

Funded by the
European Union



WAVE NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE WAVE NETWORK




APRIL 2024

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

THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER INCLUDES

- **WAVE Regional Meeting in Istanbul, Türkiye,**
- **Webinar on the WAVE Country Report 2023 exclusively for WAVE members,**
- **European Parliament adopts EU Directive to combat violence against women and domestic violence,**
- **Lesbianising the Istanbul Convention,**
- **EU network on the prevention of gender-based violence and domestic violence,**
- **Femicide as a separate criminal offense: a milestone in Croatia,**
- **Victim Protection in Medicine,**
- **WAVE voices from Russia and Armenia.**

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

 URGENT TIMES CALL FOR UNWAVERING SUPPORT!
CONTRIBUTE TO OUR SOLIDARITY FUND AND BE A LIFELINE
FOR WAVE MEMBERS IN CRISIS. EVERY DONATION COUNTS.

WAVE EVENTS

WAVE REGIONAL MEETING: SOUTH EUROPE



After the first successful regional meeting in March, our next **WAVE Regional Meeting** took place in **Istanbul, Türkiye** from 18-19 April 2024. Co-organised with WAVE member Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation ([Mor Çatı Kadın Sığınağı Vakfı](#)), this gathering brought together WAVE members from **South Europe** for two days of connection and collaboration.

With **around 40 participants from 7 countries**, our meeting was a dynamic exchange of ideas, challenges, and achievements. Together, we explored opportunities to unite in this unique regional context, finding synergies and fostering cooperation to drive positive change.

We thank all our members for participating as well as co-organisers Mor Çatı for this empowering and impactful event.

WEBINAR ON THE WAVE COUNTRY REPORT 2023

On **7 May from 11:00 to 12:30 (CET)**, we will hold an **exclusive webinar for WAVE members** titled "**Research for Advocacy: Unlocking the Power of the Country Report**". This webinar will delve deeper into the findings of the WAVE Country Report 2023, as it represents a **crucial tool to advocate for improvements in service provision** at the national and European level and eventually to combat violence against women in Europe. If you are a WAVE member and wish to participate, kindly send an email to WAVE Project & Research Coordinator Elena Floriani via elena.floriani@wave-network.org to secure your spot.

💡 Although this webinar is exclusively for WAVE members, we encourage everyone to explore the insights presented in the **WAVE Country Report 2023**, which is publicly **available on our website [HERE](#)**. This report sheds light on the situation of women's specialist services across Europe.

💡 Did you know? Country reports were collected by WAVE members on an annual basis as far back as 1998. For a unique opportunity to delve into the origins of the WAVE Country Report, check out our interview "**Behind the pages: The WAVE Country Report and its impact**" [HERE](#).

WAVE NEWS

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ADOPTS THE DIRECTIVE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

WAVE welcomes the **adoption of the EU Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence by the European Parliament** on 24 April 2024. While the text does not fully align with our progressive feminist approach, it still represents a significant step forward in combating violence against women across Europe. **We call on Member States to promptly adopt and effectively enforce it.**

💡 **WAVE is committed to closely following the transposition and implementation.**

LESBIANISING THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION

EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community (EL*C) recently published the report **"Lesbianising the Istanbul Convention: Research on the Implementation of the Convention to Protect LGBTI Women"**. This report aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of lesbian experiences within the legal frameworks and policies created by the Istanbul Convention. Highlighting the importance of this research and the key role of collaboration, Ilaria Todde, EL*C Advocacy and Research Director states: **"In a climate of constant attacks on feminist and LGBTI initiatives, our collaboration and sisterhood with WAVE and feminist NGOs is crucial to our resistance"**.



[BOTH THE REPORT AND KEY FINDINGS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE EL*C WEBSITE HERE.](#)

EU NETWORK ON THE PREVENTION OF GBV AND DV

The second meeting of the **EU network on the prevention of gender-based violence and domestic violence** took place in Brussels, Belgium, from 10 -11 April 2024. Representatives from Member States and NGOs gathered to exchange **best practices in the prevention of gender-based violence.**

Camelia Proca, founder and director of WAVE member A.L.E.G. **represented our network**, sharing innovative prevention approaches of WAVE and within our membership.

[READ MORE ABOUT THE EVENT HERE.](#)

FEMICIDE AS A SEPARATE CRIMINAL OFFENSE: A MILESTONE IN CROATIA

Croatia's parliament recently passed amendments to the criminal code, officially **recognising femicide as a distinct crime**. WAVE members Domine and SOS Rijeka share insights into the journey behind this significant milestone, emphasising the **crucial role of women's specialist services and feminist NGOs in driving change**.



As they rightly assert, "Sigurnost žena je odgovornost države" (translated as "Women's safety is the responsibility of the state"). Moving forward, women's organisations will continue to monitor the implementation and advocate for further progress. Dive deeper into this historic victory in our online magazine [HERE](#).

[DIVE DEEPER INTO THIS HISTORIC VICTORY IN OUR ONLINE MAGAZINE HERE.](#)

VICTIM PROTECTION IN MEDICINE

On this year's World Health Day, we announced that WAVE is **dissemination partner of the EU project VIPROM - Victim Protection in Medicine!** This project aligns with our mission to combat violence against women and girls by **providing specialised training to medical professionals**. Together, we aim to **improve healthcare responses** and ensure that survivors receive the support they need.

[MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE VIPROM PROJECT IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE HERE.](#)



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

updates from WAVE Members and political developments

NASILIU.NET EXTENDS THEIR SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE

On its sixth anniversary, WAVE member **Nasiliu.net Centre** ([Центр по работе с проблемой насилия «НАСИЛИЮ.НЕТ»](#)) celebrated by announcing that they have **extended their scope of assistance, now offering support to Russian-speaking individuals worldwide**. This milestone was made possible through a generous donation from tennis player Daria Kasatkina. Nasiliu.net is one of the leading Russian organisations tackling domestic violence and offering support to survivors.



The Centre's team explained their decision: "We have always helped only within our country, irrespective of the nationality or citizenship of those who sought help – **now we want to continue helping all Russian-speaking people around the world, wherever they are.**" Learn more about their extended reach [HERE](#).

Written by WAVE member in Russia

Nasiliu.Net ([Центр по работе с проблемой насилия «НАСИЛИЮ.НЕТ»](#))



Photo caption: WSC team members Hasmik Gevorgyan and Maro Matosian (left) participate in discussions at Parliament concerning the new legislation.


ARMENIA'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAW IS DRAMATICALLY IMPROVED


On 12 April, **Armenia's National Assembly made history by approving a comprehensive set of amendments to the domestic violence law**. This groundbreaking move represents the first significant overhaul of the law since its adoption in 2017.


The **Women's Support Center (WSC)**, Armenia's leading domestic violence center and WAVE member, played a **pivotal role in crafting the bill** by presenting a comprehensive package of proposals to its authors, most of which were incorporated into the final legislation. Two years of discussions ensued among state and non-state actors before the amendments were passed in Parliament. While the WSC expresses concern over the change in the title of the domestic violence law to include the term "domestic and household violence", the amendments represent a significant step forward in addressing domestic violence. The **amended law reflects a commitment to upholding the rights and dignity of all individuals affected by domestic violence** by offering clearer definitions of abuse, enhanced legal protections for children who witness violence, expanded medical care for victims, and stronger measures to hold perpetrators of violence accountable for their crimes. More information on the transformative impact of the new domestic violence legislation [HERE](#).

Written by WAVE member in Armenia

Women's Support Center ([Կանանց աջակցման կենտրոնը](#))

 wave-network.org

 [@womenagainstviolenceeurope](https://www.facebook.com/womenagainstviolenceeurope)

 [@womenagainstviolenceeurope](https://www.instagram.com/womenagainstviolenceeurope)

 [@WAVE_Europe](https://twitter.com/WAVE_Europe)