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WAVE NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE WAVE NETWORK



OCTOBER 2023

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

THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER INCLUDES

- **WAVE Conference 2023,**
- **Calling for urgent action: EU Directive on Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence,**
- **Welcoming Unitary platform against gender violence into the WAVE Network,**
- **International Conference for the prevention and combat of violence against girls and women and domestic violence,**
- **Warsaw Human Dimension Conference,**
- **Hungarian translation of 'Guidelines for Safeguarding and Empowering Children', and**
- **WAVE voices from Spain, Ireland, Slovenia, Romania, UK and Germany.**

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

We want to express our heartfelt appreciation to the 200 incredible participants who made the 25th WAVE Conference on 'Institutional violence and its impact on women's human rights across Europe' a profound and meaningful success.

Your participation has added considerable depth, inclusion and insight, making the WAVE Conference 2023 truly uplifting and inspirational. All of this would have not been possible without our fantastic co-organiser and dedicated WAVE member [Fundación Aspacia](#) to which we extend our deepest gratitude for the unwavering support.

Thank you all for being part of our #WAVEofChange!

WAVE NEWS

CALLING FOR URGENT ACTION: EU DIRECTIVE ON VAW AND DV



In a powerful advocacy action, WAVE and our Spanish allies, including [Fundación Aspacia](#), joined forces to make a **resounding statement on gender-based violence** at the WAVE Conference 2023. We collectively addressed the Spanish government, which holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, calling for urgent action.

WAVE and our partner feminist organisations in Spain stand united, vigilantly safeguarding the rights of women and girls across the European Union. In the statement, we call upon the EU institutions and Member States to **commit unwaveringly to gender equality and the eradication of violence against women**, ensuring a safer and more equal future for all.

[READ THE JOINT STATEMENT IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH HERE!](#)

WELCOMING A NEW MEMBER INTO THE NETWORK

In October, WAVE welcomed one new WAVE member organisation into our network. Meet **Unitary platform against gender violence** (Plataforma unitària contra les violències de gènere) from Spain. Thank you to all WAVE members who have joined the WAVE Network and are part of our WAVE of change!



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE PREVENTION AND COMBAT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS AND WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



From 25-26 October, the National Coalition 'Life Without Violence' (Coaliția Națională 'Viața fără Violență') organised the '**International Conference for the prevention and combat of violence against girls and women and domestic violence**' in Chisinau, Moldova.

This was the largest conference they have organised and a landmark event in the field of preventing and combating violence, with over 40 speakers, more than 250 in-person participants, and over 1500 online participants. **Léa Dudouet, WAVE's Project and Network Coordinator, spoke in a workshop about growing women's movements and organisations through feminist funding**, highlighting some promising practices from the WAVE Network. Marcella Pirrone, WAVE President, and Sara Kirkpatrick, WAVE Member, also provided input during the conference and gave a European perspective on the issue of violence against women and domestic violence from their collective and extensive work experience in women's specialist services and supporting survivors of violence against women.

WARSAW HUMAN DIMENSION CONFERENCE



On 4 October, **Elena Floriani, WAVE's Project & Research Coordinator, and Marta Chumalo, WAVE member from Ukraine**, spoke at the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference on a panel about responding to violence against women and girls in Ukraine.

The **needs of women and of women's NGOs from Ukraine and other countries affected by conflict** were addressed at this event, which raised the attention of both diplomatic delegations and civil society representatives.



[ACCESS THE TOOLKIT 'PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE DURING THE WAR AND IN POST-WAR SETTINGS - EXPERIENCES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF WOMEN'S NGOS' HERE!](#)

SAFEGUARDING AND EMPOWERING CHILDREN



The **Guidelines for safeguarding and empowering children**, developed by our four project partners - Autonomous Women's House Zagreb ([Autonomna Ženska Kuća Zagreb](#)) from Croatia, NANE Women's Rights Association ([Nők a Nőkért Együtt az Erőszak Ellen](#)) from Hungary, ZIF - Central Information Office of Autonomous Women's Shelters ([Zentrale Informationsstelle Autonomer Frauenhäuser](#)) from Germany, and the Women's Rights Foundation ([WRF](#)) from Malta - **are available in Hungarian.**

The WAVE [project 'Safeguarding and Empowering Children'](#) aims to ensure that children and young people are safe and can be protected whilst their mothers get supported by women's specialist services.

[ACCESS THE 'GUIDELINES FOR SAFEGUARDING AND EMPOWERING CHILDREN' \(EN, DE, HR, HU\) HERE!](#)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

updates from WAVE Members and political developments



FEMINIST ALLIANCES: WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE NOT TOUCHED

WAVE member **Unitary platform against gender violence** ([Plataforma unitària contra les violències de gènere](#)) is celebrating this year its **19th edition of the Forum Against Gender Violence**, which will take place from 2-4 November in Barcelona: a specialised event that every year hosts hundreds of activists, professionals, and allies.

Under the motto '**Feminist Alliances: women's rights are not touched**', the Forum will open a space to weave alliances between all the diversity of women who fight against gender violence, to stop the patriarchal, misogynist, and racist reaction that has been rising in the late years in the territory, in Europe and around the world. To address this issue and many others, the Forum's program will include several round tables, debates, workshops, and activities to learn, debate and share, strengthening feminist alliances to confront the patriarchal reaction and ensuring women rights to not go backwards, but forward. **Live streaming will be available.**

[MORE INFORMATION ON THE FORUM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE HERE!](#)

Written by **WAVE member in Spain** Unitary platform against gender violence ([Plataforma unitària contra les violències de gènere](#))

NATION-WIDE SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVEY IN IRELAND

4,500 people in Ireland were interviewed for Ireland's Sexual Violence Survey undertaken by the Central Statistics Office (CSO). The data was released in a series of publications across 2023, covering sexual harassment/ stalking, adult experiences, intimate and non-intimate partner sexual violence, childhood experiences as well as disclosure and attitudes to sexual violence. The data sets provide a baseline to measure the scale of the problem of sexual violence in Ireland.

Some top-line findings: **four in ten people in Ireland experience sexual violence in their lifetime:** women (52%) report higher levels than men (28%). **Young women (aged 18-24) reported the highest levels of sexual violence experienced in their lifetime, at 65%.**

WAVE member **Rape Crisis Network Ireland (RCNI)** welcomes the publication of these landmark data sets: '**What the detail here tells us, over and over, is that sexual violence has a pattern,**' says RCNI's Clíona Saidléar. '**It is rarely if ever random and indiscriminate.**'

[THE MAIN RESULTS OF THE SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVEY CAN BE FOUND HERE!](#)

Written by **WAVE member in Ireland** WAVE member Rape Crisis Network Ireland ([RCNI](#))



34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOS HELPLINE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN - VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

For the Ljubljana-based WAVE member **Association SOS Helpline for Women and Children - Victims of Violence** (Društvo SOS), October is a time for celebration. On 11 October 1989, the SOS Helpline, the first one in former Yugoslavia, rang for the first time.

It was the initiative of a few feminist enthusiasts who wanted to help women in a way that had not existed in their society before. From that day on, the pioneering initiative grew into an association that offers two safe houses and psychotherapy for women and children – victims of violence, a 24/7 SOS Helpline and a special office aimed at supporting women and children migrants in Slovenia, who are victims of domestic violence. **The 34th anniversary will be marked by the publication of a book** including 30 personal stories of Slovenian women – victims of violence focused on their experiences with public sector institutions, such as police forces, social services and courts.

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

18TH EDITION OF THE GENDER EQUALITY FESTIVAL

The Gender Equality Festival, the annual campaign carried out by **WAVE member A.L.E.G. Association for liberty and equality of gender** (Asociatia pentru libertate si egalitate de gen), just completed its 18th edition exploring the theme of youth activism for equal rights. The campaign took place in Sibiu, Romania. Because inequalities threaten the future of humanity in so many ways, A.L.E.G. encouraged young people, as well as organisations working with them, to spark creative actions for equal opportunities and non-discrimination. With a mix of activities that included a forum theater, a book launch, an international exchange of best practices in the field of youth work, workshops on the history of the women's rights movement, education on healthy relationships and on recognising bias, the time spent together enriched everyone's hopes for the future. More [HERE](#). Pictures of the event can be found [HERE](#).



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

EMPOWERING UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

The 'Safe Space for Women and Girls' initiative, implemented by **WAVE member Necuvinte Association** and supported by Global Fund for Women, continues its crucial mission. The Safe Space stands as an essential lifeline for refugees from Ukraine who are navigating the challenges of adapting to a new life in Romania. Necuvinte's commitment to the refugees' social integration extends beyond language courses and community engagement, as the association recognises the importance of offering mental support through support groups and therapy sessions. This multifaceted approach ensures that not only immediate concerns related to reproductive health, domestic violence, and gender issues are addressed but also emotional assistance during their journey is provided.

In partnership with the City Hall of Sector 2 and the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection Sector 2.



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

RESEARCH ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNDERSTANDING OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

WAVE member Women's Aid have launched their latest report 'Influencers and Attitudes: How will the next generation understand domestic abuse?', which provides vital insight into the attitudes held by children and young people on gender roles, relationships and sex, and what influences them. In particular, it explores the influence of online spaces on children and young people's attitudes towards healthy relationships and shows a direct link between the viewing of harmful misogynist content online, and the normalisation of unhealthy behaviours in relationships. **Key findings include:**

- Children and young people exposed to **misogynistic social media content** like Andrew Tate were almost 5x more likely than those not exposed to view **hurting someone physically as acceptable** if you say sorry afterwards.
- Whilst 70% of children and young people said they **would seek support** if affected by domestic abuse, **61% of them were unsure or did not know where to go for this.**

[THE 'INFLUENCERS AND ATTITUDES' REPORT CAN BE FOUND HERE!](#)

Written by **WAVE member in the UK** [Women's Aid](#)



MATERIALS ON FUNDRAISING & DONATION MANAGEMENT FOR THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT SYSTEM

The fact that the home is not a safe place for many women has painfully penetrated society's consciousness at the latest with the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is associated with a high willingness of private individuals, but also of companies and foundations, to financially support the women's support system. Despite their precarious financing, many institutions for the protection against violence do not (yet) engage in active fundraising. With the project '**Donation & Sponsoring - Management for the Protection of Women against Violence**', **WAVE member Association of Women's Shelters** ([Frauenhauskoordinierung, FHK](#)) aims to support women's shelters and specialised counselling centres in effectively raising funds for their important tasks. **For this purpose, the association has designed a collection of materials (in German) on their respective website with concrete examples for women's shelters and counselling centres.** In addition to information on fundraising and donation management, the association has also created sample templates for mails, donation flyers and sponsorship contracts, among others.

[CHECK OUT THE MATERIALS ON FUNDRAISING & DONATION MANAGEMENT HERE!](#)

Written by WAVE member in Germany [WAVE member Association of Women's Shelters \(Frauenhauskoordinierung, FHK\)](#)



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