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WAVE NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE WAVE NETWORK



APRIL 2023

Dear fellow dedicated feminist activists,
we are happy to share with you the fourth WAVE Newsletter of the year. Let's find out what happened inside and outside WAVE in April 2023!

THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER INCLUDES

- **WAVE Conference 2023,**
- **new WAVE members,**
- **new WAVE interns,**
- **WAVE donations,**
- **WAVE voices: free educational resources to support informal caregivers around Europe,**
- **WAVE voices: improved victim support services and violence prevention in Estonia,**
- **WAVE voices: program for migrant young and underage mothers in Cyprus,**
- **WAVE voices: growing up in safety - new information portal in Germany,**
- **WAVE voices: prevention and response to GBV in Romania,**
- **WAVE voices: raising awareness about violence to youth in Slovenia,**
- **WAVE voices: StoP - Community Matters! Community based model to stop domestic violence,**
- **WAVE voices: Romanian Ombudsman calls on the Government to eliminate workplace harassment,** and
- **WAVE voices: publication tips.**

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

WAVE EVENTS

WAVE CONFERENCE 2023

The 25th WAVE Conference will take place in Madrid, Spain from 16-18 October 2023.

[More details will follow soon.](#)

WAVE NEWS

NEW WAVE MEMBERS

In April, WAVE welcomed two new members! Meet **For You Woman Association** ([Asociación Por Ti Mujer](#)) from Spain, and **Association Merkuri** ([ასოციაცია „მერკური“](#)) from Georgia. Thank you for joining the WAVE Network and for being part of our WAVE of change! Find out how to become a WAVE member [HERE](#).



NEW WAVE INTERNS



Please welcome our WAVE intern Lerato Selekisho!

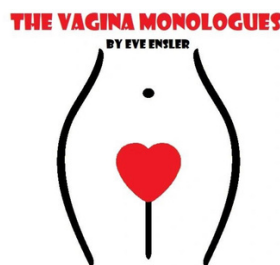
She is an advocate for combatting violence against women, femicide, and protecting the rights of women and children. Lerato has a bachelor's degree in law and is enrolled in a master's programme in applied human rights. Lerato is a South African national and gained her expertise by volunteering in women's shelters, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. To battle discrimination and achieve true equality, Lerato thinks allyship and education are crucial instruments.



Please welcome our WAVE intern Olga Ogula! Olga holds a BA in Liberal Arts and Sciences from the Saint Petersburg State University with a specialisation in Economics. After graduating with a degree of MA in International Relations from the Central European University in Vienna, she conducted a 6-month internship at the OSCE working on projects dedicated to youth and migration. She gained experience in different INGOs and international organisations with a focus on women's rights and violence against women and girls.

WAVE DONATIONS

The East & West Encounter Theatre Group (EWE), a Munich based English language theatre group, donated their share in ticket sales of the play "The Vagina Monologues" to WAVE. The play is based on "vagina interviews" conducted by Eve Ensler with over 200 women coming from extremely diverse age/social groups, professions and sexual/racial communities. Since it was first performed in 1996, Eve Ensler's piece has also progressively become a tool to support the fight for "the elimination of violence against women" around the world. **Thank you to EWE for donating 1,449€ to WAVE!**



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

updates from WAVE Members and political developments



WAVE member: Women's Support and Information Centre, Estonia

FREE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT INFORMAL CAREGIVERS AROUND EUROPE

Millions of European citizens are providing care for a family member or a friend in need of support, often without any previous training and without the support of specialised services. However, this situation is potentially dangerous: research has demonstrated that the caregiver stress that often arises in informal caregiving situations can lead to abusive situations and that **almost 10% of older people cared for by family caregivers are at risk of mistreatment. Information, education, and adequate psycho-social support can play a very important role in helping informal carers to reduce their burden and to prevent stress from becoming not manageable**, and it is with this in mind that the consortium of the **SINCALA project**, led by Estonian **WAVE member Women's Support and Information Centre** ([Naiste Tugi- ja Teabekeskus](#)), has developed a set of **free pedagogical resources targeting professionals as well as carers** themselves.

The educational tools developed include (1) a guide for professionals willing to implement narrative-based workshops for informal caregivers; (2) a guide for professionals to identify and address issues that emerge from workshops; (3) an e-learning course for professionals to learn more about informal carers, the challenges they usually face and how to support them; (4) an online educational platform for carers, where they can find basic information about how to deal with their caring role, the importance of self-care and to seek help, together with contact details of organisations and services they can turn to at local level. All resources are freely available in English and Estonian, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, and Slovenian at: www.sincala.eu

ADDITIONAL NEWS FROM ESTONIA

After 3 years of drafting and consultations, the **new Victim Support Act (recast) entered into force on 1 April 2023** in Estonia following a need for new services and issues with accessibility.



Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family, Cyprus

PROGRAM FOR MIGRANT YOUNG AND UNDERAGE MOTHERS

Since April 2023 and following a Ministerial Decision of the Deputy Ministry of Welfare, Cypriot WAVE member the **Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family** (Συνδέσμου για την Πρόληψη και Αντιμετώπιση της Βίας στην Οικογένεια) has undertaken the operation of a **program for migrant young and underage mothers who have arrived in Cyprus as asylum seekers or victims of trafficking**. Currently the program hosts twelve young women and eleven newborns and children. **It provides these women with a safe space to live, as well as practical support, counselling, accompaniment, child care, training on parental skills, vocational support, medical services, and legal counseling.** To this end, the Association is planning to hire professional childcare workers to support mothers and empower their parental skills; as well as officers (psychologists and social workers) who will staff the program 24/7. Furthermore, the Association will cooperate with a lawyer to provide legal aid, and nurses to safeguard these women and girls physical health, especially if they are pregnant or have newborn children. The program aims to protect these women and girls from all forms of violence and act in a preventative manner for their support and protection; to psycho-educate them on parental skills, sex education, health care, and violence prevention; and enhance their social skills in general. The program also aims to incorporate them in society; offer psychological support, material support, educational services, etc. **The purpose is for these women to be able to live independently.**

For more information, please contact: soficaresmothers@domviolence.org.cy



Association of Women's Shelters, Germany

GROWING UP IN SAFETY - NEW PORTAL IN GERMANY

German WAVE member **Association of Women's Shelters** (Frauenhauskoordinierung e.V.) shared about their **new portal** www.sicher-aufwachsen.org (translation: growing up in safety; only available in German).



WWW.SICHER-AUFWACHSEN.ORG

This is a digital collection of materials including guidelines, worksheets, checklists, videos and recent studies **on the topic of "Children and domestic violence"**. In child, youth and family welfare, professionals repeatedly encounter children and adolescents who witness partner violence against their mothers at home. **The portal is aimed at all professionals, consultants, volunteers and cooperation partners who are in contact with affected children.** It gathers materials for practice and provides information on how affected persons can be accompanied, protected and involved in a child-sensitive, trauma-informed and resource-oriented manner. On the website, professionals can find working materials, information and best-practice approaches digitally and free of charge. More information [HERE](#) (in German).



WAVE member: Sensiblu Foundation, Romania

PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO GBV IN ROMANIA

To **ensure that refugee women and children have access to specialised support in Romania**, WAVE member **Sensiblu Foundation** ([Fundatia Sensiblu](#)) continues in 2023 to provide support through the **"Provision of Specialised Support and Services to GBV Survivors"** project, developed in partnership with UNHCR. The project has two major directions:

- Specialised support provided to refugee women and girls from Ukraine through psycho-social, legal, and psychotherapeutic counselling services, GBV awareness and support/socialisation groups. Led by qualified psychology professionals, these groups facilitate learning, sharing, and building emotional support, helping participants to cope with their situation, adapt to the new culture, access resources, and better understand safety, protection, and rights.
- Trainings for professionals working in public and private social services regarding psycho-social intervention in the case of asylum seekers (this includes theoretical perspectives on gender-based violence, the vulnerabilities and challenges faced by refugees, and working principles that emphasize a survivor-centred approach).

In addition to Bucharest and Suceava, the Foundation will offer services in 4 additional counties in Romania - Constanta, Galati, Cluj and Valcea - this year. Around 60 awareness and support groups were held in the first quarter of this year with over 700 participants, including women, girls, and adolescent boys, and over 20 women benefit from individual counselling. Additionally, more than 450 dignity kits were handed out and over 50 professionals attended trainings.



WAVE member: Association SOS Helpline for Women and Children - Victims of Violence, Slovenia

RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT VIOLENCE TO YOUTH IN SLOVENIA



In April, Slovenian WAVE member **Association SOS Helpline for Women and Children - Victims of Violence** ([Društvo SOS](#)) held a workshop for the **voluntary educational youth organisation, the Scout Association of Slovenia**. The workshop was held in Bohinj and had 30 participants.

It was part of the Erasmus+ project, in which Scout Skippers are learning how to work with and help individuals from marginalised and vulnerable groups. As the biggest scout organisation in Slovenia, the national Scout Association gathers young people from all over the country and teaches them important values such as solidarity, tolerance, and openness. Therefore, for the Association, this particular workshop was a great opportunity to connect with an important youth organisation in Slovenia, share experiences, and learn from each other. **On the agenda: raising awareness about domestic violence, sexual violence, and bullying, explaining the mechanisms of trauma, and teaching young people important tools to use when faced with violence.** The workshop was organised considering the needs of Scout Skippers, who occasionally find themselves in different tough situations while working with young scouts.

WAVE members: STOP - COMMUNITY MATTERS!
COMMUNITY BASED MODEL TO STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

StoP stands for German **Stadtteile ohne Partnergewalt** which in English means Districts without partner violence. The innovative StoP model was created by Prof. Sabine Stövesand in Germany in 2010, combining issues, practices, and research-based insights from the fields of social work and community organisation.

StoP is based on the idea that communities have the potential to bring change within themselves. The goal of the StoP model is to build community networks so that partner violence is no longer tolerated, concealed, or ignored.



Community matters!



SStoP has been initiated to adequately address domestic violence where and when it happens, by unlocking the potential of social networks and local communities. The aim of the newly initiated StoP - Community Matters project is to adapt the StoP model for use in other European countries. In the project StoP will be tested in Belgium, Czech Republic, France, and Romania. The team will identify barriers and facilitators to upscaling the StoP model in these countries. This will be followed by the adaptation of the StoP guidelines and training curricula, to match the needs of the country partners and thus be of added value in the future in other EU countries and beyond for those who want to implement the StoP program. This will result in the creation of a digital StoP Toolbox harmonised across the partner countries, created through an innovative participatory design process by leading European experts.

The StoP project is co-financed by the CERV programme of the European Commission and will last until March 2025. The project Kick Off took place in Vienna, Austria on March 31 and April 1, 2023.

Project Coordination: Association of Austrian Autonomous Women's Shelters (Verein AÖF), Austria; Project Partners: Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (HAW) - Department Social Work, and Centre for design research, Germany; Association for Liberty and Equality of Gender - A.L.E.G, Romania; Garance ASBL, Belgium; SC Psytel, France; Rosa Centrum Pro Zeny ZS, Czech Republic; WWP EN, the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence, Germany; Associate Partner: WAVE, Women Against Violence Europe, Austria



WAVE member: A.L.E.G., Romania

THE NEED TO ELIMINATE WORKPLACE HARASSMENT IN ROMANIA



In April, Romanian WAVE member **A.L.E.G.** (Asociatia pentru libertate si egalitate de gen) welcomed the **Romanian Ombudsperson's special report on harassment and violence in the workplace**, which recommended aligning relevant national legislation to the **standards of the International Labor Organization's Convention no. 190 on the Elimination of Violence and Harassment in the World of Work (C190)**.

The report drew particular attention to the lack of coherent and integrated anti-harassment public policies, insufficient training for labour inspectors regarding harassment, the absence of awareness-raising campaigns for employees on their rights at work, confusion surrounding the competencies assigned to several authorities with a mandate to prevent, combat and sanction harassment, as well as problematic judicial practices.

The report was published one year after A.L.E.G. requested the Ombudsperson to issue an institutional opinion on the issue of C190's ratification, and reinforces the recommendations formulated by A.L.E.G., in 2021, following the publication of a study examining the national anti-harassment legislation and its application based on the standards of ILO's C190 and Recommendation no. 206. A.L.E.G. has been coordinating the national advocacy campaign for Romania's ratification of C190 since 2021. Although Romania voted for ILO's adoption of C190 in Geneva in 2019, it has not ratified it yet. Last month, A.L.E.G. brought the campaign to the Romanian Parliament, where it made specific recommendations regarding legislative amendments to improve legislation on harassment and violence in the world of work, including introducing paid leave for victims of domestic violence.

WAVE MEMBERS: PUBLICATION TIPS

to stay up-to-date with the work of our members



Women's Resource Center
released their Annual Report 2022!



FEM.A press release on children of single mothers
living in poverty and exclusion!



Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation
released their Annual Report 2022!



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



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