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WAVE NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE WAVE NETWORK



OCTOBER 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

Fall General Assembly 2025 Recap

The 2025 WAVE General Assembly took place on 21 October, where members approved the annual activity and financial reports and elected the new WAVE Board.

WAVE warmly congratulates the newly elected Board members and extends heartfelt thanks to all candidates for their dedication, as well as to outgoing Board member, Irene, for her valuable contributions. The Election Committee also expresses its gratitude to all members for their active participation and continued commitment to strengthening WAVE's democratic network.

WAVE NEWS

WAVE STANDS WITH ROMANIA'S WOMEN AND GIRLS

On 8 October 2025, WAVE released a statement expressing solidarity with its Romanian members and women's rights defenders across the country.

The statement voices concern over proposed institutional reforms that could undermine national mechanisms for gender equality and the protection of women from violence. WAVE calls on the Romanian Government to uphold its obligations under the Istanbul Convention, ensure institutional stability, and meaningfully include women's rights organisations in all decision-making processes.

Feminist solidarity is our strength – collective action is our strategy.

[!\[\]\(5361750c22c4e047a52f4eac1ec2d4cc_img.jpg\) Read our full statement here](#)

STANDING WITH WOMEN IN LATVIA

On 24 October 2025, WAVE released a statement expressing solidarity with Latvian women, girls, and feminist civil society following Parliament's intent to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention, the landmark European treaty protecting women and children from violence.

If confirmed, Latvia would become only the second country in Europe to withdraw, following Türkiye, where femicides surged after withdrawal. This decision risks reversing decades of progress on gender equality and survivor protection and undermines Latvia's international human-rights commitments.

WAVE's statement reaffirms our position on the importance of the Istanbul Convention and stands in solidarity with Latvian women and civil society as they continue their fight to defend hard-won rights and protections.

Feminist solidarity knows no borders.

[!\[\]\(2bae76de5ebbd5c4d7d47162f1673734_img.jpg\) Read our full statement here](#)

JOIN US FOR #16DAYSOFACTIVISM!

From 25 November to 10 December, WAVE will spotlight activities across Europe for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. We invite members, partners, activists, allies, students, and community groups to share what you are planning to our Senior Advocacy Advisor, [Eliana Jimeno](#).

What to include:

- A short title and 2-3 sentence description
- Date(s) and location
- Any links or registration info
- Social handles and preferred hashtags
- 1 photo we may use, with permission and credits

We will feature selected actions in our newsletter, on WAVE social media, and in a website roundup so your work reaches wider audiences. If possible, please share as early as you can so we can line up coverage.

WAVE JOB VACANCY: FINANCE OFFICER

WAVE is seeking an experienced Finance Officer (30h/week, permanent contract, Vienna) to support the smooth running of financial and administrative processes. Applicants should have 3-4 years of relevant experience, strong skills in bookkeeping, reporting, and payroll, and fluency in German and English. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

Apply [here!](#)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

updates from WAVE Members and political developments

SHAPING CHANGE: LEGAL, POLICY & ADVOCACY UPDATES

England & Wales: Important Change of Perspective in Child Custody

A landmark shift in UK family law has been hailed as a victory for children facing domestic abuse. Following coverage by The Guardian, new guidance recognises coercive control and the risks of shared custody where abuse is present.

The article features Professor Shazia Choudhry, whose comparative study across six countries (Spain, Italy, France, Bosnia and Herzegovina, England, and Wales) underscores the urgent need for courts to prioritise survivor safety.



[Read the article](#)

Shared by D.i.Re - Donne in Rete contro la violenza (Italy).

Switzerland: Civil Society Rates the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention as Insufficient

The Swiss civil society network Netzwerk Istanbul - Konvention, which was coordinated by Brava, DAO and Frieda, published its new Parallel Report on 28 October 2025.

Drawing on evidence from more than 40 NGOs, the report finds Switzerland's implementation of the Istanbul Convention remains insufficient (overall grade: 3/6) due to fragmented coordination, under-funding, and limited intersectional approaches. Civil society calls for a coherent national strategy and stronger collaboration across federal and cantonal levels.



www.istanbulkonvention.ch

Shared by Brava NGO.

PUSHING ACTION: CAMPAIGN & PROJECT UPDATES

Armenia: Empowering Women, Strengthening Communities



Over the past four years, Women's Rights House NGO has invested nearly \$50,000 in 24 community-based projects across the Shirak region, empowering women and girls to drive social, educational, and civic change.

Five new projects launched this year focus on gender equality through theatre, a girls' football team, community tourism, and women's skills-building. Many young women leaders have since founded their own NGOs, ensuring the sustainability of their initiatives.

♥ [Donate here](#)

Shared by Women's Rights House NGO.

England: Refuge partners with Omaze to provide more safe homes for survivors

Refuge, the UK's largest domestic abuse charity, has partnered with Omaze in a campaign supported by Sara Pascoe and Billie Piper. The initiative guarantees £1 million for three new safe homes, expanding Refuge's dispersed accommodation model for survivors unable to access communal refuges, such as those with disabilities, pets, or older sons. "Thanks to the Omaze Community, we'll be able to expand our safe housing network, giving more survivors the space to heal and rebuild," said Refuge CEO Gemma Sherrington.

[Read more](#)

Shared by Refuge.



[Germany: Encountering Intersectionality in Women's Shelters](#)



The "Different and Yet Strong" project by Frauenhauskoordination e.V. works with six model shelters in Germany to embed intersectional practice across all stages of support. Each site pilots strategies to address racism, ableism, classism, queer- and trans-phobia, and other barriers to access.

The project is funded by the Federal Ministry for Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth under the Live Democracy! programme.

[🔗 Learn more](#)

Shared by Frauenhauskoordination e.V.

Scotland: Debt Advice Pilot – Supporting Survivors with Specialist Help

Scottish Women's Aid has launched a one-year pilot, funded by the Scottish Government, to embed specialist debt advisors in Women's Aid services. Delivered with Dundee and West Lothian Women's Aid, the pilot, officially launching in November 2025, offers trusted spaces for survivors to access financial advice and tackle coerced debt.

The project runs until March 2026, with an evaluation planned to advocate for long-term funding.

Shared by Scottish Women's Aid.



BUILDING KNOWLEDGE: NEW RESEARCH AND REPORTS

Armenia: Safe YOU at the European Parliament – Highlighting Survivor Voices Through Innovation

On 30 September, Safe YOU was showcased at the European Parliament during discussions on digital tools that empower survivors of gender-based violence.

The Armenian-developed app was presented by European Commissioner Marta Kos, UN Women, and UNFPA as a model of survivor-centred innovation. "Digital tools like Safe YOU allow women and girls to seek help discreetly and act before it is too late," said Commissioner Kos.



Shared by Safe YOU / Impact Innovations Institute.



[England: Reimagining Domestic Violence through Coercive Control](#)

A special issue of the Journal for Gender-Based Violence invites contributions re-examining coercive control through the legacy of Evan Stark's work.

The issue seeks interdisciplinary perspectives bridging theory, research, and practice.

 **[Abstract deadline: 19 December 2025](#)**

 **[Submit here](#)**

Shared by Women's Aid England.

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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