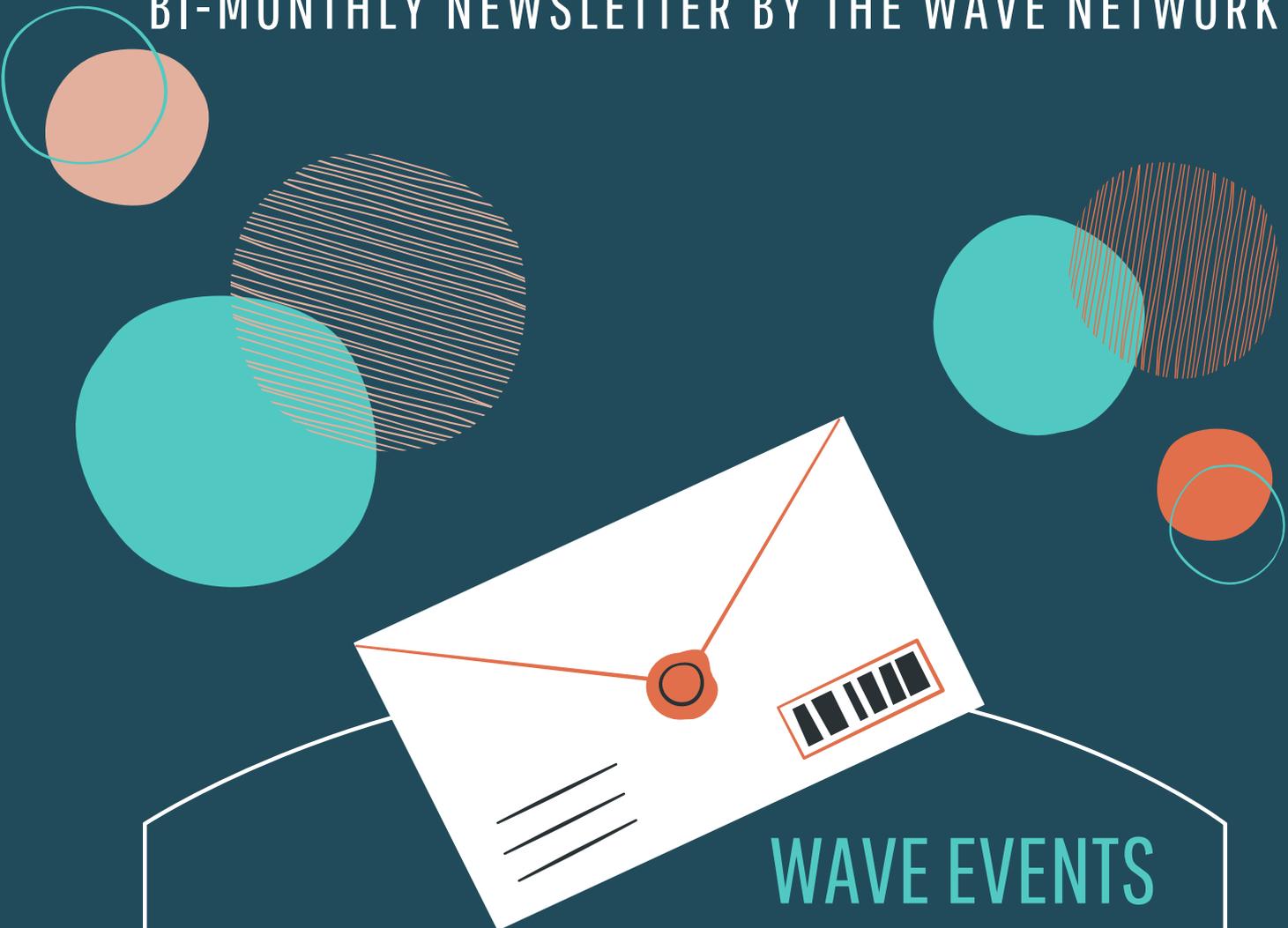


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WAVE NEWSLETTER

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE WAVE NETWORK

A central graphic featuring a white envelope with an orange seal and a barcode, surrounded by several overlapping circles in teal, orange, and brown, some with hatching patterns. The envelope is tilted and has a white outline around it.

WAVE NEWS

WAVE EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

MAY-JUNE 2022

WAVE STATEMENT ON THE PUSHBACK AGAINST SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS – SCOTUS OVERTURN OF ROE V. WADE.

On **24 June 2022**, the **Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS)** officially overturned the **1973 landmark legal decision of Roe v. Wade**, banning abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy and thus **ending 50 years of federal abortion rights**. The Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) Network is appalled by this attack on basic human rights. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, including the right to access quality health care services, accurate information and education, as well as the right to freedom and bodily autonomy, with the concerned individual being at the center of every decision, are instrumental to upholding human rights. The Supreme Court's decision undermines the right of every individual to make informed decisions over one's own life, body, and future, and erodes people's sense of empowerment to do so, therefore subverting these universal values.

This pushback on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights due to restrictive laws and policies does not begin with the overturning of Roe v. Wade nor does it end there. The Center for Reproductive Rights reports that the **"inability to access safe and legal abortion care impacts 700 million women of reproductive age"** worldwide. In Europe, six European countries (Andorra, Liechtenstein, Malta, Monaco, Poland and San Marino) **"still retain highly restrictive abortion laws and do not permit abortion on request or on broad social grounds"**.

The **WAVE Network** and allies continue to advocate for the **protection of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights** including safe and legal access to abortion and will counter this attack which undermines human rights worldwide.

For the full WAVE Statement, please click [here](#).

WAVE EVENTS

9-11
May

WAVE Spring Advisory Board Meeting

17
May

**PROSPERA Network of Women's Funds Europe (WFE) - WAVE joint webinar:
"Preventing and Tackling Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence in Partnership with Civil Society Organisations"**

9
June

**Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies & WAVE webinar:
"Child Contact and Violence against women"**

23
June

**SafeShelter Project & WAVE online workshop:
"Child Safeguarding in Women's Support Services".**

SAVE THE DATE: 24th WAVE Conference

Women's specialist support services as pillars of peace in times of crisis and beyond

10-11 October 2022 | Prague, Czech Republic

For the conference's Concept Note, please click [here](#).

WAVE NEWS

NEW WAVE MEMBERS: WELCOME TO THE NETWORK



Meet WAVE member **AVA - Against Violence & Abuse** from the United Kingdom.



Meet WAVE member **The Maison des Femmes of Saint-Denis** from France.



Meet WAVE member **Association "MARTA Centre"** from Latvia.

We look forward to working with you!

WAVE SPRING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING



After two years, we finally got to reunite in person!

From **9-11 May 2022**, the annual **WAVE Spring Advisory Board Meeting** took place in Vienna. The three days were dedicated to exchanging and having conscious and crucial conversations, empowering and engaging interactions, as well as fruitful and promising discussions.

ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN PROPOSAL FOR EU DIRECTIVE

PROSPERA Network of Women's Funds Europe (WFE) and WAVE organised a **flagship event on **17 May** to address the **role of civil society and ensure the feminist movement is heard and actively engaged in the proposed EU Directive on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Domestic Violence (DV) against women and girls**. The event included senior-level participation from the European Commission and European Parliament providing the institutional perspective on the Directive and timeline for delivery. **For the post-webinar press release, click [here](#).****



CHILD CONTACT AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The **Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies** together with **WAVE** held a webinar on **9 June** on '**Child Contact and Violence against women**'. The webinar examined issues such as: the protection of children from violence in the context of intimate partner violence and custody and visitation rights, domestic abuse and child contact proceedings in family courts, the impact of intimate partner violence and custody rights on women and children and the interrelations with the Istanbul Convention. The webinar welcomed speakers such as MEP Elena Kountoura, Johanna Nelles from the Council of Europe, Enikő Papp, NANE Women's Rights Association and Rosa Logar, Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre Vienna as well as Shazia Choudhry, Professor of Law at Whadam College, University of Oxford. All speakers expressed the **importance of linking violence against women with child custody and visitation rights, an interconnection which is often neglected in policy and practice.**

EU PROJECT MARVOW

The EU project MARVOW has come to an end - but gender-based violence against older women continues. Violence against older women is a tremendous issue, which is steadily increasing around Europe. However, often the necessary socio-political discussion about it is missing. COVID-19 has also enormously intensified and aggravated the situation. **The WAVE Network, together with five partners, worked on the MARVOW Project to improve the support to older women survivors of violence through multiagency cooperation. For the end-of-project press release, click [here](#).**

PUBLICATION NEWS

As healthcare providers are a key and life-saving link in connecting women experiencing male violence with women's specialist services, the **CSSP Regional Assessment: Cooperation between women's NGOs and healthcare providers aims to analyze how women's NGOs in the Western Balkans and Türkiye assess the cooperation with healthcare providers**, as such collaboration is instrumental in delivering quality support services. The assessment is available [here](#).

PODCAST NEWS

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

- **three-part interview series „Forgotten Children of War“ with President of the Forgotten Children of War Association Ajna Jusić by WAVE Youth Ambassador Mia Bradić**
- **Tatiana Chebac on mental health & sustainable service provision by WAVE Youth Ambassador Alina Cebotari**

CALL FOR WAVE YOUTH AMBASSADORS



We are happy to announce that we are looking for the 3rd generation of **WAVE Youth Ambassadors**! Since October 2018, the **WAVE Youth Ambassadors initiative** aims to provide a **platform to youth activists across Europe** to encourage youth participation, youth campaigning and youth inclusion within the context of preventing and eliminating violence and discrimination against women and girls. To see how to become a **WAVE Youth Ambassador for 2023/2024**, and find out how to **apply**, [click here](#).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

updates from WAVE Members and political developments



UKRAINE & ISTANBUL CONVENTION

On 20 June, the **Ukrainian Parliament voted for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention**. 259 MPs voted for the ratification of "The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence", better known as the Istanbul Convention. We are delighted to hear of this **promising and powerful step** in the right direction, and **continue to stand in solidarity with the people in Ukraine as well as our Ukrainian members**.



CLICK THE DONATE BUTTON TO SUPPORT WOMEN AND WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN THE UKRAINE AND IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES!



WAVE MEMBER: ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS

Over the course of three years, the German **Association of women's shelters** (Frauenhauskoordinierung e.V.) realised the **project „Complaint management for quality assurance in women's shelters: an instrument of professionalisation and participation“**. The project aims at supporting women's shelters in establishing complaint management and encouraging the participation of residents. Complaint management counteracts discrimination and power imbalance. **The successful implementation of complaint management makes a contribution to securing the rights of women affected by violence and for discrimination-free support offers as required in the Istanbul Convention in Article 4 paragraph 3.**



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An online survey and interviews were conducted to investigate existing procedures in shelters as well as expectations of residents concerning complaint management and participation. In addition, Association of women's shelters supported four women's shelters in implementing complaint management. The results of the different parts of this project (language: German) can be accessed [here](#).



WAVE MEMBER: MOR ÇATI WOMEN'S SHELTER FOUNDATION

Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation participated in the 8th periodic review of Türkiye by the CEDAW Committee through a collaborative **shadow report** written by 20 women's and LGBTI+ organisations and by participating in the 82nd session between 13-15 June 2022. In the meetings with Committee members, **Mor Çatı highlighted the withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, the increasing attacks on gender equality and the current issues with the gap between law and practices,**

the lack of qualified social work in shelters and coordination between support mechanisms, ineffectiveness of preventive and protective orders, lack of a hotline and lack of access to right to abortion. Based on the input provided by the independent women's and LGBTI+ organisations, the Committee insistently asked the Head of the State Party, the Minister of Family and Social Services, about the reasons behind the withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention and what alternative mechanisms are established to eliminate male violence. The Minister could not provide a satisfactory answer to these questions and stated that the State's combat against male violence continues and the only thing that has changed under current circumstances are their tools. After three-days of review, the Chair of the Committee ended the session by saying **"We are not convinced that withdrawing from the Istanbul Convention is a good thing for women and we think that it will have bad consequences"**. Mor Çatı will continue with following up and monitoring the Concluding Observations that will be declared by the Committee in July.



WAVE MEMBER: HUMAN RIGHTS IN DEMOCRACY CENTRE (HRDC)

Human Rights in Democracy Centre, HRDC successfully completed the one-year project "Gender-sensitive post-earthquake recovery and reconstruction", implemented by UN Women and supported financially by the Government of Sweden through the UN Albania SDG Acceleration Fund. One important pillar of the project was **capacity building of state service providers (Police, health, Social Services, teachers)** to properly address victims/survivors of domestic violence according to harmonised legislation and support of Referral Mechanisms. Additionally, a **special focus was paid to health institutions**. Training of health workers focused on the acknowledgment of health workers with domestic violence law legislation and secondary legislation - Case Management Protocol, the Sexual Violence Management Protocol and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) as well as focused on the role of health in Referral mechanism, orientation and referral to Women's Support Services.

For the period June 2021 – June 2022, HRDC has carried out 18 on-job trainings with the participation of 136 health professionals from municipalities Tirana, Vora, and Kamza.

In course of the project implementation, 16 Special Medical Reports were issued by doctors – a new practice although foreseen in legislation. These reports are strong evidence of proving the damages of violence and granting of protection orders. HRDC will monitor the work of health institutions in fulfilling legal and professional duties according to legislation.



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WAVE MEMBER: WOMEN'S SUPPORT CENTER (WSC)

The decade-long advocacy work conducted by the **Women's Support Center (WSC)**, a proud WAVE member and the premier domestic violence center in Armenia, has **yielded significant outcomes**: In 2019, the WSC was chosen by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs as **lead implementers on a large-scale program to establish domestic violence (DV) support centers in all 10 regions of Armenia**. These centers are now partially subsidised by the government, and the WSC's database structure and intake forms have been approved as standards. The WSC oversees the work of all support centers to ensure that all take a **standardised approach and work together as a cohesive unit-ultimately enhancing multi-sectoral referral mechanisms throughout the country**. In 2022, the WSC came together with the regional centers to establish the Coalition of DV Support Centers. In recent months, the WSC led advocacy planning sessions with the Coalition, and, together, they have set advocacy goals and have begun **advocating for improved national legislation in line with the Istanbul Convention** as well as better coordination among state agencies.



WAVE MEMBER: WOMEN FOR WOMEN FRANCE

Women for Women France has **launched a multilingual information portal** for people experiencing domestic violence and the professionals supporting them in France.

This multilingual information portal was **created by Women for Women France in collaboration with thirty experts with the aim of becoming the national reference**: it contains **reliable and comprehensible information for victims of domestic violence**, both French and non-French, already being **available in 16 languages**.

It contains **90 practical guides** that respond in a clear and precise manner to concrete concerns in the following areas:

- Money, housing, independence
- Separation, divorce, child custody
- Safety and protection orders
- Physical, sexual and mental health
- Right to stay in France
- Police and justice

According to Women for Women France this **multilingual information platform is a world first**, which will make it possible to reach a level of information never before achieved in this field.