

Funded by the  
European Union



# WAVE NEWSLETTER

---

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE WAVE NETWORK




FEBRUARY 2025

# THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER INCLUDES

- **WAVE Regranting 2025: Supporting Local, Context-Specific Actions Across the EU to End Violence Against Women and Girls**
- **WAVE's Annual Activity Report is Out Now: Discover WAVE's Key Events and Achievements of 2024**
- **The Power of Youth Activism Continues: Welcoming the 4th Generation of WAVE Youth Ambassadors**
- **Standing Strong Against FGM: Amplifying Members' Voices**
- **New WAVE Article: Hasmik Khachatryan's Fight for Justice in Armenia**
- WAVE voices from
  - North Macedonia: **Establishment of Observatory for Femicide**
  - Poland: **Feminist and Queer Summer Action Camp**
  - Moldova: **Supporting Survivors During Severe Energy Shortages**
  - Ireland: **Launch of New Report on Sexual Violence**
  - Estonia: **Research on Care Work**

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

 [FIND HELP on WAVE's database of over 1,440 contacts of women's specialist services!](#)

 [Urgent times call for unwavering support!](#)  
[Contribute to our Solidarity Fund and be a lifeline for WAVE members in crisis.](#)  
[Every donation counts.](#)

# WAVE NEWS

## WAVE REGRANTING 2025

WAVE is inviting organisations across the EU (including OCT) to apply for the **WAVE Regranting 2025** initiative. This opportunity supports the **development of local, context-specific** actions to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and girls. **Applications are open until 31 March 2025.**

[For more details on how to apply, including selection criteria, templates, and budget proposals, visit the WAVE website!](#)

## THE WAVE ACTIVITY REPORT 2024 IS NOW AVAILABLE

This report showcases our monthly milestones throughout 2024 and provides an overview of our three pillars—advocacy & campaigning, capacity building & network development, and communications & research—along with project updates and insights into our WAVE membership.

"Our mission has never been more urgent. The complex challenges we face today, ranging from the global rise in armed conflicts to the organised backlash against women's rights, including gender-neutral policies which obscure the systemic nature of violence against women, reinforce the need for strong specialised services for women and girls", says WAVE Executive Director Stephanie Futter-Orel reflecting on WAVE's 2024.



[View WAVE's 2024 key events & achievements in our annual activity report!](#)

## WAVE YOUTH MOVEMENT

Since 2018, the **WAVE Youth Ambassadors initiative** has been empowering young activists to advocate for the elimination of violence and discrimination against women and girls, and we are pleased to now welcome the **4th generation of ambassadors**:



**Laura Seidl**

*Austria*



**Aghgul Mehdiyeva**

*Azerbaijan*



**Tamina Summersgill**

*England (UK)*

Follow our movement on:



[@wavenetwork.youth](#)



[@wavenetwork.youth](#)



**Juliette Font**  
France



**Anamika Jain**  
France



**Panni Szirtes**  
Hungary



**Ilaria Nilges**  
Italy



**Julia Mazurkiewicz**  
Poland



**Deri Ronan**  
Scotland (UK)



**Teodora Milosavljević**  
Serbia

💡 Did you know? Since the launch of our **WAVE Youth Ambassadors initiative**, we have welcomed 44 ambassadors from 27 EU and non-EU countries, who are driving change across Europe and beyond.

## JOINING FORCES TO END FGM

On the **International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**, 6 February, we amplified WAVE members' voices, standing firmly against this severe violation of human rights.

"The practice of Female Genital Mutilation remains a crime that must be taken seriously in Europe and across the world. As a WAVE member, we believe that addressing, preventing and combating this issue collectively will significantly protect the lives and futures of girls at risk of this practice. Working together is essential for driving change." - [Migrant Women Association Malta](#), Malta

While the recognition of FGM as a crime in the new EU Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence is a step forward across Europe, much more work remains.

"We know FGM is a crime, and we fight it as such, naming things matters. What we do not name does not exist. Being able to refer to a collective understanding of such practice as a crime, reinforces our activism and supports our fight to end all violence towards women. We can use this recognition to keep training ourselves and others fighting Female Genital Mutilation for what it is." - [FiLiA](#), UK

Training is a key element in both preventing and effectively responding to FGM.

"Despite progress in policies and legal frameworks, gaps in knowledge and training hinder effective support for survivors. Professionals often lack gender-sensitive and culturally appropriate training, essential for delivering effective care and support. The [END FGM E-Campus](#) is a European knowledge platform offering practical skills in supporting victims and survivors of Female Genital Mutilation." - [Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies](#), Cyprus

🌸 Over 230 million girls and women worldwide have undergone FGM ([UNICEF](#)).  
Join us in taking a stance against FGM!

## NEW ARTICLE IN WAVE'S ONLINE MAGAZINE

**WAVE member Women's Support Center (Կանանց աջակցման կենտրոնը)** in Armenia has written about **Hasmik Khachatryan's landmark case**, which sheds light on systemic failures in addressing domestic violence. After enduring years of severe abuse, Hasmik's fight for justice led to a ruling by the European Court of Human Rights, holding Armenia accountable for failing to protect her. The **Women's Support Center provided critical shelter, legal aid, and counselling throughout her journey, demonstrating the essential role of women's specialist services in supporting survivors.** This article highlights the resilience of survivors and the urgent need for stronger protections.

[Read the article "Hasmik's Fight for Justice" in our WAVE of Change online magazine!](#)

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

updates from WAVE Members and political developments

## SHAPING CHANGE: LEGAL, POLICY & ADVOCACY UPDATES

### ESTABLISHMENT OF OBSERVATORY FOR FEMICIDE IN NORTH MACEDONIA

**A nationwide review of femicide cases from 2014 to 2024 will be undertaken using an established methodology to identify risk factors, patterns, and gaps in institutional responses.** Elena Dimushevskva, Executive Director of the National Network to End Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, was one of the two lead experts engaged to develop the methodology. This review will examine court records from femicide and attempted femicide cases, looking into legal proceedings and institutional interventions.



© National Network to End Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

**Conducted by WAVE member in North Macedonia the National Network to End Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Националната мрежа против насилство врз жени и семејно насилство)** in partnership with the Helsinki Committee, the review will follow a standardised framework to ensure consistency in data collection and case analysis, and inform policy recommendations to enhance institutional responses and legal protections for femicide victims.

Additionally, a **specialised platform** will be developed to track femicide and attempted femicide cases. Multilingual (Macedonian, Albanian, and English) and comprehensive, the platform will serve as a **central database** with historical data, relevant articles, and resources. Regular updates will ensure the availability of accurate information.

**Shared by the National Network to End Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Националната мрежа против насилство врз жени и семејно насилство), WAVE member in North Macedonia**

## PUSHING ACTION: CAMPAIGN & PROJECT UPDATES

### 21ST FEMINIST AND QUEER SUMMER ACTION 2025

The **21st Feminist and Queer Summer Action (FALa)** will take place from **25 July to 3 August 2025 in Poland**. FALa is a feminist and queer summer camp for women, transgender and non-binary individuals, and children under their care. It provides a **space for growth, mutual empowerment, learning, and regeneration**, fostering a safe, inclusive, and co-created environment for all participants. The camp is open to participants using Ukrainian, English, Russian, and Polish Sign Language. More information is available [HERE](#).

Shared by Juniper Foundation ([Fundacja Juniper](#)), WAVE member in Poland

### SUPPORTING WOMEN IN CRISIS DESPITE HARSH CONDITIONS

This winter, the **Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova** faced **severe energy shortages**, leaving many without electricity, gas, and heating throughout January. Power cuts during peak hours forced the team of WAVE member Resonance Center (**Центр розвитку и поддержки гражданских инициатив «РЕЗОНАНС»**) to work in freezing offices, relying on blankets for warmth.



**Despite these challenges, Resonance Center remained committed to providing legal, psychological, and social assistance to women and children affected by domestic violence.** As conditions worsened, they facilitated the relocation of ten beneficiaries to the right bank of the Dniester, where safe shelter and essential services were available. **Through successful collaboration with shelters across the region, they ensured that no woman was left without support.**

"Even in the darkest times, crisis brings out resilience and solidarity. Our work continues, proving that hope and collective action can overcome even the harshest conditions", says the Center.

Shared by Resonance Center ([Центр розвитку и поддержки гражданских инициатив «РЕЗОНАНС»](#)), WAVE member in Moldova

## BUILDING KNOWLEDGE: NEW RESEARCH

### IRELAND: LAUNCH OF NEW REPORT "LEARNING FROM SURVIVORS OF RAPE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE"

WAVE member Rape Crisis Ireland (RCI) launched its latest publication, '[Learning From Survivors of Rape and Sexual Violence](#)' on 30 January. Politicians, academics, partners and colleagues from across the Domestic, Sexual & Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV) sector attended the launch of the report, which includes statistics collated from rape crisis centres across Ireland in 2023.

Following a presentation and analysis of the data by RCI's Data & Privacy Manager, **Sally Aquilina**, and Executive Director, **Dr Clíona Saidléar**, keynote speaker **Dr Kennath Widanaralalage** of the Department of Psychology at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London, spoke about the different ways sexual violence impacts men compared to women.



Calling for increased research and broader acknowledgement of men's experiences of sexual violence (men accounted for 12% of RCI's 2023 statistics), Dr Widanaralage said: "Men often encounter unique barriers rooted in societal expectations that frame them as stoic, invulnerable, and independent. This gendered pressure frequently exacerbates feelings of shame and discourages men from seeking support from their social networks, which may explain the RCI data showing that medical professionals are often men's first point of disclosure."

[Read the report](#) on the RCI website and [watch a recording of the launch](#) on YouTube.

Shared by Rape Crisis Ireland (RCI), WAVE member in Ireland

### WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY IS SIGNIFICANT YET UNRECOGNISED

A recent study by Jezierska et al. (2024), "The Invisible Part of the Economy: What is the Cost of Unpaid Care Work?" (Nähtamatu osa majandusest: mis on tasustamata hooletöö hind?), **highlights the often-overlooked impact of unpaid care work in Estonia**. Conducted as part of the Feministeerium and Praxis Promote Gender Equality project, the research highlights the substantial contribution of unpaid care work through a gendered lens. The authors call for a broader definition of 'work' to include unpaid care, which generates significant social value. The full study is available in Estonian, with an English summary accessible [HERE](#).

Shared by Women's Support and Information Centre ([Naiste Tugi- ja Teabekeskus](#)), WAVE member in Estonia



## WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE



WAVE on Facebook



WAVE on Instagram



WAVE on LinkedIn



WAVE on Bluesky



WAVE on YouTube



WAVE on Spotify