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WAVE NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE WAVE NETWORK



NOVEMBER 2025

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

[👉 FIND HELP on WAVE's database of around 2,000 contacts of women's specialist services!](#)

The **WAVE Solidarity Fund** is committed to supporting WAVE members navigating humanitarian, political, social, economic, and environmental challenges that obstruct their efforts in preventing and addressing violence against women and girls. Your donation provides essential resources to women's specialist services, contributing to saving the lives of women and children.

[DONATE HERE AND BE A LIFELINE FOR WAVE MEMBERS IN CRISIS!](#)

WAVE EVENTS

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TRAINING 2025 - FEMINIST SOLIDARITY IN ACTION: BRIDGING MOVEMENTS AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

From 4 to 6 November, WAVE and EL*C brought together advocates from across Europe for a joint study visit at the European Parliament during Gender Equality Week. The programme created space for women's rights and LGBTI organisations to exchange ideas, build connections, and speak directly with policymakers about the realities survivors face.

The dialogue highlighted how important it is for diverse feminist voices to be included when shaping EU policies, and how collaboration strengthens our shared mission to advance equality.

Read more [here](#).

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM CAMPAIGN 2025

WAVE launched this year's 16 Days campaign by spotlighting the essential role of women's specialist services in protecting survivors across Europe. Each day focused on a key element of Europe's response to violence against women, from the Istanbul Convention and the new EU Directive to technology-facilitated abuse, funding gaps, and access for migrant and refugee women. Youth voices were front and centre, helping raise awareness and call for action.

Explore the full campaign [here](#).

WAVE NEWS

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

On 25 November, WAVE marked the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women by honouring the legacy of the Mirabal sisters and highlighting the strength of feminist resistance today. Our message was clear: while violence persists, so does our determination to build a safer future for women and girls across Europe.

For 30 years, WAVE and its members have been developing specialist services, advancing policy change, and strengthening prevention to ensure survivors receive support rooted in safety, dignity, and rights. We remain committed to a Europe where women's rights are fully protected, every day of the year.

[Read the full statement.](#)

WAVE JOB VACANCY: OPERATIONS AND GRANTS OFFICER

We are also looking for an experienced Operations and Grants Officer (30h/week, unlimited contract, Vienna) to help ensure the smooth functioning of the WAVE office and support our regranting activities. Applicants should have office administration experience, strong organisational skills, and good communication abilities in English and German.

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.

[Apply here!](#)

WAVE JOB VACANCY: PROJECT AND RESEARCH OFFICER

WAVE is recruiting a committed Project and Research Officer (30h/week, unlimited contract, Vienna) to support ongoing project activities and contribute to research and data work across the network. The ideal candidate brings experience in research and data collection, strong organisational skills, and a solid understanding of gender equality and violence against women. Fluency in English is required, with German considered an asset.

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.

[Apply here!](#)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

updates from WAVE Members and political developments

SHAPING CHANGE: LEGAL, POLICY & ADVOCACY UPDATES

Western Balkans: New EU4GE Calls for Proposals Open

UN Women has launched several Calls for Proposals under the EU4GE Regional Programme to improve prevention and response to violence against women and girls. The opportunities support advocacy, referral pathways, capacity-building for women-led CSOs and innovative responses to technology-facilitated violence.



[!\[\]\(799877f5c2f906134441300079881630_img.jpg\) Apply now](#)

- <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/programme-implementation/2025/07/unw-eca-ro-cfp-2025-1>
- <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/programme-implementation/2025/07/unw-eca-ro-cfp-2025-2>
- <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/programme-implementation/2025/07/unw-eca-ro-cfp-2025-3>
- <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/programme-implementation/2025/07/unw-eca-ro-cfp-2025-4>
- <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/programme-implementation/2025/10/unw-eca-ro-cfp-2025-6>
- <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/programme-implementation/2025/11/unw-eca-ro-cfp-2025-7>

Shared by UN Women Europe and Central Asia.

PUSHING ACTION: CAMPAIGN & PROJECT UPDATES

Albania: Conference on Access to Justice for Domestic Violence Survivors



Caritas Albania and the Center for Legal Civic Initiatives held a conference on 26 November examining how Albania's new judicial map affects survivors of domestic violence.

The discussion brought together government representatives, legal professionals, civil society and students to identify barriers to justice and formulate recommendations to ensure survivors can access protection without delays or travel burdens.

[!\[\]\(950a62bbddad88d64435fd35607dfc42_img.jpg\) CLCI and Caritas](#)

Shared by Center for Legal Civic Initiatives.

Albania: "The Awakening Lullaby" Performance Raises Awareness on Violence

As part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the Women's Center Hapa të Lehtë hosted a powerful artistic performance titled "The Awakening Lullaby," interpreted by actor Ema Andrea with musical accompaniment by Rozeta Leka.

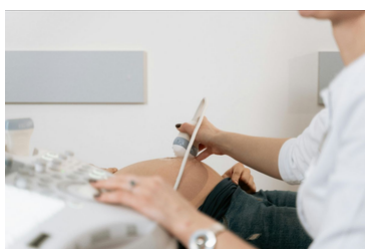
Through poetry, sound and moments of quiet, the performance shed light on the often-hidden realities of violence against women and encouraged collective reflection. Around 130 participants joined the event, reinforcing that preventing violence is a shared responsibility across society.



[!\[\]\(35dc653d59570f8f891c312eeece91a2_img.jpg\) See photos and more: \[here\]\(#\) and \[here\]\(#\)](#)

Shared by Women's Center Hapa të Lehtë.

Armenia: OB-GYNs Trained to Strengthen GBV Response and Referrals



The Women's Resource Center recently gathered around 100 OB-GYNs from across Armenia for a two-day workshop focused on improving recognition and response to gender-based violence. The training placed particular emphasis on the needs of women displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh, who often face heightened risks and barriers to protection.

Participants shared clinical and psychosocial approaches to create safe spaces for disclosure and strengthen referrals to specialised support.


[!\[\]\(21226b58c700e5231ab98d27101bac58_img.jpg\) Learn more about WRCO](#)

Shared by Women's Resource Center Armenia.

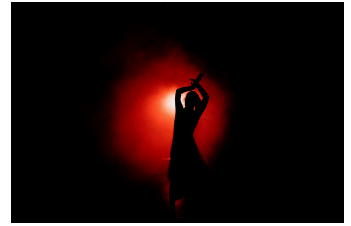
Armenia: Theatre Performance Amplifies Survivors' Voices

Women's Rights House has staged a theatrical performance titled "Mari," inspired by real stories of women who have received support from the organisation and influenced by Hovhannes Tumanyan's poem "Maro."

The play highlights visible and hidden forms of violence such as domestic abuse, harassment, economic and sexual exploitation, and early marriage, while celebrating women's resilience and role in driving social change.

 [Learn more](#)

Shared by Women's Rights House Armenia.




Bosnia and Herzegovina: Campaign Calls for Stronger Enforcement Against Violence



Ahead of the 16 Days of Activism, BGRF and the Open Door Foundation held a training seminar on 22–24 October in Troyan focused on improving how domestic violence legislation is applied in practice.

Participants from the judiciary and support services discussed coordinated community responses, specialised programmes for perpetrators and the protection needs of women and children, drawing on both national and international experience.


 [Learn more](#)

Shared by Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation.

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 [Learn more about WRCO](#)

Shared by Women's Resource Center Armenia.



Bulgaria: Supporting Women Entrepreneurs in the Digital Economy



With support from the Solvay fund of the King Baudouin Foundation, BGRF is implementing a project to promote sustainable entrepreneurship among 30 women in Bulgaria between October 2024 and December 2025.

Through training and coaching, the initiative empowers participants to become successful artisans and tech entrepreneurs able to market and sell their products in the digital economy. A Manual is also in development to reach more than 100 additional vulnerable women supported by GBV organisations across the country.

Shared by Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation.

Germany: Cooperative Risk Assessment to Prevent Femicide

In the Ennepe-Ruhr district, experts from police, youth services, health care and women's support services are working together to improve protection for women at high risk of violence through the EU-project TACTICS.

The Cooperative Risk Assessment model strengthens data exchange, joint decision-making and DV training, helping ensure women receive timely support when danger escalates.



[Learn more.](#)

Shared by GESINE Intervention.

Switzerland: Foundation for Gender Equality joins the WAVE Network

We are delighted to welcome the Swiss Foundation for Gender Equality as a new member of WAVE.



Based in Geneva, the organisation leads la Collective, a feminist space opening in 2027 that will include transitional housing for survivors, housing for senior and student women, a café-restaurant, offices for feminist associations, a women's health hub, a digital centre, and childcare facilities. Alongside this major initiative, the Foundation strengthens feminist organising across Switzerland through advocacy, awareness-raising, and annual networking events that build shared strategies and collaboration within the movement.

[Meet la Collective!](#)

Shared by Swiss Foundation for Gender Equality.

Germany: New Data Reveals Major Gaps in Shelter Access

New statistics from the Association of Women's Shelters show that Germany is missing more than 12,000 shelter spaces needed to protect survivors fleeing domestic violence.

In 2024, around 13,700 women and 15,300 children were able to access one of approximately 400 shelters across the country, while many others were turned away or forced to co-finance their stay due to insufficient public funding. The new Violence Protection Support Act introduces a legal right to shelter by 2032, but without rapid expansion, women and children will continue to face barriers to safety.



[Read Data](#)

Shared by Frauenhauskoordination e.V.

Ireland: Rape Crisis Ireland Calls to Close the Disclosure Gap

Rape Crisis Ireland (RCI) recently held an event titled "Closing the Disclosure Gap: Exploring Trauma, Silence and Societal Transformation," drawing attention to the delay many survivors face before disclosing sexual violence.



At the launch of their 2024 report, RCI revealed that over 20 percent of survivors supported in 2024 waited more than 10 years to disclose the abuse. The event and report shed light on the long lull between assault and disclosure and stress the urgency of responding to trauma, societal silence and systemic barriers.

[Read the report](#)

[Watch event recording](#)

Shared by Rape Crisis Ireland.

Turkey: Monitoring Reveals Major Gaps in Implementing Law No. 6284

The Foundation for Women's Solidarity has published a monitoring report examining how Law No. 6284 on combating violence against women is being applied in practice.

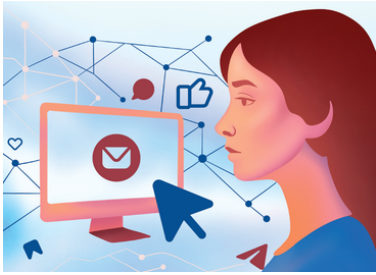
Based on the review of 203 case files and first-hand accounts, the findings reveal serious challenges including frequent violations of protection orders, short and inconsistent durations, bureaucratic delays, problems with confidentiality orders and limited access to shelter and legal support. The report stresses that strong laws must be accompanied by coordinated implementation and a survivor-centred approach to ensure real protection.



[Read more](#)

Shared by The Foundation for Women's Solidarity.

[Ukraine: New Report on Cyber-Enabled Trafficking Risks](#)



La Strada-Ukraine has published a comprehensive analytical report examining how traffickers are increasingly using digital platforms to recruit and exploit Ukrainian women and girls, both within the country and abroad.

The research highlights heightened vulnerabilities linked to Russia's war against Ukraine, internal displacement, economic instability, and reliance on online job searches. It also explores legal gaps, online risk environments, and needed protections for women and girls in cyberspace. The report offers detailed recommendations for authorities, social services, tech platforms, and anti-trafficking actors to strengthen prevention and support, and to ensure the online environment becomes safer for those at heightened risk.

 [Read report](#)

Shared by La Strada-Ukraine.

Disclaimer: Please note that the section "International News" contains external information sharing. WAVE cannot take responsibility or be held liable for any of the information contained within. Additionally, the information presented does not necessarily reflect the official policy, opinion, or position of WAVE.

DONATE HERE AND BE A LIFELINE FOR WAVE MEMBERS IN CRISIS!

Thank you, as always, for supporting us! Make sure to follow us on social media and to regularly check out our website to stay up-to-date with the efforts, developments and work of WAVE!

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VIOLENCE EUROPE**



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WAVE on Bluesky



WAVE on YouTube



WAVE on Spotify