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WAVE NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE WAVE NETWORK



NOVEMBER 2023

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

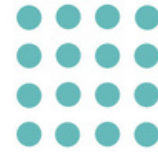
THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER INCLUDES

- **WAVE 16 Days Of Activism 2023,**
- **Welcoming the new WAVE Board,**
- **The WAVE Fempower Magazine 2023 is finally here,** and
- WAVE voices from **Moldova, Türkiye, Germany, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Spain and Montenegro.**

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

WAVE EVENTS

16 Days^{of} Activism



[WAVE's 16 Days of Activism 2023 activities](#)

During this year's inspiring 16 Days of Activism campaign, beginning on 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) and ending on 10 December (International Human Rights Day), we are celebrating **"The Power of Diverse Feminist Activism: Shaping Equality and Women's Human Rights"**!

We understand that true progress requires the collective strength of diverse voices and experiences, grounded in solidarity and a profound acknowledgement of each other's lived realities. Together, we have embarked on a transformative journey, amplifying the impact of **feminist activism as a force for change**.

[READ THE WAVE STATEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN 2023 HERE!](#)

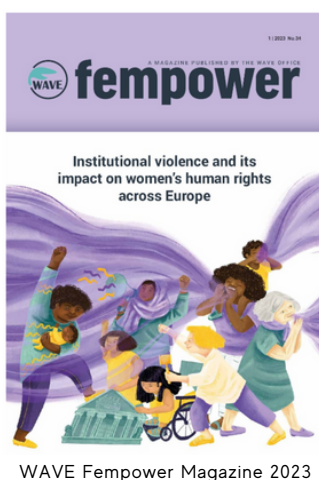
WAVE NEWS

NEW WAVE BOARD

After the WAVE Board Elections on 3 October, we internally welcomed the new WAVE Board during the WAVE Conference 2023, and officially shared the news in November. Again, **we warmly congratulate our new WAVE Board** and express our deepest gratitude for their willingness and commitment to take on this vital role. At the same time, we want to extend a **special thank you to our outgoing Board members** for all their hard work and dedication to WAVE.



[More about the current WAVE Board members HERE.](#)



This year's edition of the **WAVE Fempower Magazine** focuses on the pervasive **impact of institutional violence on women and girls**, the different forms in which it manifests, and the key role women's specialist services have in denouncing and undoing this type of violence. A total of **nine articles were submitted to us by our WAVE members**, each of these shedding light from different angles on this form of oppression and abuse of power that limit women & girls' access to rights while at the same time highlighting the experiences, efforts, and engagement of women's specialist services to protect and support survivors affected by institutional violence.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

updates from WAVE Members and political developments

NATIONAL AGENCY FOR PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WILL BE CREATED IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

A **National Agency for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence** will be created in the Republic of Moldova to operate as a central administrative authority, subordinated to the Government of the Republic, in charge of coordinating, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of policies in the field of preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. **More [HERE](#).**

WOMEN'S LAW CENTRE'S FATALITY REVIEW REPORT 2022

The report analyses the statistical data on the number of **homicide/femicide death cases as a result of acts of a violent nature by family members or intimate partners**, highlighting the problems and faulty practices in managing cases of domestic violence and providing specific recommendations for improving the national response to such cases, including proposals to adjust legislation, promote cross-sector cooperation, improve prevention activities, increase access to support services for survivors of violence, etc. **See the report [HERE](#).**

Written by WAVE member in the Republic of Moldova
Women's Law Centre ([Centrul de Drept al Femeilor](#))

TAXIS SAID ZERO TOLERANCE TO VIOLENCE WITH THE "WE CURB VIOLENCE" PROJECT

As a result of interviews with women exposed to violence who receive support from the 24/7 helpline and counseling center, WAVE member **Mor Salkim Women's Association** (Mor Salkim Kadın Dayanışma Derneği) determined that women use taxis, especially at night, when they want to get away from the violent environment. Thus the "**We Curb Violence**" project (with the support of Böll) was implemented in several provinces in Türkiye.



The project aims to encourage taxi drivers to provide information about legal processes and mechanisms in combating discrimination and gender-based violence against women and children. **If a woman who is subjected to violence gets into a taxi, she will be informed about the laws and respective institutions.** The project, which is carried out in cooperation with the Chamber of Drivers and Automobile Tradesmen in 15 provinces, aims to make a difference by preparing a manifesto and placing the manifesto at all training stops, having brochures and books prepared in 5 languages in taxis, and making the 24/7 helpline widely known with the materials available in vehicles.

Written by WAVE member in Türkiye

Mor Salkim Women's Association (Mor Salkim Kadın Dayanışma Derneği)

EU DIRECTIVE ON COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

More than 40 German NGOs, including **WAVE members bff - Federal Association of Rape Crisis Centres and Women's Counselling Centres** (Bundesverband Frauenberatungsstellen und Frauennotrufe - Frauen gegen Gewalt e.V.), **ZIF - Central Information Center for Autonomous Women's Shelters** (Zentrale Informationsstelle Autonomer Frauenhäuser) and the **Association of Women's Shelters** in Germany (Frauenhauskoordination e.V.) signed an open letter to the Government in Germany demanding to change their position in the EU Directive regarding rape.

[THE OPEN LETTER \(IN GERMAN\) IS AVAILABLE HERE!](#)

Written by WAVE member in Germany

Association of Women's Shelters (Frauenhauskoordination e.V.)



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CONCERT IN THE SAFE SPACE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

WAVE member Necuvinte Association hosted an accordion concert within the "Safe Space for Women and Girls" project, which aims to provide refugees coming from Ukraine to Romania with a safe environment to identify their needs concerning reproductive health and services to support in situations of domestic and gender-based violence.

This event was specially designed for children. The smiles on their faces spoke volumes, and their appreciation for each note and enthusiastic applause made the event truly memorable.

Since 24 February 2022, Necuvinte has been providing services to more than 10,000 Ukrainian refugees. The project "Safe Space for Women and Girls" is implemented by the Necuvinte Association in the Center for Displaced Persons from Ukraine in Bucharest. More about the project [HERE](#).

This project is implemented in partnership with Bucharest District 2 City Hall and the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection District 2. "Safe Space for Women and Girls" is funded by the Global Fund for Women.

Written by **WAVE** member in Romania Necuvinte Association

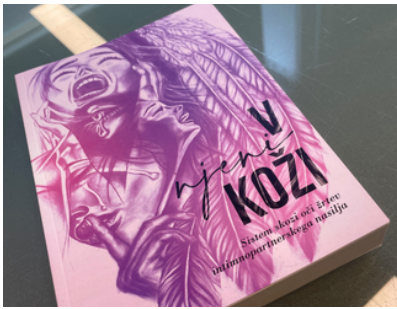
EXHIBITION TO ECONOMICALLY EMPOWER

During the 16 Days Of Activism, **WAVE** member **Foundation "United Women" Banja Luka** ("Udružene žene" Banja Luka) is implementing the campaign „**Take courage and report violence**” with several online and offline activities across Bosnia and Herzegovina; from the dissemination of public promotional activities to workshops for youth and NGOs, collecting donations, and round tables with institutions.



One of their highlights: The Foundation is organising an **exhibition of craftwork made by women who are using the services of the Safe House in Banja Luka**, and all income will be used for the economic strengthening of women and children who are starting a new life without violence.

Written by **WAVE** member in Bosnia and Herzegovina **Foundation "United Women" Banja Luka** ("Udružene žene" Banja Luka)



IN HER SKIN

WAVE member **Association SOS Helpline for Women and Children - Victims of Violence (Društvo SOS)** has published a book containing 23 personal stories of women who have experienced domestic violence and sought help in public institutions – police stations, social work centres, prosecutors' offices and courts.

Entitled „In her skin” - **Institutional Help for Victims of Violence from the Victims' Perspective**, the book offers an overview of the lives of Slovenian women who have experienced domestic violence, their struggles for healing and for justice for themselves and their children. Even though „In her skin” is not an easy read, it is spiced with optimism and encouragement that it is possible to find and receive support, and start a completely new life, even after decades of violence. „In her skin” is also distributed to the public Slovenian institutions mentioned above.

Written by WAVE member in Slovenia Association SOS Helpline for Women and Children - Victims of Violence (Društvo SOS)

SECOND-ORDER VIOLENCE STUDY IN SPAIN

WAVE member **Association of Feminist Psychology and Psychotherapy (Asociación de Psicología y Psicoterapia Feminista)** carried out a study on the so called second-order violence. In Spanish laws this refers to violence "against people who support victims of gender-based violence". The objectives of the study are a) to identify the different forms of violence to which psychologists are exposed in their professional activity, and b) to know the demands and recommendations provided by the interviewees themselves in order to eliminate the violence they suffer.

Using a qualitative methodology, the association confirms that women psychologists are subject to different forms of violence; from the perpetrators but also from the institutions in which they work. Perpetrators use intimidation, threats, directly or through the use of social networks. Furthermore, the women psychologists complain about institutions for poor working conditions, precarious employment and the lack of support. This situation has emotional, physical, employment and economic consequences for women psychologists. To end this situation, actions are needed to protect them. An executive summary in English of the research is available [HERE](#).

Written by WAVE member in Spain Association of Feminist Psychology and Psychotherapy (Asociación de Psicología y Psicoterapia Feminista)

MONTENEGRO'S PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION

WAVE member SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Nikšić ([SOS Nikšić](#)) conducted a **study on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Montenegro**. This in-depth analysis included a review of the legal framework and 70 interviews with key stakeholders at national and local levels, as well as women's rights NGOs. The study highlights the need for Montenegro to bolster its commitment to the Istanbul Convention, ensuring comprehensive support and protection for all victims of gender-based violence. It calls for a more holistic and efficient approach to address these pressing issues. The study summary is available in Montenegrin [HERE](#) and in English [HERE](#).

The Study is part of the project "Improved Implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the Western Balkans," which is part of the regional program "SMART Balkans - Civil Society for a Connected Western Balkans."

Written by WAVE member in Montenegro SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Nikšić ([SOS Nikšić](#))



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