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WAVE NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE WAVE NETWORK



SEPTEMBER 2023

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

THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER INCLUDES

- **WAVE Conference 2023,**
- **Proposal for EU Directive: EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community and WAVE Network joint position statement,**
- **WAVE statement on the Nagorno-Karabakh humanitarian crisis,**
- **Empowering Access: A Strong Call for International Safe Abortion Day,**
- **Regulation to prevent and combat child sexual abuse,**
- **The WAVE Team is growing: Meet our new WAVE staff, and**
- **WAVE voices from Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Ukraine and Romania.**

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

WAVE EVENTS



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WAVE CONFERENCE 2023

The 25th WAVE Conference 'Institutional violence and its impact on women's human rights across Europe' will take place in Madrid, Spain from 16-17 October 2023. Please find the Concept Note for the 25th WAVE Conference [HERE](#).

[REGISTER FOR THE 25TH WAVE CONFERENCE HERE!](#)

Registration closes for all on 30th of September. More information [HERE](#).

WAVE NEWS

EL*C AND WAVE JOINT POSITION STATEMENT ON THE EU DIRECTIVE ON VAW AND DV



On 21 September, the **joint position statement** of the **EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community (EL*C)** and the **WAVE Network** concerning **key aspects of the European Parliament and Council of the EU position** on the proposal for a **Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence** was published.

In the statement, the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the Council of the EU are called on to find meaningful compromises ensuring that the **Directive truly serves the needs of all survivors/victims of violence against women and girls and domestic violence**, advances the achievement of **gender equality** and the **effective protection** of victims' rights in the European Union, and **recognizes the essential role of civil society organisations in ensuring prevention, protection, and direct services for victims**.

[READ THE JOINT POSITION STATEMENT OF EL*C AND WAVE HERE!](#)

WAVE STATEMENT ON THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

The WAVE Network calls for the **immediate protection of all civilian populations, with special emphasis on the welfare of women, children, and other vulnerable groups** who bear the heaviest brunt of armed conflicts. It is paramount to **respond to the needs of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh**, particularly **through a gendered lens**, to mitigate the exacerbation of the humanitarian crisis and the reinforcement of pre-existing gender inequality.

[READ THE WAVE SOLIDARITY STATEMENT HERE!](#)

EMPOWERING ACCESS: A STRONG CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL SAFE ABORTION DAY



The WAVE Network stands firmly united in emphasizing the urgent need to strengthen global efforts to ensure universal access to high-quality healthcare services, including safe, affordable, and legal abortion.

The restrictive stance on abortion services, or even outright bans, does not deter women, girls, and those with the capacity to become pregnant from seeking to terminate unintended pregnancies. Instead, it forces them into life-threatening circumstances, magnifying the risks of physical and psychological harm. Therefore, WAVE calls upon governments worldwide to unequivocally affirm the right to access affordable, high-quality healthcare services, including comprehensive abortion care. **This is not a mere healthcare issue; it is fundamental to the preservation of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and, ultimately, human rights.**

[A STRONG CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL SAFE ABORTION DAY!](#)

REGULATION TO PREVENT AND COMBAT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Child sexual abuse is a real and growing danger. For this reason, the **European Commission is proposing a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse** that aims to help EU countries to:

- detect and report child sexual abuse online
- prevent child sexual abuse
- support victims

In line with this, the **WAVE Network strongly supports the campaign led by Child Safety ON! on this EU regulation**, and therefore has signed their letter urging Members of the European Parliament and Representatives of Member States in the Council to pass this regulation. **We encourage you to join this campaign and reach out to your MEPs and national governments to support this regulation.** Additional campaign materials can be found on the website of Child Safety ON.

PREVENT AND COMBAT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE!

THE WAVE TEAM IS GROWING: MEET OUR NEW WAVE STAFF

We are delighted to officially announce that the WAVE office has grown: Please welcome **Rüya Langenberger**, who joined our team in the position of WAVE Accounting Assistant, as well as **Alexandra Legentil and Yasmine Aburaya**, our two incredibly dedicated interns who will support WAVE until the end of the year. Thank you for being part of our WAVE of change!



RÜYA LANGENBERGER



ALEXANDRA LEGENTIL



YASMINE ABURAYA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

updates from WAVE Members and political developments

EMPOWER, EDUCATE AND END VIOLENCE: TOGETHER FOR PEACE AND EQUALITY

On 21 September, the International Peace Day, the partners of the project initiated in 2022 by WAVE in collaboration with the OSCE Gender Issues Programme/WIN Project united to emphasize the power of unity, knowledge, and compassion. **"Our project was born out of a collective commitment to build capacity, share promising practices, and uplift survivors of violence in the challenging landscapes of conflict and post-conflict regions"**, the project partners share.



Through the collaborative efforts of four women's organizations, **Sexual Assault Crisis Center** (Սեռական ըռնուրթյան ճգնաժամային կենտրոն) in Yerevan, Armenia; **Women Fund "Sukhumi"** (ქალთა ფონდი "სოხუმი") in Kutaisi and Tbilisi, Georgia; **Foundation United Women Banja Luka** ("Udružene žene" Banja Luka) in Banja Luka, Bosnia & Herzegovina; and **Centre "Women's Perspectives"** (Центр Жіночі Перспективи) in Lviv, Ukraine, a **toolkit** was created that not only exposes the devastating impact of conflicts but also showcases the resilience and innovative practices of women's organizations that have witnessed and endured the horrors of war.

This toolkit, "Preventing and responding to gender-based violence during the war and in post-war settings – Experiences and recommendations of women's NGOs", sheds light on the challenges faced by the survivors, documents innovative solutions and serves as a valuable guide for those on the frontlines of change. **A training manual based on the toolkit will soon be published, to help share this knowledge with all actors involved in supporting survivors.**



PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO GBV
DURING THE WAR AND IN POST-WAR
SETTINGS!

The WAVE members involved in the project are **Sexual Assault Crisis Center** (Սեռական ըռնուրթյան ճգնաժամային կենտրոն) in Yerevan, Armenia; **Women Fund "Sukhumi"** (ქალთა ფონდი "სოხუმი") in Kutaisi and Tbilisi, Georgia; **Foundation United Women Banja Luka** ("Udružene žene" Banja Luka) in Banja Luka, Bosnia & Herzegovina; and **Centre "Women's Perspectives"** (Центр Жіночі Перспективи) in Lviv, Ukraine.

ALL WORKERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAFE AND HEALTHY WORKPLACES INCLUDING MIGRANT AND REFUGEE WORKERS

In September, **WAVE member A.L.E.G.** (Asociația pentru libertate și egalitate de gen) published a new **policy brief which focuses on the harassment of migrant and refugee workers in Romania.**



The study examines the **specific vulnerabilities** that these workers face in the workplace, including from a **gender perspective**, given that many of them **work in gendered sectors with various risks of harassment and abuse.** The study highlights how public policies and practices in Romania, particularly regarding migration and health and safety at work, ignore the vulnerabilities of these workers and predominantly prioritise the prevention of undeclared work.

Through this study, A.L.E.G. calls again on the government to ratify the International Labour Organisation's Convention on the Elimination of Violence and Harassment in the World of Work (C190) and **proposes concrete recommendations for policymakers to protect migrant and refugee workers against harassment.**

Written by WAVE member in Romania A.L.E.G. (Asociația pentru libertate și egalitate de gen)

[READ THE A.L.E.G. POLICY BRIEF HERE!](#)

VERA - POSITIVE CHANGE THROUGH INTEGRATED ACTION IN TURBULENT TIMES

"VERA - Positive change through integrated action in turbulent times!" is a project in which **WAVE member Necuvinte Association** provides valuable training across Romania, bringing extensive expertise to the project.

The project aims to **enhance the response capacity of central and local public authorities** to better support victims of domestic and gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. It comprises three components:

1. **Improved inter-institutional mechanisms for emergency response to domestic violence at the community level (mobile teams)**
2. **Enhanced institutional capacity by training specialists in Domestic Violence Units (DVUs) and mobile intervention teams from DGAPCs, enabling better access to justice for victims of domestic and gender-based violence and affected children.**

3. Development of a domestic violence and gender-based violence barometer to monitor trends, gender budgeting, social services, protective measures, legal counseling, psychological support, labor market dynamics, particularly related to the COVID-19 pandemic, at both county and national levels.

The project is implemented by the National Agency for Gender Equality between Women and Men in partnership with the Center for Training and Evaluation in Social Assistance, Sensiblu Foundation, Necuvinte Association, and the Center for Mediation and Community Security Foundation. The initiative is funded under the "Justice" Program supported by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021.



Written by WAVE member in Romania [Necuvinte Association](#)

[MORE OF "VERA - POSITIVE CHANGE THROUGH INTEGRATED ACTION IN TURBULENT TIMES" HERE!](#)



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