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WAVE NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE WAVE NETWORK



MARCH 2023

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

THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER INCLUDES

- **Medica mondiale training sessions 2023:** Feminist solidarity and self-care in practice,
- **WAVE Discussion Forum 2023,**
- **WAVE Conference 2023,**
- **update on the draft EU Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence,**
- **two new WAVE members,**
- **International Women's Day 2023,**
- **continuation of WAVE project "Safeguarding and Empowering Children",**
- **meeting with WAVE member organisations in Austria,**
- **presentation of the WAVE/OSCE toolkit,**
- **New WAVE team colleague,**
- **supporting North Macedonian WAVE member,**
- **new WAVE podcast episode on cyber violence,**
- **WAVE voices: report on mechanisms for combatting VAW in the Earthquake Zone,**
- **WAVE voices: prevention and response to GBV in Romania,**
- **WAVE voices: amendments to the Criminal Code in North Macedonia aligned with the Istanbul Convention, and**
- **WAVE voices: 3919 – the French helpline turns 30.**

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 March, the second 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 training was also part two of the **WAVE Multidisciplinary Training 2023** dedicated to strengthening the participants in providing effective specialist services in challenging times. On 30 March, the third installment of the training sessions was held. The last training will be offered in May 2023.

WAVE DISCUSSION FORUM 2023

On 23 March, the WAVE members attended the **WAVE Discussion Forum 2023** to exchange about the importance of solidarity amongst women's organisations, the progress of international legislation such as the Istanbul Convention, and other pressing issues both at national as well as at European level. In 2022, the WAVE Discussion Forums were introduced as a space dedicated to facilitating members' interaction and to enabling informal discussions on local, national and international developments.

WAVE CONFERENCE 2023

The 25th WAVE Conference will take place in Madrid, Spain from 16-18 October 2023.
[More details will follow soon.](#)

WAVE NEWS

UPDATE ON THE DRAFT EU DIRECTIVE ON VAW AND DV

In January, WAVE President Marcella Pirrone, WAVE Board Member Irene Zeilinger, WAVE Executive Manager Stephanie Futter-Orel, and WAVE Advocacy Coordinator Eliana Jimeno held advocacy meetings, in collaboration with Prospera Women's Funds, with Members of the European Parliament, Civil Society Organisations, the European Commission and the Permanent Representation of Spain and Sweden to **advocate for the proposed WAVE amendments to the EU draft Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence**. After these meetings, WAVE submitted to the co-rapporteurs an updated, summarised version of these amendments. In February, the main co-rapporteurs Evin INCIR (LIBE) and Francis FITZGERALD (FEMM) submitted their joint report on the draft EU Directive on VAW and DV, which was then formally introduced in the joint session of the FEMM-LIBE Committees. **Almost 90% of WAVE's amendments are included in the joint report.** The report is scheduled to be discussed in the Plenary on 12 June 2023.

TWO NEW WAVE MEMBERS

In March, WAVE welcomed two new members! Meet **FEM.A - Association of Feminist Single Mothers** (Verein Feministische Alleinerzieherinnen) from Austria, and **Association Protect Children** (Protéger l'enfant - Association de défense des droits de l'enfant) from France. Thank you for joining the WAVE Network and for being part of our WAVE of change! Find out how to become a WAVE member [HERE](#).



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2023

On 8 March, **International Women's Day**, WAVE continued to advocate for the recognition of Women's Specialist Services as allies providing specialist support to women and key implementing actors of legislation impacting women's rights. **"Until the day no woman or girl would have to face gender-based violence, Women's Specialist Services will remain on the frontline providing specialised women-centred and trauma-informed support"**; read the full WAVE Statement on the occasion of the International Women's Day [HERE](#). In addition to this, WAVE conducted a **social media campaign** to highlight the successful advocacy advances made by WAVE in 2022 concerning the EU Directive, and to reiterate the remaining needs and demands in 2023.

SAFEGUARDING AND EMPOWERING CHILDREN

In 2022, the **WAVE project "Safeguarding and Empowering Children"** was launched with the aim to develop a **comprehensive child safeguarding framework for women's specialist services** and to **strengthen international movement-building for more child-friendly custody proceedings in courts**. With the four project partners - Autonomous Women's House Zagreb ([Autonomna Ženska Kuća Zagreb](#)), NANE - Women's Rights Association ([NANE - Nők a Nőkért Együtt az Erőszak Ellen](#)), ZIF - Central Information Center for Autonomous Women's Shelters ([ZIF - Zentrale Informationsstelle Autonomer Frauenhäuser](#)), and [Women's Rights Foundation Malta](#) - the **"Guidelines for safeguarding and empowering children: Basic principles, key areas of action and procedures for women's specialist services"** framework was created and published towards the end of 2022. The guidelines are available [HERE](#).

The project will continue in 2023 in order to disseminate the guidelines through workshop and advocacy activities. Moreover, a comprehensive toolkit for enhancing child-friendly custody proceedings in courts will be developed.

MEETING WITH AUSTRIAN WAVE MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

On 21 March, **WAVE Executive Manager Stephanie Futter-Orel** and **WAVE Project & Network Coordinator Léa Dudouet** met with all **WAVE member organisations from Austria** - Association of Austrian Autonomous Women's Shelters (Autonome Österreichische Frauenhäuser), Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre Vienna (Wiener Interventionsstelle gegen Gewalt in der Familie), Network of Austrian Counseling Centres for Women and Girls (Netzwerk österreichischer Frauen- und Mädchenberatungsstellen), Ninlil - Empowerment and Counselling for Women with Disabilities (Ninlil - Empowerment und Beratung für Frauen mit Behinderung), and FEM.A - Association of Feminist Single Mothers (Verein Feministische Alleinerzieherinnen) - to exchange, find synergies and talk about effective collaboration within WAVE.



PRESENTATION OF THE WAVE/OSCE TOOLKIT

On 21 March, **WAVE Project & Research Coordinator Elena Floriani** presented the Toolkit on "Preventing and responding to gender-based violence during the war and in post-war settings", with a particular focus on the important role of women's specialist services, during the **meeting of the OSCE Human Dimension Committee on combatting conflict-related sexual violence as a weapon of war**. The meeting offered participating States the opportunity to discuss what the OSCE can do to combat this issue and to share good practices in relation to the four pillars of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (participation, protection, prevention, and relief and recovery).

It also focused on the OSCE's role in supporting efforts to tackle impunity and provided perspectives from civil society, policy experts and an OSCE Field Mission. The Toolkit on "Preventing and responding to gender-based violence during the war and in post-war settings" can be accessed [HERE](#).

NEW WAVE TEAM COLLEAGUE



Please welcome our new **WAVE Event Coordinator Amina Reiss** to the WAVE team. She is currently pursuing her Master's degree in International Development with a focus on intersectional global gender inequalities, and is **experienced in the field of international conference organising and event management**. Welcome to WAVE, Amina!

SUPPORTING NORTH MACEDONIAN WAVE MEMBER

A supporter of North Macedonian WAVE member **National Network to end VAW and DV (Националната мрежа против насилство врз жени и семејно насилство)** started a fundraiser via **GoFundMe** for the **Women Intervention Fund (WIF)**. The National Network to end VAW and DV opened WIF in 2017 with the main goal to support women that left or made a decision to leave their violent partner, but are at risk of homelessness and poverty. The donation link via GoFundMe can be found [HERE](#). The information can also be reshared on [Facebook](#) from the [page](#) of the National Network to end VAW and DV.

NEW WAVE PODCAST EPISODE



On 31 March, a **new episode of the WAVE podcast - No More Violence Against Women** on the topic of cyber violence will be published. Listen to the new episode [HERE](#).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

updates from WAVE Members and political developments



WAVE member: Mor Çatı
Women's Shelter Foundation, Türkiye

REPORT ON MECHANISMS FOR COMBATting VAW IN THE EARTHQUAKE ZONE

Turkish WAVE member **Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation** (Mor Çatı Kadın Sığınağı Vakfı) recently **visited the earthquake zone in an effort to monitor the mechanisms for combatting violence against women** and the state of women and children who are exposed to or are at risk of violence. Mor Çatı observed the current situation, support mechanisms, and the needs of women and their children in the affected areas. They also contacted several public institutions and municipalities that provide services in the regions as well as women's organisations, NGOs and other civic initiatives and heard their experiences. After their field visits Mor Çatı prepared a report which can be found [HERE](#).



WAVE member: Sensiblu Foundation, Romania

PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO GBV IN ROMANIA

In the second half of 2022, Romanian WAVE member **Sensiblu Foundation** (Fundația Sensiblu) implemented in Bucharest and Suceava the project **Prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV), including support to people at-risk and GBV survivors**, with the support of UNHCR. The project targeted particularly Ukrainian refugees, humanitarian aid staff, professionals working in public and social services, health services, social authorities, and communities. Some of the numerous results of the projects were

- that more than 700 Ukrainian refugees received information on GBV during dedicated meetings, and they, in their turn, became carriers of information among their fellow citizens and enjoyed the benefits of psychosocial support groups;

- at least 7000 informative materials were distributed; and
- more than 150 local actors (from public and private social services, National/Border Police, etc.) attended advocacy meetings and training sessions on psychosocial intervention in cases of GBV among refugees and asylum seekers.

Starting from these results, as well as from the special interest shown by refugees and representatives of public and private institutions for the activities proposed by the foundation, in 2023, Sensiblu Foundation is continuing this project, now conducted in 4 additional cities in Romania (Cluj, Galati, Constanta, Valcea).



WAVE member: National Network to End Violence
Against Women & Domestic Violence, North Macedonia

AMENDMENTS TO THE CRIMINAL CODE ALIGNED WITH THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION

North Macedonian WAVE member **National Network to end VAW and DV** (Националната мрежа против насилство врз жени и семејно насилство) informed us about the **amendments to the Criminal Code** and what this now means for the country.

After almost a year and a half of advocacy work by the National Network to end VAW and DV together with representatives of other civil society organisations **for proposed changes that would improve the system of protection of women victims of gender-based violence, the amendments were finally adopted in February 2023.** Three new crimes - stalking, female genital mutilation and sexual harassment including online sexual harassment - are now added to the Criminal Code. Furthermore, in the crime of rape consent is included, and rape in marriage or by an intimate partner is provided as an aggravating circumstance in a separate paragraph of this Article (186). **This is a big step forward in the system of the protection of women in North Macedonia, which will hopefully be effectively implemented by all relevant actors.**



WAVE member: National Federation of
Women Solidarity, France

3919 - THE FRENCH HELPLINE TURNS 30

The French helpline, created and operated by WAVE member National Federation Women's Solidarity (Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes), celebrated its 30th anniversary in March.

During these 30 years, 3919 has answered almost a million phone calls. This called for a big party; therefore, the 30th anniversary of the national helpline was celebrated in Paris on 10 March 2023 with the French Minister for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunities Isabelle Rome, WAVE Executive Manager Stephanie Futter-Orel and many partners, funders and friends attending.

This successful evening also welcomed a touching theatre performance by the counsellors of 3919, based on the testimonial book by Eleonore Mercier "Je suis complètement battue" (I'm totally beaten). A great thank to them for reminding FNSF of the basis of their engagement! Long live 3919!



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