director in the Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters, which has 30 member organisations throughout Finland. Previously Sari has worked as the director of the Shelter in Helsinki and in Central Union for Child Welfare. She has been an active member in the Nordic Women Against Violence network since 2009 and WAVE Advisory Board since 2014. She is also chairing the board of Victim Support Finland. She coordinated the Istanbul Convention shadow report of Finland in co-operation with Women's Line and organized several international conferences, latest the Nordic Women Against Violence Conference 2018 and the Stop the Backlash Conference connected with the Finnish EU-Presidency with WAVE, both in Helsinki. She has also been involved in developing projects on outreach work, violence against the elderly, children of asylum seekers and prisoners as well as transgenerational violence. Sari is an experienced network developer and NGO lobbyist, with a university degree on educational administration, development and research.



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Baljit Banga

Baljit Banga served as director of London Black Women's Project (LBWP) from 2007 to 2019. She became the Executive Director at Imkaan in May 2019. In 2019, she also joined the Board at WAVE. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from York University and a Masters in Planning and Policy from Heriot Watt, now located in the University of Edinburgh. Baljit's professional life has been involved in and dedicated to policy research and practice specifically gender policy, women's human rights, and how official state policy can impact upon women's equal representation, access to resources and opportunity and citizenship rights. She is dedicated to working as an intersectional black feminist. Her work has involved strategic development and sustainability of black and minoritised women's organisations. Areas of interest focus on intersectionality and black feminism in reimagining public administration and policy-making away from neo-liberal framing and towards a transformative social justice approach. She is currently completing her Doctorate at the University of Bath at the Institute of Policy Research.



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Rosa Logar

Rosa Logar is Executive Director of the Domestic Abuse Intervention Program Vienna, a victim/survivor service that was established with the Domestic Violence Act (1997). She is a lecturer at the University of Applied Sciences/Department of Social Work and member of the Austrian inter-ministerial working ground on the new Domestic Violence Act. Rosa co-founded WAVE in 1994, and participated in selected international activities: member of the UN Expert Group Meeting Good practices in legislation on Violence Against Women in Vienna (2008); member of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence (2006–2008); from 2008 until 2010 she represented the Austrian Federal Minister for Women in the CoE Ad Hoc Committee which was in charge of drafting the new CoE Convention on preventing and combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence. Since May 2015, Rosa is a member of the GREVIO committee, which monitors the implementation of the Istanbul Convention – in September 2015, she was nominated as first vice-president of the GREVIO.



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Branislava Marvánová Vargová

Branislava Marvánová Vargová is head of the Information and Counselling Centre ROSA that provides support and counselling for women who experienced violence in their close relationships. ROSA – Centre for women has been established 25 years ago as one of the first women's NGOs in this field in the Czech Republic. As for her professional background, she has been a psychologist and psychotherapist working with women who experienced violence for more than 18 years.

Since 2016, she has been chairwoman of the Government Committee for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women, which prepares a national Action Plan to Prevent Domestic and Gender-Based Violence and monitors its implementation. By combining her activities in direct work with women, victims of violence and at policy-making level, she seeks to promote that the voices and needs of women are always at the heart of all planned and implemented measures on individual as well as structural level. She has been actively engaged with WAVE since 2004, participated in several WAVE projects (Bridging Gaps, Protect I, Protect II) and has been a trainer at the WAVE Training Institute. She is the author of several publications and actively involved in international exchange and cooperation.



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Susana Pavlou

Susana Pavlou started her career at the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) in 2005 and has served as Director of the Institute since 2008. In this capacity, she has coordinated and implemented transnational projects on violence against women including domestic violence, sexual violence and rape, female genital mutilation, and gender-based violence among adolescents.

Susana has also served as an expert on violence against women for European networks and organisations including the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), and the Council of Europe. She served as an expert in the EWL Observatory on Violence against women for six years and served on the Advisory Board of the WAVE Network. As a senior researcher for the European Institute for Gender Equality, she has worked specifically on administrative data collection on violence against women, gender-based violence among refugee women and, most recently, on risk assessment by police on intimate partner violence.

In Cyprus, Susana is currently President of the Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Combating of Violence in the Family, a coordinating body for the implementation of the law on domestic violence and to promote multi-agency cooperation. In her capacity as expert on violence against women and domestic violence, she has worked closely with the Cyprus Ministry of Justice on mapping the legislative framework of Cyprus and its compliance with the standards of the Council of Europe Convention on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, as well as in preparing a study on models and tools on risk assessment and risk management of intimate partner violence.

4.2. Women's Helplines in 46 European Countries

The following is a table of the national women's helplines available in the 46 European Countries. If there is no national helpline, a regional or general helpline is listed (these countries are marked with a *). Women's national helplines are among the most vital services for women survivors of violence, they are one of the first places women can turn to receive immediate counselling and advice.

It is important to note that some of the following phone numbers cannot be called from abroad, as they are strictly national helplines and can only be used within the country. In such instances, we invite you to get in touch directly with the WAVE Members in relevant countries.

COUNTRY	NAME	PHONE NUMBER
Albania	Linja Kombetare e Keshillimit per Gra dhe Vajza / National Counselling Line for Women and Girls	+355 116/117 + 0 800 40 20
Armenia	The National Hotline for Women Victims of Domestic Violence and their Children	+374 105 428 28
	Women's Support Center Hotline	+347 998 878 08
Austria	Frauenhelpline gegen Gewalt / Women's Helpline Against Violence	+43 0800 222 555
Azerbaijan*	Qaynarxətt- "Hot Line" / Main Department on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings at the Ministry of Internal Affairs	+994 152 +562 21 12
	"Təmiz Dünya" Qadınlara Yardım İctimai Birliyi / Clean World Social Union (<i>domestic violence helpline</i>)	+994 12 408 56 86 +994 12 408 56 96
Belarus	Общенациональная горячая линия для пострадавших от домашнего насилия / National Hotline for Survivors of Domestic Violence	8 801 100 8 801
Belgium*	Écoute violences conjugales (<i>domestic violence helpline</i>)	0800 30 0 30 (French)
	Mon Mariage M'appartient (<i>forced marriage helpline</i>)	+32 0800 90901 (French)
	SOS Viol (<i>sexual violence helpline</i>)	0800 98 100 (French) +32 (0) 253 436 36 (French)
	Tele Accueil – Telephone Hotline	107 (French)
	Tele Hilfe – Telephone Hotline	108 (German)
	Tele Onthaal – Telephone Hotline	106 (Flemish)
	1712 bij vragen over geweld (<i>Violence and Child Abuse Hotline, not gender specific</i>)	1712 (Flemish)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	SOS Helpline 1265 – <i>Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>	+387 12 65
	SOS Helpline 1264 – <i>Republika Srpska</i>	+387 12 64
Bulgaria	Alliance for Protection against Gender Based Violence (<i>domestic violence helpline</i>)	+359 0800 11977
	National Helpline for Survivors of Violence	+359 0800 18676
Croatia*	B.A.B.E SOS Phone Line	0800 200 144 01/4663 666
	Centar za žene Adela / Adela Women's Center	044/888-888
	Sigurna kuća Istra PONEJELJKOM I PETKOM – Secure house Istria SOS Telefon	052 500 148
	Sklonište i savjetovalište za žene i djecu žrtve obiteljskog nasilj SOS Telefon	0800 333 883
	SOS liniju za suzbijanje trgovanja ljudima / SOS Helpline for victims of trafficking	+385 (0) 800 77 99 +385 145 511 28
	Udruga HERA Križevci SOS Telefon / Autonomous Women's House Zagreb SOS Telefon	048 711 077 048 271 335

COUNTRY	NAME	PHONE NUMBER
	Women's Counselling Centre	48 23 259 0800 55 44
	Ženska pomoć sada – SOS telefon za žene i djecu žrtve nasilja u obitelji / Women's help now – SOS phone for women and children victims of domestic violence	0800 655 222 01 46 55 222
	Ženska grupa Lošinj – grupa za zaštitu ženskih ljudskih prava (<i>women's helpline</i>)	+385 (0) 512 336 50
	Ženska udruga "IZVOR" SOS Telefon / Women's Association "IZVOR" SOS Telefon	0800 200 151
	ŽGK „KORAK“ SOS telefon / Women's Group Step Karlovac SOS Telefon	385 47 655 925
Republic of Cyprus	Emergency Hotline – Helpline 1440 (<i>domestic violence helpline</i>)	1440
	Violence Against Women Notice Line – <i>Northern Cyprus</i>	+357 183
Czech Republic*	Bílý kruh bezpečí – Linka Pomoci Obetem / White Circle of Safety – victims help line	116 006
	Elektra – Centrum pomoci ženám sexuálně zneužitým v dětství / Support Centre for Child Sexual Abuse Women Survivors	+420 603 812 361
Denmark	Landsdækkende, døgnåben Hotline om vold i nære relationer – National Helpline (<i>not gender specific</i>)	+45 702 03 082
Estonia	Ohvriabi Kriisitelefoni / Victim's Crisis Helpline	+372 116 006
Finland	Nollalinja – The Zeroline against domestic violence and violence against women	+358 080 005 005
France	Violence Femmes Info (<i>all forms of violence against women</i>)	+33 3919
Georgia	State Fund for Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking	+995 116 006
Germany	Hilfetelefon Gewalt gegen Frauen / Violence Against Women Helpline	+49 0 8000 116 016
Greece	SOS Helpline for Abused Women	+30 15900
	SOS Helpline UWAH	+30 801 111 6000
Hungary	NANE Segélyvonal / NANE Helpline, for adult and child survivors of domestic violence	+36 06 80 505 101
	KERET Segélyvonal – KERET Helpline (<i>sexual violence helpline</i>)	+36 30 98 25 469
Iceland	Kvennaathvarfið – símaþjónusta / The Women's Shelter – Phone Service	+354 561-1205
Ireland	Women's Aid 24hr National Freephone Helpline (<i>domestic violence helpline</i>)	+353 1800 341 900
	Dublin Rape Crisis Center National 24hr Helpline (<i>sexual violence helpline</i>)	+353 0800 77 8888
Italy	Numero Nazionale Antiviolenza e Stalking 1522 / National helpline against violence and stalking	+39 1552
Kosovo	Numri i Linjës Ndihmëse (<i>national women's helpline</i>)	+ 383 0800 111 12
Latvia	Center Marta for Trafficking in women	+371 800 020 12
Liechtenstein	Frauenhaus Liechtenstein (<i>national women's helpline</i>)	+423 380 02 03
Lithuania	Pagalbos Moterims Linija – Helpline for Women	+370 8 800 66 366
Luxembourg*	Frauenhaus	44 81 81 49 08 771
Malta*	APPOGG Agency within the Foundation for Social Welfare Services (<i>general helpline</i>)	179

COUNTRY	NAME	PHONE NUMBER
	Victim Support Malta	+356 2122 8333
Moldova	Telefonul de Încredere pentru Femei și Fete / Trust Line for Women and Girls	+373 0 8008 8008
Montenegro	National SOS Helpline for Victims of Domestic Violence	+382 080 111 111
Netherlands*	Bel Mijj Moviera	088 3 744 744
	Blijfgroep voor hulp	088 234 24 50
	Centrum Seksueel Geweld – Rape and sexual assault helpline	0800 0188
	Hear my voice	0800 32 000 32
	MIJN FIER 24/7 HULP	088 20 80 000
	Tagen Je Will / Against Her Will	0592 34 74 44
	Veilig Thuis / Safe Home (<i>domestic violence helpline</i>)	+31 0800 2000
Norway	Vold-og overgrepslinjen (VO) – nasjonal hjelpelinje for alle som utsettes for vold i nære relasjoner og seksuelle overgrep / National Helpline for all subjected to violence in intimate relationships and sexual violence	+47 116 006
Poland	Emergency Helpline for Women Victims of Violence	+48 600 070 717
Portugal*	Associação Portuguesa de Apoio à Vítima -- Victim Support Line	116 006
	Serviço de Informação às Vítimas de Violência Doméstica / Information Service for Victims of Domestic Violence	+351 800 202 148
Romania	Linia telefonica gratuita pentru ajutor specializat – Free Helpline for Specialized Support	+40 0800 500 333
Russia	Всероссийский телефон для женщин, пострадавших от домашнего насилия / National helpline for women suffering from domestic violence	+7 8800 7000 600
Serbia*	SOS telefon Vojvodine / SOS Helpline of Vojvodina	+381 (0) 800 101 010
	SOS Telefon za žene sa iskustvom nasilja	+381 (0) 800 100 007
Slovakia	Národná linka pre ženy zažívajúce násilie / National Helpline for Women Experiencing Violence	+421 0800 212 212
Slovenia	Društvo SOS telefon za ženske in otroke – žrtve nasilja / SOS Helpline for Women and Children – Victims of Violence	+386 080 11 55
Spain	016 línea de atención a víctimas de malos tratos por violencia de género / 016 gender-based violence victims' support helpline	+34 016
Sweden	Kvinnofridslinjen – Sweden's National Women's Helpline	+46 020 5050 50
Switzerland*	Association Viol-Secours – Rape and sexual assault helpline	+41 (0) 223 452 020
	Dargebotene Hand –General crisis helpline	143
	Frauen-Nottelefon, Notwohnungen für bedrängte und geschlagene Frauen (<i>women's helpline</i>)	+41 (0) 313 301 015
Turkey	Emergency Domestic Violence Hotline	+90 0212 6569696
Ukraine	Національна "гаряча" лінія з попередження домашнього насильства, торгівлі людьми та гендерної дискримінації / National hotline on prevention of domestic violence, trafficking and gender discrimination	+380 0800 500 335 116 123
United Kingdom	ENGLAND: Freephone 24hr National Domestic Violence Helpline	+44 0808 2000 247
	NORTHERN IRELAND: 24hr Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline	+44 0808 802 1414
	SCOTLAND: Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline	+44 0800 027 1234
	WALES: Live Fear Free Helpline	+44 0808 8010 800

4.3. WAVE Members (as of December 2020)

	NAME OF ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
1	Gender Alliance for Development Center (GADC)	Albania
2	Counselling Line for Women and Girls	Albania
3	Human Rights in Democracy Center (HRDC)	Albania
4	Women's Association Refleksione	Albania
5	Woman Forum Elbasan	Albania
6	Albania Women Empowerment Network (AWEN)	Albania
7	Woman to Woman	Albania
8	Psycho-Social Centre Vatra	Albania
9	Center for Legal Civic Initiatives	Albania
10	Women Center Light Steps	Albania
11	Women's Rights Center	Armenia
12	Women's Support Center	Armenia
13	Sexual Assault Crisis Center	Armenia
14	Austrian Women's Shelter Network – Information Centre against Violence AÖF	Austria
15	Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre Vienna	Austria
16	Network of Austrian Counselling Centres for Women and Girls	Austria
17	Renate Egger (Individual Member)	Austria
18	Clean World Social Union	Azerbaijan
19	International Public Association „Gender Perspectives “	Belarus
20	Law Initiative – Commission on Women's Rights	Belarus
21	Collectif contre les Violences Familiales et l'Exclusion (CVFE)	Belgium
22	Department of Health and Welfare, Violence Victims and Policy Coordination – Province of Antwerp	Belgium
23	Garance ASBL	Belgium
24	Foundation United Women Banja Luka	Bosnia and Herzegovina
25	Medica Zenica Information	Bosnia and Herzegovina
26	Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation	Bulgaria
27	Nadja Centre	Bulgaria
28	Alliance for Protection against Gender-Based Violence	Bulgaria
29	Gender Alternatives Foundation	Bulgaria
30	Autonomous Women's House Zagreb	Croatia
31	B.a.B.e, Be active, Be emancipated	Croatia
32	Women's Room – Center for Sexual Rights	Croatia
33	Centre for Women War Victims ROSA	Croatia
34	Domine Organization for Promotion of Women's Rights	Croatia
35	Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS)	Cyprus
36	Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family	Cyprus
37	Association of Women to Support Living (Kayad)	Northern Cyprus
38	ProFem – Central European Consulting Centre	Czech Republic
39	ROSA – Centre for Battered and Lonely Women	Czech Republic
40	L.O.K.K – National Organization of Women's Shelters in Denmark	Denmark
41	DANNER	Denmark
42	Tartu Child Support Center	Estonia
43	Women's Support and Information Centre	Estonia
44	Pärnu Women's Support Center	Estonia
45	Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters	Finland
46	Women's Line Finland	Finland
47	FNSF - Federation National Solidarite Femmes	France
48	Cultural Humanitarian Fund 'Sukhumi'	Georgia
49	Sakhli Advice Center for Women	Georgia
50	Women's Information Center (WIC)	Georgia
51	Anti-Violence Network of Georgia	Georgia
52	Democrat Women's Organization fo Samtskhe-Javakheti	Georgia
53	BIG e.V. – Berliner Interventionsprojekt gegen häusliche Gewalt	Germany

	NAME OF ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
54	Frauenhauskoordinierung e.V.	Germany
55	Bff: Bundesverband Frauenberatungsstellen und Frau-ennotrufe – Frauen gegen Gewalt e.V.	Germany
56	GESINE – Netzwerk Gesundheit.EN	Germany
57	Prof. Carol Hagemann-White (Honorary Member)	Germany
58	KOFRA – Kommunikationszentrum für Frauen zur Arbeits und Lebenssituation	Germany
59	PAPATYA – Kriseneinrichtung für Junge Migrantinnen	Germany
60	ZIF – Zentrale Informationsstelle der autonomen Frau-nhäuser der BRD	Germany
61	Karin Heisecke (Individual Member)	Germany
62	Alina Kuhl (Individual Member)	Germany
63	European Anti-Violence Network	Greece
64	Union of Women Associations of Heraklion Prefecture	Greece
65	NANE – Women's Rights Association	Hungary
66	Stigamot – Counselling and Information Centre on Sex-ual Violence	Iceland
67	Women's Shelter Organization in Iceland	Iceland
68	Sexual Violence Centre Cork	Ireland
69	Rape Crisis Network	Ireland
70	Safe Ireland	Ireland
71	Women's Aid Ireland	Ireland
72	Associazione Nazionale D.i.R.e contro la Violenza	Italy
73	Associazione Nazionale Volontarie Telefono Rosa-Onlus	Italy
74	Differenza Donna	Italy
75	BeFree Cooperativa	Italy
76	Cristina Gamberi (Individual Member)	Italy
77	Silvia Menecalli (Individual Member)	Italy
78	Paola Degani (Individual Member)	Italy
79	Women's Wellness Centre	Kosovo
80	Kosovar Gender Studies Center	Kosovo
81	Krizu un Konsultaciju Centrs Skalbes	Latvia
82	Frauenhaus Fürstentum Liechtenstein	Liechtenstein
83	Vilniaus Moteru Namai – Intervention Centre	Lithuania
84	Femmes en Detresse asbl	Luxembourg
85	Commission on Domestic Violence	Malta
86	Network Forum Malta	Malta
87	Migrant Women Association	Malta
88	Dr. Marceline Naudi (Individual Member)	Malta
89	Association against Violence 'Casa Marioarei'	Moldova
90	Center for Support and Development of Civic Initiatives 'Resonance'	Moldova
91	Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims "Memoria"	Moldova
92	Women's Law Centre	Moldova
93	National Coalition Life without Violence	Moldova
94	SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Vio-lence Niksic	Montenegro
95	Women's Safe House	Montenegro
96	Valente	Netherlands
97	National Network to end Violence against Women and Domestic Violence – Voice against Violence	North Macedonia
98	National Council for Gender Equality – NCGE	North Macedonia
99	Secretariat of the Shelter Movement	Norway
100	Centrum Praw Kobiet	Poland
101	Autonomy	Poland
102	AMCV – Associacao de Mulheres Contra a Violencia Por-tugal	Portugal
103	A.L.E.G Association for Liberty and Equality of Gender	Romania
104	ANAIS Association	Romania
105	Artemis Counselling Centre against Sexual Abuse	Romania
106	CPE – Center Partnership and Equality	Romania
107	Necuvinte Association	Romania
108	FILIA Center	Romania

	NAME OF ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
109	ANNA – National Center for Prevention of Violence	Russia
110	Crisis Centre Ekaterina	Russia
111	Nizhny Novgorod Women Crisis Center	Russia
112	Interregional nongovernmental organization for the support of family, motherhood and childhood ‘Doctors to Children’	Russia
113	St. Petersburg Regional Public Organisation Institute of Nondiscriminative Gender Interrelations – Crisis Center for Women	Russia
114	Autonomous Women’s Center (AWC)	Serbia
115	Association Fenomena / SOS Kraljevo	Serbia
116	Oasis of Safety/Oaza Sigurnosti	Serbia
117	Association of Women Sandglass	Serbia
118	Roma Center for Women and Children Daje	Serbia
119	Human Rights Committee Vranje – Organizational Unit SOS Telephone Vranje	Serbia
120	Alliance of Women in Slovakia	Slovakia
121	FENESTRA – Interest Association of Women	Slovakia
122	Association SOS Helpline for Women and Children	Slovenia
123	Association for Nonviolent Communication	Slovenia
124	Asociacion de Mujeres Valdes Siglo XXI	Spain
125	Fundacion para la Convivencia ASPACIA	Spain
126	Centro de Asistencia a Victimas de Agresiones Sexuales CAVAS	Spain
127	Directorate General for Gender-Based Violence, Youth Affairs and Juvenile Crime	Spain
128	Helia – Associacio de support a les dones que pateixen violencia de genere	Spain
129	Oficina de Gestion, Preparacion y Supervision de Pro-gramas Europeaos. Fundacion para la Atencion e Incorporacion Social (FADAIS). Consejeria para la Igualdad y Bienestar Social	Spain
130	Plataforma Unitaria contra les Violencias de Genere	Spain
131	Asociacion Otro Tiempo	Spain
132	Federacion de Asociaciones de Mujeres Arena y Lauri-silva	Spain
133	Roks – National Organisation for Women’s and Girls’ Shelters in Sweden	Sweden
134	UNIZON	Sweden
135	Dachorganisation der Frauenhäuser der Schweiz und Liechtenstein	Switzerland
136	Violence que Faire	Switzerland
137	Terre des Femmes	Switzerland
138	Kadin Dayanisma Vakfi – The Foundation for Women’s Solidarity	Turkey
139	Mor Cati – Women Shelters Foundation	Turkey
140	Mor Salkim Women’s Solidarity Association	Turkey
141	AKDAM	Turkey
142	Kadiye Bakirci (Individual Member)	Turkey
143	International Women’s Rights Center la Strada	Ukraine
144	Sumy Local Crisis Center (SLCC)	Ukraine
145	Women’s Information Consultative Center	Ukraine
146	Center Women’s Perspectives	Ukraine
147	IMKAAN	United Kingdom
148	Latin American Women’s Aid	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	Latin American Women’s Rights Service	United Kingdom
155	Solace Women’s Aid	United Kingdom
156	Standing Together against Domestic Abuse (STADV)	United Kingdom
157	Melanie McCarry (Individual Member)	United Kingdom
158	Kathleen Rees (Individual Member)	United Kingdom
159	Greta Squire (Individual Member)	United Kingdom
160	London Black Women’s Project	United Kingdom
161	Shazia Choudhry (Individual Member)	United Kingdom
162	Beverley Gilbert (Individual Member)	United Kingdom



WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

Values

Feminism¹, solidarity, intersectionality, equality, respect, transparency and human rights.

Vision

A world where all forms of discrimination and violence against women² 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