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WAVE NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE WAVE NETWORK




JULY 2024

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 2024!

THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER INCLUDES

- **WAVE Conference 2024,**
- **Empowering Change: WAVE's Advocacy Summer Updates,**
- **Read About Armenia's Domestic Violence Law Update in WAVE's Online Magazine,**
- **WAVE's External Activities Over The Summer,**
- **Istanbul Convention: Methodology and Toolkit for CSOs Now in Ukrainian,**
- **Welcoming Gender Hub Azerbaijan into the WAVE Network,**
- **WAVE voices on Ensuring The Best Interest of The Child in Situations of Domestic Violence in Serbia and The Nowhere to Turn Report Series from Women's Aid England.**

This newsletter covers updates from the WAVE Network and WAVE 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 September 30th - October 1st 2024!

The Concept Note and draft Agenda are now available. Click [HERE](#) to explore the details! Keep your eyes peeled, as registration for the #WAVECon2024 will open soon!

WAVE NEWS

WAVE'S ADVOCACY UPDATES

VICTIMS' RIGHTS DIRECTIVE REVISION

WAVE stands alongside more than 50 organisations to show solidarity with victims of crime in the "**Joint Civil Society Statement in reaction to the Council's position on the Victims' Rights Directive revision**". The statement urges all EU Member States to seriously consider the solutions proposed by the European Commission and Parliament, thereby **making victims' rights a reality**.

[READ OUR "JOINT CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT IN REACTION TO THE COUNCIL POSITION ON THE VICTIMS' RIGHTS DIRECTIVE REVISION" HERE AND RAISE AWARENESS!](#)

CALLING ON INCOMING EU LEADERSHIP TO PRIORITISE EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

As EU leaders set priorities for 2024-2029, we call on them to place **equality, women's rights and non-discrimination** at the heart of the agenda. Only by centring equality and protection from discrimination can the EU truly **respond to the key concerns of people** living in the Union.

[READ OUR "JOINT STATEMENT CALLING ON INCOMING EU LEADERSHIP TO PRIORITISE EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION" HERE AND SPREAD THE MESSAGE!](#)

URSULA VON DER LEYEN RE-ELECTED AS EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESIDENT

On July 18th, **Ursula von der Leyen** was re-elected as President of the European Commission and published new **Political Guidelines for the 2024-2029 term**. We welcome her re-appointment and look forward to actively participating in her proposed Civil Dialogue, focusing on Gender Equality and preventing and combating Violence against Women. **The next five years are crucial for advancing the EU's efforts on gender-based violence against women** through a new Gender Equality Strategy and key actions within the announced Roadmap for Women's Rights. **Engaging feminist civil society to shape the women's rights roadmap is essential. The WAVE Network will continue working to ensure our priorities are included in both the new strategy and the roadmap.**

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT WHAT WE EXPECT TO SEE IN THE ANNOUNCED ROADMAP FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO EFFECTIVELY PREVENT AND TACKLE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS!](#)

ARMENIA'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAW



Armenia's National Assembly made a significant stride this spring by approving comprehensive amendments to the domestic violence law, the first major update since its 2017 adoption. This crucial step in the fight for social justice was shaped by the dedicated efforts of WAVE member Women's Support Center ([Կանանց աջակցման կենտրոնը](#)).

Their extensive collaboration and advocacy led to many of their proposals being incorporated into the final legislation.

[READ THE NEWEST ARTICLE ON WAVE'S ONLINE MAGAZINE ABOUT THIS FEMINIST ACHIEVEMENT BY CLICKING HERE!](#)

HIGHLIGHTS OF WAVE'S SUMMER ACTIVITIES



2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE EUROPEAN NETWORK ON GENDER AND VIOLENCE

Elena Floriani, WAVE's Project & Research Coordinator, spoke at the annual conference of the European Network on Gender and Violence which took place in Vilnius, Lithuania, on June 26-28. On the premises of EIGE, Elena Floriani presented the WAVE Country Report 2023.

The methodology and results of the report were shared, as well as the advocacy tools created by WAVE. The presentation was followed by an engaged Q&A session on the Report and the details of WAVE's research work. Participants included academic researchers, representatives of NGOs and EU agencies such as Eurostat and EIGE.

CLOSING EVENT OF THE TAVAM PROJECT

Beverly Mtui, WAVE's Communications Coordinator, spoke at the closing event of the "Together against Violence against Women - TAVAM" project in Cahul City, Moldova, on June 27-28.



The TAVAM project, a joint effort by the National Coalition "Life without Violence" (Coaliția Națională "Viața fără Violență") and WAVE, aimed to strengthen the capacity of Moldovan women's specialist services and to advance the transfer of knowledge between Austrian and Moldovan organisations. It ran from November 2022 to June 2024.

Beverly Mtui highlighted the successful collaboration with the Coalition and the importance of feminist networking. She emphasised WAVE's role in connecting women's specialist services and feminist civil society organisations, focusing on advocacy, capacity building, research, and funding through WAVE's regranting program. Participants included representatives from women's specialist services and women's organisations in Moldova, as well as Stella Avallone, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Austria to the Republic of Moldova, Martin Muehlbacher from the Embassy of Austria in the Republic of Moldova, and Rosa Logar, WAVE co-founder and international expert in the field of women's rights.

The TAVAM project was funded by the Austrian Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection.

CONFERENCE “SYNERGY FOR CHANGE: CIVIL SOCIETY RAISING AWARENESS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN A CONTEXT OF GLOBAL CHALLENGES”

On July 11-12, WAVE’s Executive Director Stephanie Futter-Orel and WAVE’s Project & Network Coordinator Léa Dudouet attended the conference “Synergy for Change: Civil Society Raising Awareness on Violence Against Women in a Context of Global Challenges” organised within the frame of the Council of Europe Ending violence against women: multi-country programme.



Stephanie Futter-Orel spoke in the opening panel regarding WAVE’s active role in developing the [joint methodology](#) with the Council of Europe and UN Women to help CSOs raise awareness on the Istanbul Convention and dispel myths and misconceptions, and the importance of supporting CSOs in their awareness raising and lobbying initiatives.

She also highlighted some of the key challenges women’s CSOs are currently facing in Europe and how this is impacting the development of policies and provision of services to women experiencing gender-based violence.

A number of CSOs shared their experiences of using the joint methodology in their awareness-raising activities supported by the Council of Europe, including WAVE Members MARTA Centre (Latvia) and NANE Women’s Rights Association (Hungary). The news items with attached relevant conference documents can be viewed on the Council of Europe website [HERE](#).



ISTANBUL CONVENTION: METHODOLOGY AND TOOLKIT FOR CSOS NOW IN UKRAINIAN

The **comprehensive methodology and checklist for civil society organisations** (CSOs) to run communication and advocacy campaigns promoting the **Istanbul Convention** are now **available in Ukrainian**. Developed by WAVE, the Council of Europe’s Gender Equality Division, and UN Women, these resources equip CSOs with tools to generate positive narratives and debunk myths and stereotypes about the convention.

[METHODOLOGY AND CHECKLIST FOR CSOS AVAILABLE IN UKRAINIAN HERE!](#)

WELCOMING A NEW WAVE MEMBER INTO THE NETWORK



We are delighted to share exciting news this summer! In July, WAVE welcomed a new member organisation into our network, making Gender Hub from Azerbaijan our 179th member. 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

BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD IN SITUATIONS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

WAVE member Autonomous Women's Center Belgrade prepared a Review of international standards, comparative solutions and the domestic legal framework, with recommendations, on the pseudo-scientific concept of "parental alienation". Its application in the field of family relations and protection from domestic violence leads to inadequate protection of women and children and endangers the best interests of the child. The review seeks to identify key problems and possible ways to prevent this harmful practice, primarily by improving the existing legal framework in Serbia. The use of the pseudo-scientific concept "parental alienation" favors labeling domestic violence as "conflict" or "high-conflict divorce" and ignoring children's testimony of violence in parenting assessments. This demonstrates a lack of knowledge about the harmful consequences of violence for children and security risks, and insufficiently considers the child's opinions and attitudes regarding decisions on guardianship and visitation models. "We believe this Review will be useful to professionals and women's organisations, in Serbia and beyond", says WAVE member Autonomous Women's Center.

Written by WAVE member in Serbia

Autonomous Women's Center Belgrade ([Autonomi Zenski Centar Beograd](#))

[RESOURCE TIP](#)

[READ HERE WAVE'S TOOLKIT "SAFETY AS THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD", FOR VICTIM-FRIENDLY JUDICIAL PRACTICE IN CHILD CUSTODY, CONTACT, AND VISITATION MATTERS!](#)

NOWHERE TO TURN

WAVE member Women's Aid's Nowhere to Turn report series details findings from the previous year of the No Woman Turned Away project (NWTa), which provides support and advocacy to women facing additional barriers to accessing refuge or other safe accommodation. The report builds on their evidence base on the structural inequalities that many survivors face and makes recommendations for key stakeholders.

[THE LATEST REPORT IN THIS SERIES, NOWHERE TO TURN 2024, WAS PUBLISHED ON 16TH JULY AND CAN BE ACCESSED VIA THEIR WEBSITE HERE!](#)

Women's Aid is holding a webinar exploring the findings of the report on 1st August 2024 at 10am - 11.15am. To attend the webinar, [register HERE](#).

Written by WAVE member in UK
[Women's Aid Federation of England](#)



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