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# WAVE NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE WAVE NETWORK



FEBRUARY 2023

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

## THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER INCLUDES

- **Medica mondiale training sessions 2023:** Feminist solidarity and self-care in practice,
- **WAVE solidarity statement on the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria,**
- **WAVE solidarity statement on the war in Ukraine,**
- **Honouring for WAVE's Marta Chumalo,**
- **WAVE and OSCE joint project continuation,**
- **WAVE Annual Activity Report 2022,**
- **New WAVE team colleague,**
- **CSSP and importance of multiagency cooperation,**
- **WAVE voices: Workshops for refugee and asylum-seeking women in Slovenia, and**
- **WAVE voices: Women's rights violations during the prolonged blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh.**

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

# WAVE EVENTS

## MEDICA MONDIALE TRAINING SESSIONS 2023: FEMINIST SOLIDARITY AND SELF-CARE IN PRACTICE

On 2 February, the first of the four **training sessions on feminist self- and collective care in times of conflict** offered by medica mondiale (together with Medica Zenica, Medica Gjakova, and the support of the WAVE Office) was conducted. This month's training was provided in the form of the **WAVE Multidisciplinary Training 2023** dedicated to strengthening the 20 participants to provide effective specialist services in challenging times. Part two of the WAVE Multidisciplinary Training will take place in March, with two further trainings which will be offered until May 2023.

# WAVE NEWS

## WAVE SOLIDARITY STATEMENT ON THE EARTHQUAKE IN TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA

On 7 February, WAVE published a **statement on the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria** expressing its solidarity to the people who have been struck by the devastating earthquake and are subjected to these very challenging times. In the statement, we strongly reiterate that the **recovery plans concerning this natural disaster must include a gendered response** both in Türkiye and Syria in order to mitigate the impact of natural disasters on women's and girl's livelihood relating to health, socioeconomic status, housing and other gender-related risk factors. Read the full solidarity statement [HERE](#).

## WAVE SOLIDARITY STATEMENT ON THE WAR IN UKRAINE

On 24 February, it has been a full year since the war in the Ukraine has started. In the **WAVE solidarity statement on the war in Ukraine**, WAVE condemns Russia's invasion of the Ukraine on 24 February 2022 resulting in extensive and gross human rights violation, and **calls for the protection of all women and children**, as well as the overall civilian populations and urge respect for international humanitarian law. Furthermore, WAVE reminds that **wars exacerbate all forms of violence against women and girls which are not prevented and tackled in times of peace**. Read the full solidarity statement [HERE](#).

## HONOURING FOR WAVE'S MARTA CHUMALO

Marta Chumalo, co-founder of Ukrainian WAVE member Women's Perspectives Center, has recently received the Olof Palme Prize. Marta Chumalo from Ukraine, Narges Mohammadi from Iran and Eren Keskin from Türkiye were awarded with the **2023 Olof Palme human rights award from Sweden for protecting women's rights and freedoms**. "It is a great surprise and a great honor for me to receive such a prestigious award – the Olof Palme Award! And this is a great reason to speak at all levels about the fact that women's rights, especially in wartime, are often neglected and violated. And for me, this award is a visual recognition of the efforts that Ukrainian feminists are making now in Ukraine and abroad to help the affected women and children to be safe, to reduce the devastating consequences of the war, and to attract solidarity support for Ukraine from all over the world", writes Marta Chumalo. More [HERE](#).



**Congratulations to our beloved  
Marta Chumalo for being the recipient of  
the 2023 Olof Palme human rights award!**

## WAVE AND OSCE JOINT PROJECT CONTINUATION

In 2022, WAVE in partnership with the OSCE Gender Issues Programme/WIN Project started a new project to address **capacity building and exchange of promising practices between women's specialist services on how to meaningfully support survivors of violence and civil society organisations in conflict and post-conflict areas**. Based on the expertise of women's organisations, a **toolkit** was developed not only to present the harm and challenges posed by conflicts, but also to document promising first-hand practices with concrete examples from the four WAVE members who are part of this project including their initiatives and recommendations as women's organisations who experience and have experienced war. The **Toolkit "Preventing and responding to gender-based violence during the war and in post-war settings - Experiences and recommendations of women's NGOs"** is available in five languages: English, Bosnian, Georgian, Armenian and Ukrainian ([HERE](#)).



The project will continue in 2023 in order to disseminate the toolkit through workshops and advocacy activities.

## WAVE ACTIVITY REPORT 2022



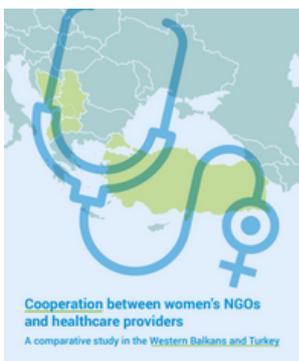
The annual report detailing WAVE's activities during the year 2022 is now published. Find the **WAVE Activity Report 2022** [HERE](#).

## NEW WAVE TEAM COLLEAGUE

Please welcome **Susanne Wunderer** to the WAVE team! Susanne is the **cover for the position of Grant Development & Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator** until September 2023. She has a lot of experience in politics on all levels, established a feminist NGO herself and specialised on violence against women in the context of family lawsuits. Welcome to WAVE, Susanne!



## CSSP AND IMPORTANCE OF MULTIAGENCY COOPERATION



The latest edition of the UN Women "Implementing norms, changing minds" newsletter has been published, which includes an **interview with Léa Dudouet**, WAVE Project and Network Coordinator, about the **CSSP project** (2017-2022) and the importance of **multiagency cooperation with healthcare providers**.

In this interview, WAVE's Project and Network Coordinator highlights some of the key findings of the regional assessment "Cooperation between women's NGOs and healthcare providers: A comparative study in the Western Balkans and Türkiye", developed by WAVE with the support of the EU-funded programme on ending violence against women "Implementing Norms, Changing Minds," with a view to spotlight promising practices of cooperation between women civil society organisations and healthcare professionals. Read the interview [HERE](#).

More about the Civil Society Strengthening Platform (CSSP) here: <https://cssplatform.org/>

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

updates from WAVE Members and political developments



WAVE member: Association SOS Helpline for Women and Children – Victims of Violence

## WORKSHOPS FOR REFUGEE AND ASYLUM-SEEKING WOMEN IN SLOVENIA

In February, Slovenian WAVE member Association SOS Helpline for Women and Children – Victims of Violence held three **workshops for refugee and asylum-seeking women under international protection coming from Iraq, Palestine, Sudan, Ukraine, Lebanon, Türkiye and Afghanistan, living in Slovenia.**

Workshops were organised in cooperation with Slovene Philanthropy, Association for Promotion of Volunteering, a fellow humanitarian organisation that offers programmes for refugees and asylum seekers in Slovenia. **Central themes of the workshops were gender-based violence**, its roots and how we understand it today, and where to seek support when experiencing gender-based violence in Slovenia. The association also informed women of their rights to be protected from gender-based violence, based on the legal status that they currently have in Slovenia.





WAVE member: Women's Resource Center, Armenia

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS VIOLATIONS DURING THE PROLONGED BLOCKADE OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

Armenian WAVE member Women's Resource Center shares about the **increase in women's rights violations during the prolonged blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh**. Next to numerous human rights violations leaving adults and children without access to essential goods and services, including life-saving medication and health care, **lack of access to reproductive healthcare** is another alarming issue.

As a result of fuel shortages, public transportation has been shut down, which directly affects women's reproductive rights. Several healthcare workers in Nagorno-Karabakh told Amnesty International that pregnant women were showing increased complications, and the numbers of miscarriages and premature births had grown, as expectant mothers were unable to access vital medication and the nutrients required during pregnancy.

Meanwhile, women seeking to terminate their pregnancies are also faced with this issue of inaccessibility and the shortage of contraceptives could result in a rise in unsafe abortions. Additionally, women and girls are faced with hygiene product shortages. This is only exacerbated by the fact that frequent electricity and gas outages make it difficult to maintain proper hygiene during menstruation.



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