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WAVE NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE WAVE NETWORK



MAY 2023

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

THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER INCLUDES

- **WAVE Conference 2023,**
- **WAVE Spring Advisory Board Meeting 2023,**
- **4th medica mondiale training session 2023,**
- **three new WAVE members,**
- **2 A Billion campaign,**
- **WAVE project "Safeguarding and Empowering Children",**
- **WAVE study visit,**
- **WAVE donations,**
- **new articles in WAVE online magazine,**
- **EU accession to the Istanbul Convention, and**
- **WAVE voices from Italy, Ukraine, Romania, Armenia, Belgium, Serbia, Cyprus, Lithuania, UK and Poland.**

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

WAVE EVENTS

WAVE CONFERENCE 2023

The 25th WAVE Conference will take place in Madrid, Spain from 16-18 October 2023.

More details will follow soon.



WAVE SPRING ABM 2023

This year's Spring Advisory Board Meeting took place from 15-17 May in Vienna, Austria. Thank you to all the attending Delegates and Co-delegates as well as the WAVE Board + WAVE Office who contributed to an engaging, fruitful, critical and hopeful ABM.

4TH MEDICA MONDIALE TRAINING SESSION 2023

On 4 May, the final 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 organised 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.

WAVE NEWS

THREE NEW WAVE MEMBERS

WAVE has welcomed three additional WAVE members! We now have 169 WAVE members in the network. Meet **Kosovo Women's Network** (Rrjeti i Grave të Kosovës) from Kosovo, **Center for the Analysis of Power Relations** (Center for Magtanalyse) from Denmark, and **The Joan-Sisters** (Joan-Søstrene) from Denmark. 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](#).



2 A BILLION CAMPAIGN



2AB
2 A BILLION

WAVE is partnering with the 2 A Billion campaign, which was created by Bon Iver to raise support, awareness, and person-to-person connections in an effort to end gender inequality, domestic violence, and sexual abuse. **WAVE will be tabling at the Bon Iver concert on 14 June 2023 at Arena Wien, in Vienna, Austria.** See [HERE](#) the full list of 2 A Billion partners including WAVE members Women's Aid (UK), Differenza Donna (Italy), bff (Germany) and Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes (France).



The **Guidelines for safeguarding and empowering children** are available in Croatian [HERE](#). The WAVE [project](#) "Safeguarding and Empowering Children" aims to ensure that children and young people are safe and can be protected whilst their mothers get supported by women's specialist services.



WAVE STUDY VISIT

On 24 May, **representatives from domine – Organization for the Promotion of Women's Rights (Udruga Domine)**, one of our five WAVE members in Croatia, **came to the WAVE office during their study visit** to Vienna, Austria, to discuss pressing issues in the country and share about their new projects and activities. It is always a pleasure to welcome our members in the office and connect in-person. **Thank YOU for the visit!**



WAVE DONATIONS

On 19 May, the **Austrian association about later organised a charity event** in the frame of a club party to **collect donations for WAVE**. At the start of the event, **WAVE Youth Ambassador Coordinator Branislava Aradjan and WAVE Youth Ambassador Aliz Bineth** presented the work and efforts of WAVE including our **successful WAVE Youth Ambassadors initiative**. This led to fruitful discussions on youth's and young people's involvement in preventing violence against women and girls, around sexual harassment in public spaces and nightclub settings, and additionally gave room to exploring new ways of collaboration. **Thank you to about later for this opportunity, the support and donations!**

Check out our two newest articles in the WAVE online magazine [HERE](#) of Albanian WAVE member Gender Alliance for Development Center (Qendra "Aleanca Gjimore për Zhvillim") on women's economic empowerment, and of individual WAVE member Beverley Gilbert (UK) on peer mentoring by [Cohort 4](#) with women surviving abuse who have disabilities or multiple disadvantage.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

updates from WAVE Members and political developments

EU accession to the Istanbul Convention

On 10 May 2023, the **European Parliament historically voted on its consent for the EU accession to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence**, Istanbul Convention. This is a step closer for the EU towards ratifying the most advanced legal framework so far for the prevention and combating of violence against women and girls. WAVE acknowledges this step forward and will continue to advocate for the EU full accession to the Istanbul Convention in the EU Council, particularly in times when international actions and commitments to end violence against women are more important than ever.



WAVE member: D.i.Re – National Women's Network against Violence, Italy

EU'S ACCESSION TO THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION: THE OPPOSITION OF RADICAL RIGHT-WING ITALIAN MEPS

Italian WAVE member **D.i.Re – National Women's Network against Violence** (Donne in Rete contro la Violenza) wrote an **open letter** to "remind the Italian government **that one of the great obstacles to the implementation of the principles of the Istanbul Convention is the persistent subculture that fuels discrimination and violence, and maintains power asymmetries between men and women, hindering a positive development in the status of women**" following abstentions and votes against the EU accession to the Istanbul Convention by right-wing Italian MEPs.



WAVE member: Women's Information
Consultative Center, Ukraine

PHOTO PROJECT "BORDER GUARDS: WAR AND FAMILY"

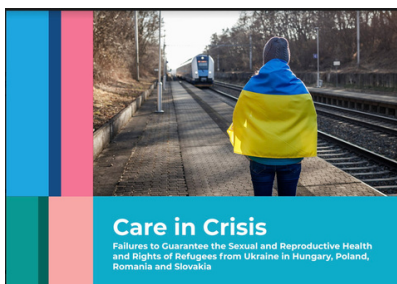
On 10 May, the presentation of the unique joint photo project of Ukrainian WAVE member **Women's Information Consultative Center** (Інформаційно-консультативного жіночого центру) and the State Border Service of Ukraine "**Border Guards: War and Family**" took place, which was dedicated to Mother's and Father's Days. This photo project allows viewers to feel **the role of a mother and father who protect their children and their future** during Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine, and highlights the issues of gender stereotypes and the combination of official and family duties in military and law enforcement agencies. This photo project visualises 20 stories about fear, sadness, despair, misunderstanding, separation, but also about struggle, boundless love, loyalty and hope of 10 men and 10 women of military personnel. The photo exhibition will be presented in most regions of Ukraine, and the online exhibition can be visited [HERE](#).



WAVE member: A.L.E.G., Romania

CARE IN CRISIS

Romanian WAVE member **A.L.E.G.** (Asociatia pentru libertate si egalitate de gen) shares that a new study released by a collective of nine national and international human rights organisations, entitled **Care in Crisis: Failures to guarantee the sexual and reproductive health and rights of refugees from Ukraine in Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia**, documents the alarming impact that multiple intersecting barriers in access to good quality sexual and reproductive healthcare are having on refugees from Ukraine in these Eastern European countries with restrictive environments.



The **report also examines the grave challenges experienced by civil society organisations and women human rights defenders** in Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia who are providing critical assistance to refugees from Ukraine. Read the full report [HERE](#).



WAVE member: Sexual Assault Crisis Center, Armenia

ROUNDTABLE AND MUSEUM TACKLING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Last month, Armenian WAVE member **Sexual Assault Crisis Center** (Սեռական բռնությունների կենտրոն) and UNFPA organised a **roundtable entitled "Combating Sexual Violence in Armenia: Current challenges and joint steps" and the exhibition "Museum of Sexual Violence: Story Exhibition" in the framework of the Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Armenia**. During the discussion, issues of sexual violence in Armenia were presented and addressed by main stakeholders (government, parliament, police, investigative committee, human rights defender office, civil society organisations, development and international organisations). The museum was held at the office of the Sexual Assault Crisis Center (SACC) for four days, and was also organised in different regions of Armenia with about 300 visitors, who came and got acquainted with stories of survivors of sexual violence. This was a chance for the visitors to speak up by remembering their own stories and sharing their experiences in a space created by SACC.



"It was very important that we were able to create this space not only in Yerevan but also in several Armenian regions where people have rare chances to speak up", says SACC.



WAVE member: Garance ASBL, Belgium

CONFERENCE ON COMBATING VAW IN A DISABILITY SITUATION

Belgian WAVE member **Garance ASBL** is holding the **"Combating violence against women* in a disability situation: the challenge of accessibility"** Conference in Brussels, Belgium, on 12 June from 10:00-14:00 (CEST). Women* with disabilities are, due to their social position at the intersection of sexism and (psy)ableism, 2 to 10 times more exposed to gender-based violence than able-bodied women. It is therefore essential that they are able to fend for themselves when it comes to their safety. This is why their accessibility to the primary prevention programme as well as to specialised support services for victims of gender-based and sexual violence is a major issue.

By allowing the anti-violence, disability and feminist sectors to meet around the issue of ableist oppression and its consequences on women*'s lives, this conference aims to adopt good practice in terms of accessibility in our services. Register for free [HERE](#).

* according to self-definition

With the support of the Institute for the Equality of Women and Men



WAVE member: Autonomous Women's Center, Serbia

THE REALITY OF FIREARM VIOLENCE: A RESEARCH REPORT ON FEMICIDE-SUICIDE IN SERBIA

The study analysed 27 **cases of femicide and femicide-suicide committed with firearms** over a four-year period (2019-2022), with a **particular focus on the characteristics of femicide-suicide cases in partnership** (N=16). The study's findings reveal two risk factors specific to these cases: **access to firearms and employment of the perpetrator in the security services**, along with other factors. The authors suggest recommendations developed in five categories: prevention, standardisation of measures towards the perpetrator of violence, support for victims, case monitoring, and collection of data on cases. The research is the result of the UNDP project "Reduce Risk - Increase Safety II", and conducted by a team of independent researchers, with the support of experts from Serbian WAVE member **Autonomous Women's Center** ([Autonomni ženski centar Beograd](#)). Access the full report [HERE](#).



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

ASAP 2.0: A SYSTEMIC APPROACH TO ADDRESS PERPETRATORS OF DV

An increased risk of Domestic Violence (DV) as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic has been a concern globally. In Cyprus, cases of DV have increased by 30 per cent in the first few months of the pandemic. Cypriot WAVE member **Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family** (Συνδέσμου για την Πρόληψη και Αντιμετώπιση της Βίας στην Οικογένεια) is a partner in the EU-funded project "A.S.A.P. 2.0", which develops and upscales the work done within the project "A.S.A.P. - A Systemic Approach for Perpetrators". The general objective of the project is to increase the effectiveness of treatment programs for perpetrators as well as the safety for victims (women and their children) through the implementation of a multidisciplinary approach to DV based on a standardised collaboration between perpetrators' programs and victim support services; focusing on a systemic approach of multiagency collaboration aiming at preventing and combating DV. More information [HERE](#).



WAVE member: Vilnius Women's House, Lithuania

DOCTORAL THESIS ON POSTTRAUMATIC GROWTH IN WOMEN SURVIVORS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Dr Zuzana Vasiliauskaitė successfully defended her doctoral thesis, "The Role of Disclosure, Social Support and Social Constraints for Posttraumatic Growth in Women Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence". The main aim of this dissertation was to **explore direct and indirect links between Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and posttraumatic growth**, which is highly underresearched in IPV cases, through disclosure (barriers, different sources of help), social support (tangible, emotional, informational) and social constraints.



By analysing 244 responses from women survivors of eight different forms of IPV through structural equation modelling, among other results, two paths to growth were determined: **challenging and positive**. The dissertation was positively evaluated as a **significant practical and theoretical contribution to the field of combatting violence against women** by various (inter)national agencies such as the European Institute for Gender Equality, Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma, Human Rights Committee of Lithuanian Parliament, Lithuanian Prison Service, and Lithuanian WAVE member **Association Vilnius Women's House** ([Vilniaus Motery Namai](#)).

Congratulations Dr Zuzana Vasiliauskaitė!



The **Worcester University** (UK) receives a lot of international interest about its postgraduate range of qualifications in Understanding Domestic and Sexual Violence. The university now has an **online Postgraduate Certificate in Understanding Domestic and Sexual Violence**. More information [HERE](#).



The **XIX Feminist-Queer Summer Action** (Feministyczno - Queerowa Akcja Letnia - FALA) takes place from 21 - 30 July 2023 in Poland. **FALA is an educational and development initiative**, which invites those who speak Polish, Ukrainian, Russian, Belarusian, and Polish sign language. More information [HERE](#).



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