

Funded by the
European Union



WAVE NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE WAVE NETWORK




NOVEMBER 2024

Dear fellow dedicated feminist activists,
we are happy to share the tenth WAVE Newsletter of the year. Discover what unfolded in and around WAVE in October 2024!

THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER INCLUDES

- **Welcome to the WAVE 16 Days of Activism 2024,**
- **Video Launch and Upcoming Webinar on Preventing and Responding to GBV in Conflict,**
- **WAVE Advocates for Stronger Action on the Istanbul Convention at Council of Europe Exchange,**
- **WAVE Highlights the Power of Strategic Litigation at Council of Europe Meeting on Violence Against Women,**
- **WAVE Signs Open Letter Calling for EU Action on Child Sexual Abuse Crisis,**
- **Celebrating Growth: WAVE Surpasses 180 Members,**
- **WAVE voices on Highlights from the 19th Gender Equality Festival® in Romania, Concerns Raised Over Draft Domestic Violence Rehabilitation Program in Armenia and Civil Society's Role in Implementing GREVIO Recommendations in Albania.**

This newsletter covers updates from WAVE and our 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



From 25 November to 10 December, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence are taking place! This year, we reflect on 30 years of impactful feminist activism across Europe, celebrating our shared journey toward **Feminist Collective Liberation and Resilience**.

Join us in amplifying the voices of those at the forefront of the fight to end violence against women and girls. **Through webinars, podcasts, articles, and videos, we showcase the power of collective action in preventing, addressing, and ultimately overcoming violence.**

💡 [Explore our #16DaysOfActivism calendar of events and see how you can join WAVE in making a difference!](#)

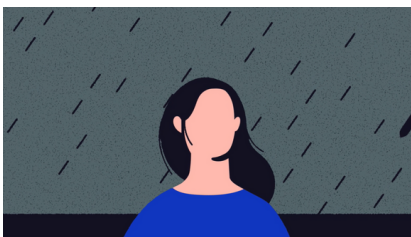
📣 On 25 November, the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**, WAVE issued a statement, highlighting both our enduring **commitment to ending violence against women and girls** and the importance of **collective action** in envisioning a future free from violence. Read [HERE](#).

WAVE NEWS

PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE DURING THE WAR AND IN POST-WAR SETTINGS

In the framework of the WAVE/OSCE project, we have highlighted the **invaluable work of our project partners in Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, and Ukraine**, where they have been conducting impactful national trainings based on our comprehensive training manual to prevent and respond to GBV during and after conflict. The training manual, developed in collaboration with [Sexual Assault Crisis Center](#) (Armenia), [Women Fund Sukhumi](#) (Georgia), [Foundation United Women Banja Luka](#) (Bosnia & Herzegovina), and [Centre "Women's Perspectives"](#) (Ukraine), provides practical guidance on addressing GBV in both emergency and post-conflict settings and empowers local actors to take meaningful action in protecting and supporting survivors.

💡 [Discover more about our transformative project!](#)



We are also excited to announce the **launch of a video highlighting the impact of this work** and the progress made through the project. We invite you to watch the video and learn more about these transformative efforts, which are helping build sustainable solutions for women and girls in conflict-affected regions.

 Watch the powerful video and see the impact!

Webinar tip: Register for our **public webinar “Survivors at the Centre: How to Counter Gender-Based Violence (GBV) During and After Conflict”** on 4 December, 14:00–16:00 (CET). Experts from Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Armenia will discuss the complexities of GBV in conflict and post-conflict settings. Open to all! Register by 3 December [HERE](#).

COUNCIL OF EUROPE EXCHANGE ON ISTANBUL CONVENTION

On 20 November 2024, WAVE proudly participated in an exchange of views with delegations from the 46 member states of the Council of Europe. The discussion centred on promoting the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention, Europe’s most far-reaching legal instrument to combat violence against women and girls which entered into force ten years ago.

Representing our network, WAVE's Senior Manager Anca Ciupa highlighted the **vital role of women’s specialist services** in addressing the gendered nature of violence, providing holistic support to survivors, and tackling structural inequalities that perpetuate violence against women and girls. She emphasised the need for **sustainable funding**, active **inclusion of women’s NGOs in policy-making**, and the **dangers posed by gender-neutral approaches** that fail to meet the unique needs of women and girls.



"WAVE remains committed in advocating for the visibility and recognition of women and girls, particularly their right to live free from violence. We stand ready to support European and national policies that address the gendered nature of violence thereby ensuring the safety and support of all women and girls." – Anca Ciupa

STRATEGIC LITIGATION AT COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING

At the first meeting of the Council of Europe (CoE) Network of specialised lawyers and NGOs assisting victims of violence against women on 22 November, Marcella Pirrone spoke on behalf of WAVE's Legal Expert Group about the **transformative potential of Strategic Litigation in addressing violence against women and domestic violence**.



She emphasised the importance of **building alliances between women's rights NGOs and legal experts** to strengthen justice for survivors. She also highlighted the significant obstacles survivors face in accessing justice, such as secondary victimisation and lengthy legal procedures that hinder their ability to secure justice. Strategic litigation, Marcella Pirrone stressed, offers a real and practical opportunity to strengthen international instruments protecting the human rights of women survivors. **WAVE's Legal Expert Group serves as an essential resource and laboratory**, now with an incredible ally in this new CoE-based network of experts, and as this first meeting marked an important step forward, WAVE is committed to continuing its contribution to this crucial work.

OPEN LETTER TO EU DECISION MAKERS

WAVE joined 76 other organisations in signing an open letter to EU decision-makers, **calling for urgent action to address the growing child sexual abuse crisis in Europe**. The letter was released on the World Day for the Prevention and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Violence.

 [Read the Full Letter Here and Join Us in Demanding Urgent Action!](#)

WELCOMING NEW WAVE MEMBERS

We are thrilled to announce that WAVE has **now surpassed 180 members**, marking another milestone in our 30th anniversary celebration! Please join us in welcoming two incredible new members: **Hultsfred Vimmerby Women's Shelter** (Hultsfred Vimmerby Kvinnojour) from Sweden and **Feminoteka Foundation** ([Fundacja Feminoteka](#)) from Poland.

 [Interested in joining us? Learn more and apply for WAVE membership HERE!](#)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

updates from WAVE Members and political developments

19TH GENDER EQUALITY FESTIVAL

From 30th October to 2nd November 2024, WAVE member Association for liberty and equality of gender ([A.L.E.G.](#)) hosted the **19th Gender Equality Festival®** in Sibiu, Romania, with four days of engaging activities promoting women's rights and gender equality. This year, the festival focused on critical topics such as gender-based harassment, reproductive health, and human trafficking prevention.

Key highlights included discussions on **Romania's reproductive health history**, marked by the screening of *Children of the Decree*, and a panel with prominent activists. Volunteers also presented a powerful theater performance on human trafficking, while attendees took part in initiatives like My Voice, My Choice and Free Contraceptives for Youth.



© A.L.E.G.

The festival concluded with the Living Library, where inspiring life stories sparked action for a safer, more equitable world. The event aimed to **engage young people with important human and women's rights issues**, fostering social engagement and a commitment to equality.

Written by Association for liberty and equality of gender ([A.L.E.G.](#)),
WAVE member in Romania

ARMENIA'S DRAFT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Armenian Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs recently published a **draft regulation to introduce a rehabilitation program for domestic violence perpetrators**. Women's rights organisations within the **Coalition to Stop Violence Against Women**, including **WAVE member Women's Resource Center** ([Կանաչ. ռեսուրսային կենտրոն ՀԿ](#)), have raised concerns about the draft. The program lacks clarity on the international practices it seeks to adopt and fails to address the shortcomings of similar programs globally. The proposed modules are vague and appear ineffective in tackling behavioral issues that contribute to violence. While the draft envisions voluntary participation, it is critical to assess whether a mandatory or voluntary approach would be more effective and appropriate for Armenia's specific context.

Provisions allowing rehabilitation organisations to add thematic modules also raise safety concerns for survivors, such as promoting reconciliation. **In response, the Coalition has initiated discussions with state authorities, and advocacy efforts are ongoing to address these critical issues.essible and domestic abuse informed, so that more survivors can access safety.**

**Written by Women's Resource Center ([Կանանց ռեսուրսային կենտրոն ՀԿ](#)),
WAVE member in Armenia**

ADVANCING GREVIO RECOMMENDATIONS IN ALBANIA

WAVE member Center for Legal Civic Initiatives ([Quendra per Nisma Ligjore Qytetare](#)) hosted an important event titled "Recommendations of the Group of Experts GREVIO for Albania- A Working Platform for Civil Society Organisations". **The focus was on advancing the implementation of the GREVIO recommendations for Albania.** The event brought together members of the Monitoring Network Against Gender-Based Violence to discuss key advocacy strategies on topics such as risk assessment, protection orders, victim access to services, and the integration of gender-based violence into educational curricula.



© Center for Legal
Civic Initiatives

The discussions also aimed at **increasing awareness of GREVIO's recommendations at both local and national levels.** This activity was part of a broader initiative in cooperation with UN Women Albania within the United Nations Joint Program "Ending Violence Against Women in Albania" (EVAWIA) Project, a UN Joint Programme funded by the Government of Sweden and implemented by three UN agencies, namely UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA.

**Written by Center for Legal Civic Initiatives ([Quendra per Nisma Ligjore Qytetare](#)),
WAVE member in Albania**



**WOMEN AGAINST
VIOLENCE EUROPE**



@womenagainstviolenceeurope



@WAVE_Europe



@womenagainstviolenceeurope