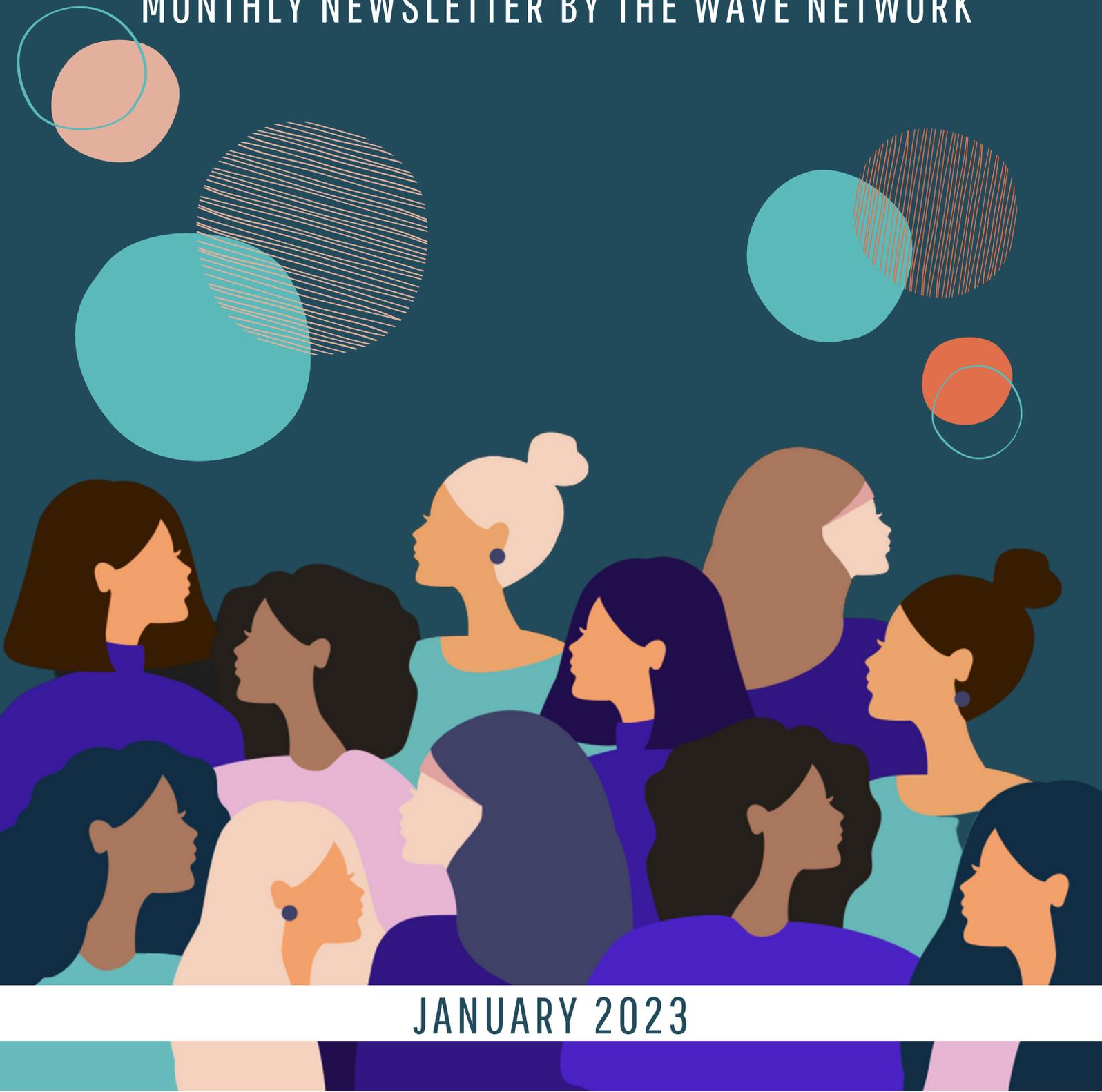


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# WAVE NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE WAVE NETWORK



JANUARY 2023

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

## THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER INCLUDES

- **Medica mondiale training sessions 2023:** Feminist solidarity and self-care in practice,
- **Donations from the Vagina Monologues,**
- **Podcast episode on WAVE's work,**
- Study on: **"Access to and quality of services for victims of gender-based violence in Albania",**
- **Impact of cost of living crisis on services supporting survivors** (England),
- **Germany-wide women's refuge search,**
- **Tackling sexual harassment at workplace in Armenia through improving legislation,**
- **Women's Center Romania,**
- **Hungarian women's organisations help women fleeing Ukraine access SRHR services,** and
- **IMPULS Small Grants Program** (Moldova).

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

From February-May 2023, medica mondiale (together with Medica Zenica, Medica Gjakova, and the support of the WAVE Office) are offering **WAVE members four training sessions on feminist self- and collective care in times of conflict**. The training sessions aim to increase members' understanding on the effects of conflict dynamics on oneself individually, on teams and/or organisations with regard to feminist perspectives and to wellbeing, and much more. The **WAVE Multidisciplinary Training 2023** is also part of these sessions and is dedicated to strengthening members to provide effective specialist services in challenging times.

# WAVE NEWS

## DONATIONS FROM THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

The East & West Encounter Theatre Group (EWE), a Munich based, English language theatre group, will **donate its share in ticket sales** of the play "The Vagina Monologues" **to WAVE members** which are supporting women in the Ukraine and in neighbouring countries to survive the war. The play is held in Munich, Germany, on 26 March and 02 April 2023. More info on the play HERE. Thank you to EWE for their support!

Help us support women and women's human rights defenders in the Ukraine and in neighbouring countries to survive the war during the harsh winter!

## PODCAST EPISODE ON WAVE'S WORK

**WAVE Project & Research Coordinator Elena Floriani recently joined the CRSV Observatory Podcast to share about WAVE's work**, give insight into the WAVE/OSCE joint project on preventing and responding to gender-based violence during the war and in post-war settings, and highlight the many ways in which WAVE aims to support members across Europe. Listen to the podcast episode [HERE](#).

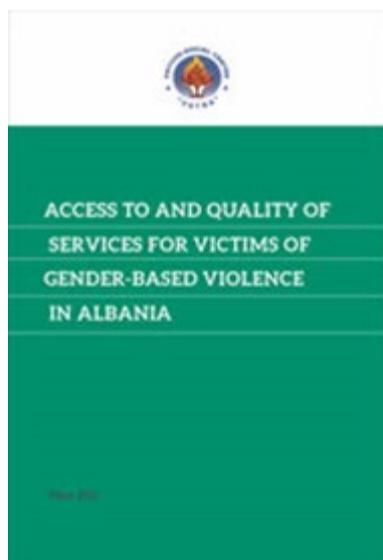
## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

updates from WAVE Members and political developments



WAVE member: Psycho-Social Centre "Vatra"

### STUDY ON: "ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN ALBANIA"



During the last months of 2022, the Psycho-Social Centre "Vatra" published the study "Access to and quality of services for victims of gender-based Violence in Albania". The study analyses the current situation regarding the **provision of services to survivors of gender-based violence in Albania** and has gathered recommendations aiming at the **improvement of services**. The study provides findings regarding the **policies and practices** in support of survivors, the effectiveness of services, and strategies for improvement. Furthermore, different recommendations for service improvement to policymakers, service providers, and donors for coordinating and monitoring structures are provided as well. The study is available [HERE](#).



WAVE member: Women's Aid Federation of England

## IMPACT OF COST OF LIVING CRISIS ON SERVICES SUPPORTING SURVIVORS

Women's Aid Federation of England and UK television broadcaster ITV recently highlighted that the **cost of living crisis is having a significant effect on specialist support services working with survivors of domestic abuse**. New research from Women's Aid has revealed the impact of the crisis on services and some of the federation's members have shared their experiences with ITV. The **research is available [HERE](#)**, and several of the key findings are presented below:

- Nearly every member (96%) said they were experiencing at least one of the following financial issues: increased rent for premises, other increased costs (e.g. food or supplies), funding not rising in line with costs or another financial issue.
- More than half of Women's Aid members (59%) said they were using their charitable reserves to cope with the crisis.
- Almost three-quarters (73%) said they had staff who were experiencing financial hardship, with one in five (20%) saying they had staff who were using foodbanks.
- Only five members (10%) had been able to access help with their refuge energy bills.
- The majority of members are experiencing staffing issues, with 80% struggling to recruit for vacant roles at the salaries they can pay.
- Shockingly, many members (67%) said if this crisis continues without intervention, it would stop them from supporting survivors – either turning them away from existing support, reducing the support available or closing all together in 5 cases. This rose to 85% of services run by and for Black and minoritised women.



WAVE member: Central Information Center for Autonomous Women's Shelters (ZIF)

## GERMANY-WIDE WOMEN'S REFUGE SEARCH

Vacant places in women's shelters in Germany can be searched nationwide on the **Germany-wide women's refuge search website**, which is operated by [ZIF – Central Information Center for Autonomous Women's Shelters](#).

The website includes specific selection criteria to support the survivor looking for refuge and shelter, and is **translated into English, Arabic, French, Turkish and Russian. The Germany-wide women's refuge search is available [HERE](#)**. The implementation of the website was made possible solely through donations. **More about the development and implementation of the website [HERE](#)**.



[Read more about the Germany-wide women's refuge search in the newest article on our WAVE online magazine!](#)



WAVE member: Women's Resource Center NGO

## TACKLING SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORKPLACE IN ARMENIA THROUGH IMPROVING LEGISLATION

In March 2022, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in Armenia published a package of major amendments to the Labour Code for public discussions. Regulations on workplace sexual harassment were not included in this draft, despite the fact that this issue was raised by international human rights bodies several times (CEDAW, ILO). In the scope of the development of a gender-sensitive response to women's labour rights in Armenia through improving legislation and practice, a legislative amendments package was prepared by the Women's Resource Center (WRCA) advocacy team. Additionally, from June to July 2022, the WRCA conducted an online **survey on sexual harassment at the workplace in order to gather initial data on how widespread the issue was in Armenia**. The survey attracted 592 respondents, most respondents were women aged 16-39, of whom 43% reported to have been subjected to sexual harassment at the workplace. The survey also asked the respondents to specify the type of work they did, whether they were registered workers, which employment type, etc.

Thus far, the survey has found that sexual harassment is more widespread in the service sector at 33%; among registered workers as well as unregistered workers. Additionally, most respondents revealed that sexual harassment against them was done by company heads making it even harder to report the incident. Furthermore, more than 60% of respondents revealed that they had to quit their jobs as a result of harassment which poses a significant threat to workers' rights. **Considering sexual harassment is often a form of gender-based discrimination, all of this makes sexual harassment at the workplace one of the great obstacles for women to realise their right to dignified work in Armenia. More information about the survey (in Armenian) is available** [HERE](#).



WAVE member: FILIA Center



### WOMEN'S CENTER ROMANIA

The FILIA Center and Code for Romania, with the support of the ANAIS Association and the Independent Association of Midwives, developed the website "**Women's Center**" to provide **specialist information and support services to women refugees from Ukraine** who are in immediate need of seeking reproductive health care, social care and anti-violence services. Women's Center is available [HERE](#).



WAVE member: PATENT Association

### HUNGARIAN WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS HELP WOMEN FLEEING UKRAINE ACCESS SRHR SERVICES

Hungarian women-led feminist NGOs [PATENT](#) and [EMMA](#) have been active in **supporting women and girls who have been fleeing the war in Ukraine** since March 2022.



Despite the challenges of the Hungarian healthcare system, and the growing restrictions on abortion rights, sister organisations PATENT (specialised in legal aid, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and gender-based

violence (GBV)-related services) and EMMA (specialised in pre-natal/post-natal/birthing/pregnancy care) have been delivering services to Hungarian women for many years and last year have taken on the challenge to build up a referral pathway system for refugee women. Their beneficiaries are typically highly marginalised, undereducated Roma women and girls from Transcarpathia, and many of these refugees are expected to stay in Hungary for a longer term. By **offering direct Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services to women and enabling informed decision making**, they access safe and good quality gynaecological examinations. The organisations also purchase contraceptive items, medications, vitamins and other SRH related products (such as pregnancy tests and period products), because these are unavailable for refugees in Hungary. Furthermore, women in crisis situations are assisted when deciding to terminate their pregnancy and having to undergo compulsory counselling sessions. Legal aid and psycho-social support are also part of the services. The NGOs have also produced **information materials on SRHR and the services accessible for women and girls in multiple languages**. In addition to this, trauma- and GBV-informed care guidelines for volunteers, social workers and healthcare professionals were disseminated, and new accompanying volunteers were trained during the autumn of 2022. **"We are proud to have established a system that enables refugee women and girls to access direct support with a pool of caring, trauma-informed professionals who they can trust, and a network of medical providers ready to help them"**, say the NGOs. More information (in HU/EN/UK/RU) is available [HERE](#).

[More resources across Europe for women fleeing the war in Ukraine can be found \*\*HERE!\*\*](#)



WAVE member: Women's Law Centre

## IMPULS SMALL GRANT PROGRAM - NEW APPROACHES IN CHANGING MENTALITIES

Preventing and combating gender-based violence advanced to another level. Over a period of three years, the **IMPULS Small Grants Program trained 12 agents of change to develop and implement activities in communities, for professionals and victims of gender-based violence.** The agents of change were supported by the Embassy of Sweden in Chisinau through the Women's Law Centre during 2020-2022. They had previously been trained under the Advanced International Training Program: 'Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence - Strengthening Agents of Change', for **professionals from Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.** The Republic of Moldova has been participating in this program since 2018. The trainees include prosecutors, police officers, forensic examiners, representatives of central authorities and of the civil society. The agents of change had the opportunity to share with their peers the knowledge and skills they had gained in the Program and to engage in problem solving. Most of the projects carried out by the agents of change focused on identifying the problems that cause gender-based violence and on finding solutions to address them. **Workshops, round tables, studies and seminars were organised and attended by different groups of beneficiaries.** They shared experiences and deepened their knowledge and skills in working with victims of gender-based violence. For some of them this was an additional opportunity to test their abilities in setting projects up and ensuring their integration in day-to-day work. More information on the IMPULS Small Grants Program is available [HERE](#).



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