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# WAVE NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE WAVE NETWORK




AUGUST 2024

Dear fellow dedicated feminist activists,  
we are happy to share the eighth WAVE Newsletter of the year.  
Discover what unfolded in and around WAVE in August 2024!

## THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER INCLUDES

- **Register Now For the WAVE Conference 2024,**
- **10 Years Since the Istanbul Convention Came into Force: The Need for Action in Implementation,**
- **WAVE's August Youth Highlights: Inspiring Voices with 3rd Generation Youth Ambassadors,**
- **Please Welcome our New WAVE Grant Management Coordinator,**
- WAVE voices on **Historic Win for Abortion Rights in Armenia** and **New Publication from Serbia: Rights and Protections for Children of Femicide Victims.**

This newsletter covers updates from WAVE and our 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



💡 The 26th WAVE Conference "**From emergency support to violence prevention: 30 years of championing women's rights**" will take place in Vienna, Austria, from Sep. 30th – Oct. 1st 2024!

[Don't miss out—click HERE to register for this year's WAVE Conference!](#)

More information on the #WAVECon2024 including the Concept Note and draft Agenda [HERE](#).

## WAVE NEWS

### THE NEED FOR ACTION IN IMPLEMENTATION

As the first instrument in Europe to set legally binding standards specifically to prevent and tackle violence against women and domestic violence, the Istanbul Convention (IC)\*, which **came into force on August 1, 2014**, represents a historic step forward in this critical fight. It plays a crucial role in advancing women's rights and challenging patriarchal structures, affirming that a life free from violence is intrinsically linked to gender equality. To date, 38 countries have ratified the convention, with the European Union also formally acceding to it in 2023. However, violence against women remains pervasive and deeply entrenched in society. Therefore, **we must continue to advocate for the ratification and full implementation of the Istanbul Convention and strive for further progress.**

💡 Did you know?

The WAVE Country Report also highlights which European countries, both within and outside the EU, meet the IC's minimum standards for service provision.

[Learn more HERE!](#)

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\*The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence is also known as "the Istanbul Convention"

## WAVE'S AUGUST YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS

On the occasion of **International Youth Day** on August 12, our **WAVE Youth Ambassadors Doga Gunduz** (Cyprus) and **Selin Özünaldim** (Türkiye) prepared a **special WAVE podcast episode!**



"It is empowering to see that you are a part of a bigger community.



"The issues we are facing, we are not facing them on our own.

There are many other youth activists like me around the world and this community keeps growing. We are a very bold generation and that is great to see! We are courageous, and we are not afraid to voice our opinions and we shouldn't be." - Doga Gunduz

That creates power and inner strength, and just being able to reach out to other women from different organisations from all across the globe is so empowering - because there are so many things that you can learn from each other." - Selin Özünaldim

[Listen to their stories as feminist youth activists, explore their challenges, and discover how Gen Z is driving change HERE!](#)

But their advocacy did not stop there. Throughout August, our Youth Ambassadors have been making their voices heard across our platforms. **WAVE Youth Ambassador Teodora Mileska** has written a compelling article on **period justice in North Macedonia**, shedding light on the ongoing challenges and highlighting the need for continued progress.

[Read "Period Justice for All: The Case of North Macedonia" HERE!](#)

Additionally, **WAVE Youth Ambassadors Raphaëlle Jouannic** (France) and **Lena Östlund** (France/Sweden) contributed an insightful article on the urgent **issues of cyberviolence and cybersexism**. They emphasise the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration and youth activism in creating a safer digital space for women and girls.

[Explore their insights on combating cyberviolence and promoting digital safety HERE!](#)

For more updates, follow the WAVE Youth Ambassadors' initiative on social media!

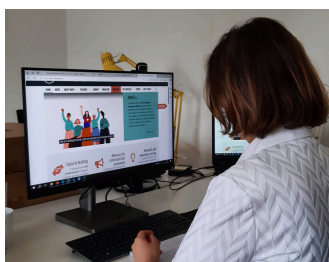


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## WAVE'S NEW GRANT MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR



Please welcome our new WAVE team member, **Szilvia Szabó**! With advanced degrees in law and political science, Szilvia brings extensive experience in human rights, anti-discrimination, and gender equality. She has worked with national and EU parliamentarians, and has a strong background in international relations and social affairs.

**In her role as WAVE's Grant Management Coordinator, Szilvia will focus on securing sustainable funding and monitoring our core projects.** We are thrilled to have her on board!

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

updates from WAVE Members and political developments

### HISTORIC WIN FOR ABORTION RIGHTS

**A major advancement in abortion rights has been achieved in Armenia. WAVE member Women's Resource Center (Կանանց ռեսուրսային կենտրոն ՀԿ)** recently presented comprehensive recommendations and held a meeting with members of the National Assembly to discuss proposed amendments to the Law "On Human Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights." The National Assembly adopted the draft amendments in their second reading on July 12. As a result of Women's Resource Center's persistent advocacy efforts, one of the key regulations in the new law allows women to undergo medical abortions in out-of-hospital settings up to the 8th week of pregnancy. This means that medical abortions up to 8 weeks can now be performed in licensed medical organisations, whether in hospitals or out-of-hospital settings, providing greater accessibility and choice for women.

**This amendment represents a significant step forward in advancing women's reproductive rights in Armenia.** Previously, medical abortions were only permitted in hospitals, so this change marks a crucial improvement in women's healthcare options.

Written by WAVE member in Armenia

Women's Resource Center (Կանանց ռեսուրսային կենտրոն ՀԿ)

💡 Want to learn more about Armenia's ongoing efforts to enhance women's rights and combat violence against women and girls?

[Click HERE to discover how recent legislative changes, including improvements to the domestic violence law, are shaping the future of women's rights in Armenia!](#)

## RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS FOR CHILDREN OF FEMICIDE VICTIMS

**WAVE member Autonomous Women's Center** Belgrade ([Autonomi Zenski Centar Beograd](#)) has recently published, "The Position and Rights of Children Whose Mothers Are Victims of Femicide: Overview of International Standards, Comparative Solutions, and Domestic Legal Framework, with Recommendations".

The publication focuses on the **legal status of children whose mothers were killed in femicide**. It represents an expert review of the current legal framework regarding their status in EU countries (Italy and Spain) compared to the position of these children in the Serbian legal system. Considering that they do not have a specially protected status in Serbia, the authors—Tanja Drobnjak, Dijana Malbaša, and Marija Likić—all lawyers experienced in the fields of domestic violence, and violence against women and children, offer **recommendations regarding their protection and support in criminal proceedings, in the area of parental rights and family relations, and other rights**. The authors were guided by international conventions that Serbia has ratified and examples of model practices.

[Read the publication and explore key recommendations HERE!](#)

Written by **WAVE member in Serbia**  
**Autonomous Women's Center Belgrade** ([Autonomi Zenski Centar Beograd](#))



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