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WAVE NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE WAVE NETWORK



JULY 2023

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

THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER INCLUDES

- **WAVE Conference 2023,**
- **WAVE Youth Ambassadors Conference 2023,**
- **WAVE statement on the European Parliament adoption of a strong stance on the EU bill on Violence against Women ensuring gendered protection, support, and access to justice for all victims of VAWG and DV,**
- **WAVE statement on the European Commission's proposal for a revised Victims' Rights Directive (VRD) – Directive 2012/29/EU,**
- **WAVE/OSCE meeting with project partners,**
- **WAVE Youth Ambassadors Series: I Am A Woman/Girl In Cyberspace,**
- **WAVE Youth Ambassadors Interview: Women's Rights Around The Globe,**
- **Welcoming our 171th WAVE member into the network, and**
- **WAVE voices from Germany, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Armenia, Cyprus and Russia.**

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

WAVE EVENTS



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WAVE CONFERENCE 2023

The 25th WAVE Conference 'Institutional violence and its impact on women's human rights across Europe' will take place in Madrid, Spain from 16-17 October 2023. Please find the Concept Note for the 25th WAVE Conference [HERE](#). Registrations for this year's WAVE Conference will open soon. More information [HERE](#).

WAVE Youth Ambassadors Conference 2023

From 8-9 July, the current generation of WAVE Youth Ambassadors gathered in Vienna, Austria, to attend the annual WAVE Youth Ambassadors Conference. This year's conference highlighted the importance of "resisting against antifeminism". Our group of young feminist activists from across Europe had the opportunity to gain specific skills and knowledge on how to react in antifeminist situations, were provided with effective communication tools, and delved into critical conversations on the crucial role of self-care for activists.

The conference was facilitated and led by Irene Zeilinger of the WAVE member organisation [Garance ASBL](#), based on the organisation's brochure "Let's shut down antifeminism! - The verbal self-defence guide for feminists". The brochure is available on our website [HERE](#).



WAVE NEWS

GENDERED PROTECTION, SUPPORT, AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL VICTIMS OF VAWG AND DV

On 12 July, the **European Parliament gave the green light to enter negotiations with the Council of the European Union** concerning the text of the **proposed EU Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence**. WAVE continues to call on the EU Commission, the European Parliament, and the Council of the EU to engage in a dialogue that truly serves the needs of all victims of violence against women and domestic violence and that commits to the achievement of gender equality between women and men and the effective protection of victims' rights in the European Union. Read the full WAVE statement [HERE](#).

WAVE STATEMENT ON VICTIMS' RIGHTS DIRECTIVE

On 26 July, WAVE has released a statement on the **European Commission's proposal for a revised Victims' Rights Directive** on establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. The proposal illustrates the **complementarity of protection between sectorial and horizontal legislation**, clarifying that victims with specific needs, such as victims of violence against women and domestic violence, **need specialised support services which cannot be replaced by generic services**. Read the full WAVE statement on the European Commission's proposal for a revised Victims' Rights Directive [HERE](#).

WAVE/OSCE MEETING WITH PROJECT PARTNERS

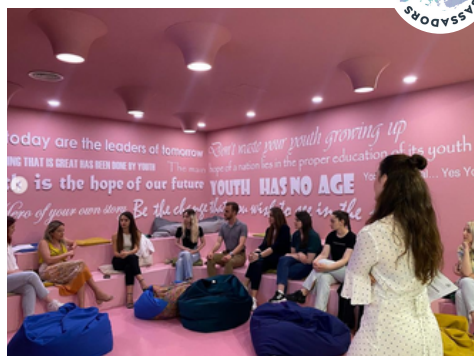


From 6-8 July, WAVE members **Foundation "United Women" Banja Luka** (*"Udružene žene" Banja Luka*, Bosnia & Herzegovina), **Sexual Assault Crisis Centre** (*Սեռական բռնության ճգնաժամային կենտրոն*, Armenia) and **Women Fund Sukhumi** (*ქალთა ფონდი "სოხუმი"*, Georgia) met in Vienna, Austria, together with the **WAVE and OSCE** teams to work on the project started in 2022 to **effectively support survivors of gender-based violence and women's organisations in conflict and post-conflict areas**. After developing a toolkit collecting strategies based on the experiences of women's NGOs, the project partners are now creating a training manual to further disseminate them. Thank you to the OSCE/WIN Project for the support!



WAVE YOUTH AMBASSADORS SERIES: I AM A WOMAN/GIRL IN CYBERSPACE

The **intergenerational talk "I am a Woman/Girl in cyberspace"** is a series of talks hosted in various European countries as part of the new campaign "I am a Woman/Girl" run by 3rd generation **WAVE Youth Ambassadors** **Lena Östlund (France/Sweden), Raphaëlle Jouannic (France) and Ilvana Dedja (Albania)**.



The first talk was hosted in Tirana, Albania, on 6 July 2023 by WAVE Youth Ambassador Ilvana Dedja, in collaboration with the Young Professional Network, a cooperation platform composed of young professionals and youth organisations. The talk included a **panel comprised of Megi Llubani, Research Analyst at MDRC, Nadia Guni, Human Rights Lawyer at the Center for Civic Legal Initiatives, and Arjola Hoxha, Cybersecurity Expert at BKT.**

The talk was a success and stood out for its high levels of engagement throughout the event, active participation in discussions, thought-provoking questions, and much interest in the topic of cyber violence against women and girls by participants. **We look forward to seeing more of the successful WAVE Youth Ambassadors intergenerational talk series "I am a Woman/Girl in cyberspace" across Europe.**

WAVE YOUTH AMBASSADORS INTERVIEW: WOMEN'S RIGHTS AROUND THE GLOBE

In the newest episode of the **WAVE podcast "No More Violence Against Women"**, 3rd generation **WAVE Youth Ambassador Ines Consonni (Portugal/Italy)** has a conversation with her friend **Farah Abou Harb**, a Political Science graduate working as a women, peace and security program analyst in the field of peace process support. Farah, who was born and raised in Lebanon, **gives insight into the state of women's rights, gender (in)equality and violence against women and girls in the MENA region, particularly in Lebanon.** Despite different contexts, the two connect over the importance of **fighting for women's rights as a collective responsibility** that all societies must consider crucial.



[Listen to the new WAVE podcast episode "Women's rights around the globe - a conversation with Farah Abou Harb" HERE!](#)



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WELCOMING THE 171TH WAVE MEMBER INTO THE NETWORK

In July, WAVE has welcomed one new WAVE member organisation into our network. Meet **Nasiliu.Net** (Центр по работе с проблемой насилия «НАСИЛИЮ.НЕТ») from Russia. Thank you to all WAVE members who have joined the WAVE Network and are part of our WAVE of change! Find out how to become a WAVE member [HERE](#).



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

updates from WAVE Members and political developments

WAVE member: Association of Women's Shelters, Germany



FACHINFORMATION
Nr. 1 | 2023



PRÄVENTION
GESCHLECHTSBASIERTER GEWALT
NACHHALTIG ENTGEGENWIRKEN

PUBLICATION: PREVENTION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

In their **new publication "Prevention. Sustainably Combatting Gender-based Violence"** German **WAVE member Association of Women's Shelters** (Frauenhauskoordination e.V.) examines the conditions and characteristics for successful prevention of violence against women* and girls*. The publication provides **insight into successful prevention projects and best practices** (both on national and international level) and **explores recent research on effective prevention measures**.

It also takes a look into the costs that arise when states fail to invest in the prevention of gender-based violence. The publication (German) is available for free download [HERE](#). More publications of the association on relevant topics is available [HERE](#).

PROJECT START: "INCLUSIVE APPROACHES IN WOMEN'S SPECIALIST SERVICES: IMPLEMENTING THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION"

In a one-year project period from June 2023 to May 2024, **WAVE member Association of Women's Shelters** seeks to identify what **women's specialist services** require in order to adequately support **survivors of domestic violence** – especially taking into account the **diversity of their needs and backgrounds**. For this purpose, a requirement analysis is designed. The association aims to evaluate the development of inclusive approaches within the system of service provision. This includes interviewing employees of differently structured women's shelters. **A symposium on the topic of inclusion is planned to take place in spring 2024**. More information will be made available during the course of the project and on the project page [HERE](#).

WAVE member: Necuvinte Association, Romania

SAFE SPACE CONTINUES

The "**Safe Space for Women and Girls**" project implemented by Romanian **WAVE member Necuvinte Association** continues with the support of the Global Fund for Women. The safe space is located within the Accommodation Center for Displaced Persons from Ukraine organised in the "Edmond Nicolau" Technical College, in district 2, Bucharest, in partnership with the City Hall of Sector 2 and the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection Sector 2.

The purpose of the Safe Space for Women and Girls is to provide refugees from Ukraine with a safe environment to identify their needs for services related to reproductive health, domestic violence and gender. The safe space provides frontline support and counseling through integrated service recipient-centered intervention. The safe space is intended for all refugees who need support in adapting to a new life.

WAVE member: Sensiblu Foundation, Romania

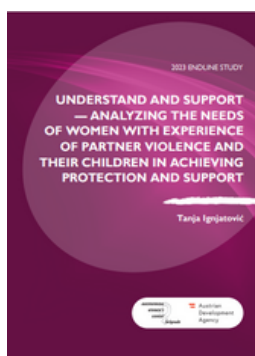
SELF-DEFENSE COURSES FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

Romania has provided refuge to approx. 100,000 Ukrainian refugees since the start of the war. To continue effectively supporting Ukrainian refugees, particularly women and girls, Romanian **WAVE member Sensiblu Foundation** (Fundația Sensiblu) launched a series of **self-defense courses for Ukrainian refugees** in May 2023, commencing with sessions held in Bucharest, Suceava, and Cluj. Led by Tatiana Kolot and Gentiana Susaj, in collaboration with ESD Global and Impact Global, approximately 100 determined women have already participated and gained skills in effective communication, assertiveness, and practical self-defense techniques. Beyond individual skill-building, these **courses foster a strong community and a sense of solidarity among Ukrainian refugees in Romania, offering a safe and empathic space to connect, share experiences, and support each other.**

WAVE member: Autonomous Women's Center, Serbia

ACHIEVING PROTECTION AND SUPPORT

Serbian **WAVE member Autonomous Women's Center** (Autonomi Zenski Centar Beograd) conducted new **research on the needs of women with experience of partner violence and their children** in receiving protection and support in institutions, and more, with the **aim of formulating recommendations for institutions' response and public policies.** The results show that in the two observed periods there was no improvement in women's perception of security, but improved information about the rights and competences of institutions was registered.



Most notably, the research revealed that most **dissatisfaction of women** was caused by an inappropriate relationship that reflects mistrust, misunderstanding, distance or passivity of institutions, **most often related to issues of parenting and assessing the best interests of the child in the context of violence in a partner relationship**. Read the full research (English) [HERE](#).

WAVE member: DAJE - Roma Center for Women & Children, Serbia

PEER EDUCATION ON NON-VIOLENT RELATIONSHIPS AND MORE

WAVE member in Serbia **Daje - Roma Center for Women and Children** (Romski Centar za Žene i Decu) completed the first cycle of training eight Roma girls and boys from 4 elementary schools in Belgrade for **peer education on non-violent relationships, equality, and assertive boundaries**. From the beginning of the next school year, **at least 60 children from highly vulnerable and multiple marginalised groups will be included** in peer workshops. Daje says: "After the mass murders in Serbia in May, it became evident that violence in our country is escalating and that systematic and coordinated efforts on prevention work by all relevant actors is necessary. We emphasize that many children living in substandard settlements, in social and economic deprivation, are exposed to family and gender-based violence - as victims and witnesses - which increases the risk of self-destructive and aggressive, delinquent behaviors."



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



RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AMONG YOUTH

Slovenian **WAVE member Association SOS Helpline for Women and Children - Victims of Violence** (Društvo SOS) launched an awareness-raising campaign for youth to educate young people about intimate partner violence, as violence in adolescent relationships is a common problem with numerous negative short- and long-term consequences.

The campaign's stickers, which will be placed in the toilets of clubs in different parts of Slovenia, contain **messages that control, coercion, physical, psychological, and sexual violence are unacceptable**. The campaign's aim is also to **inform young people who are victims of intimate partner violence** of the association's SOS Helpline +386 (0) 80 11 55.

WAVE member: Women's Resource Center, Armenia

PROHIBITION OF WORKPLACE SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN ARMENIA

In 2021, Armenian **WAVE member Women's Resource Center** (Կաճաճ, ռեսուրսային կենտրոն ՀԿ) conducted a legal analysis of Gender-sensitive regulations in the Armenian Labour code which identified **discrepancies in Armenian labor legislation**. The study was based on international standards on women's labor rights, including the ILO C190 Convention on Violence and Harassment. The study has **revealed significant gaps in the legislation**, including the complete absence of regulations regarding sexual harassment in the workplace, the lack of an established mechanism for reporting incidents of gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace as well as the limited mandate of the state body, the Labor and Health Inspectorate on gender issues.

On the basis of the research in 2022, Women's Resource Center (WRC) was actively engaged in advocating for the adoption of sexual harassment regulations in the Labor Code. WRC created an online survey, conducted research, and prepared policy briefs on the issue. The WRC advocacy team participated in meetings with decision-makers and NGOs working in the field to keep the issue at the center of their attention. **As a result of their research and advocacy work the respective regulations were adopted by the Parliament in May 2023.**

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

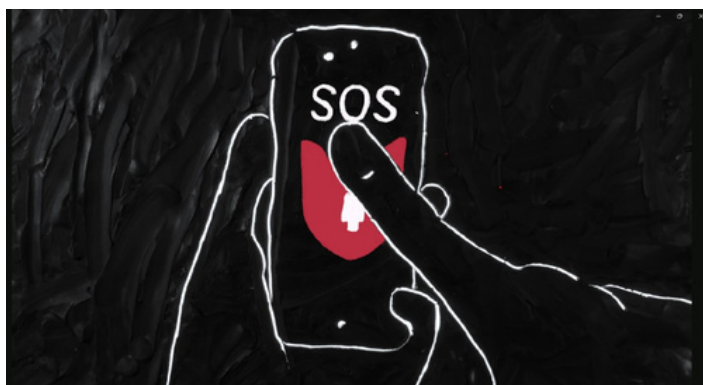
EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE SUPPORT PROGRAM IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS

Since 2020, the **Child Care and Education Program** has been operating at the shelters of Cypriot **WAVE member Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family** (Συνδέσμου για την Πρόληψη και Αντιμετώπιση της Βίας στην Οικογένεια). The program is run by professional social workers, psychologists and teachers. **The purpose of the program is to offer enhanced care and support to children and their mothers while living in the shelters.** The goals of the program are to develop children's social and emotional skills and provide psycho- emotional support, monitor possible health problems of children, provide care to infants, toddlers and children regarding personal hygiene and nutrition, and caring for children with special needs. The program also aims to positively reinforce the parenting role, include women in the labor market, provide 24-hour supervision of the children in cases where the mothers need to go to work, minimize their dependency on the social benefits policy and reduce the risk of returning to the abusive environment.

WAVE member: Nasiliu.Net, Russia

SUPPORTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS THROUGHOUT RUSSIA

Next to supporting survivors in-person, Russian **WAVE member Nasiliu.Net** ([НАСИЛИЮ.НЕТ](https://nasiliu.net)) recently added **online psychological and legal consultations** to their fields of work to facilitate and ensure access to their services. Furthermore, the center has **simplified the application process** to their services, which can now be done not only by phone, but also through their website and messengers. **Nasiliu.net mapped out about 170 helping organisations from all over Russia.** The center's operators direct people to them, if they are nearby from where the person asking for support is located. If the person asking for support lives far from any supporting organisation, Nasiliu.net provides support themselves. By 1 July 2023, the center was already able to support people from 22 regions. Currently, Nasiliu.net is starting to process applications 24/7 and is planning to launch online support groups to support as many people as possible.



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