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WAVE NEWSLETTER

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY THE WAVE NETWORK



WAVE NEWS

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JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2022

IN FEMINIST SOLIDARITY

WAVE is deeply saddened by the terrible and unwarranted attack on Ukraine by Russian military forces, and the repercussions this has on women's specialist support services in Ukraine providing essential support to women survivors of violence. We stand in solidarity with our Ukrainian Members, [International Women's Rights Center La Strada-Ukraine](#), [Women's Information Consultative Center](#), [Women's Perspectives Center](#), and all the people of Ukraine.

Support women and women's human rights defenders in the Ukraine and in neighbouring countries [here](#). The war on Ukraine is causing terrible pain to millions of people. While conflict inflicts suffering on everyone, **women and girls** are particularly affected by its short and long-term effects. They are often forced to flee their homes, and expected to assume the role of main breadwinners, caregivers, and national rebuilders whilst experiencing trauma. Likewise, women, girls, as well as LGBTQI+ people can be victims of **sexual assault and exploitation** which are frequently used tools of war. In the long term, **domestic violence** can be further aggravated by **armed conflict and trauma**. Your [donation](#) will help to save the lives of women and girls.

The full WAVE statement on the current war in Ukraine is available [here](#).





WAVE EVENTS

WAVE CAMPAIGNING MEETING

On 25 January, our members were invited to an online WAVE Campaigning meeting, which targeted the WAVE Advocacy & Campaigning and Youth Ambassadors' Engagement strategy. WAVE Members joined WAVE Office team members Branislava Arađan (Youth Ambassador Coordinator) and Eliana Jimeno (Advocacy & Campaign Coordinator) in discovering WAVE's new approaches, efforts and actions. The meeting included fruitful discussions which highlighted WAVE's crucial responsibility to advocate for Women's Specialist Support Services (WSSS), and for the end of male Violence Against Women and Girls. WAVE Members as well as WAVE Youth Ambassadors thus aim to collectively ensure that the voices of women and girls is heard, alongside the voices of WSSS and women's human rights defenders across Europe.

WAVE DAY: DISCUSSION FORUM

On 3 February, the first ever WAVE Day was held to amplify the diverse voices of our members. This event was in direct response to the network's need and request to meet and talk about WAVE in a more informal and less procedural setting.

The aim of the online discussion forum was to open up the space to talk with each other about crucial issues pertaining to the network and its development, as well as finding a balance between completely open and informal exchanges on the one hand, and very focussed and tightly scheduled discussions on the other hand.

It was a pleasant experience to introduce this new format to our membership, and we are aimed at continuously finding new ways to hearing the invaluable experiences of our WAVE members.

PARTNERING TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE

UPCOMING On 10 March, the regional conference “Partnering to prevent and respond to sexual violence” is help online and expected to present and discuss key steps for advancing national and regional commitments to end sexual violence based on extensive research and long-standing partnerships with civil society organizations and national institutions throughout the Western Balkans. The event is organized by UN Women and WAVE Network within the regional programme on ending violence against women “Implementing Norms, Changing Minds,” funded by the European Union. Register [here](#).

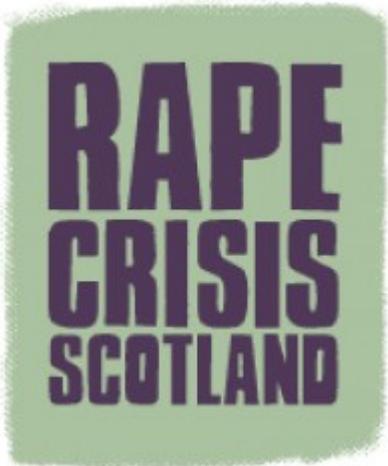
WAVE WEBINAR: SAVE THE DATE!

UPCOMING On 11 March, the WAVE webinar "Young Women Act: Towards Climate Justice and Women's Rights" is organised and held by the WAVE Youth Ambassadors. In light of International Women's Day, our ambassadors have organised an event that ties in with this year's global theme: recognising the role of women and girls around the world in creating a sustainable future. The webinar will include a number of presentations concerning different aspects of climate justice in the framework of women's rights, and will also introduce participants to young female climate activists who are successfully tackling climate change. Register [here](#).



WAVE NEWS

NEW WAVE MEMBER: RAPE CRISIS SCOTLAND



We are delighted to introduce our newest WAVE member Rape Crisis Scotland. Rape Crisis Scotland works to raise awareness of the prevalence and impact of rape, sexual assault and abuse, advocates for better health, justice and community responses, and aims to ensure that no matter what happened or when, survivors can access specialist support.

Besides campaigning and prevention work, RCS runs a national helpline, conducts the National Advocacy Project, and works with a network of 17 independent local Rape Crisis centres across Scotland who provide trauma-informed support to more than 6000 survivors annually.

Welcome to the WAVE Network!

NEW PROJECT WITH MEMBERS IN ARMENIA, GEORGIA AND UKRAINE

WAVE is starting a new project in collaboration with three member organisations: Sexual Assault Crisis Center (Yerevan, Armenia), Cultural Humanitarian Fund Sukhumi (Kutaisi, Georgia), and Centre “Women’s Perspectives” (Lviv, Ukraine).

The project aims to facilitate the exchange of promising practices between women's specialist support services in the region, as they share similar historic paths in terms of democratic transformation and peacebuilding. The project will also consider the current situation in Ukraine and the terrible developments this conflict will have on the lives and safety of women and children. The partners will collaborate to develop a toolkit to share their strategies and create a space of mutual learning, relation-building, and exchange of good practices that will benefit the capacity of women's NGOs to support survivors effectively (in the region and beyond).

The project was launched on 24 February and is part of the WIN Project, whose main objective is to advance gender equality as a prerequisite for achieving and maintaining stable, prosperous, and peaceful societies in the OSCE area.

WAVE ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2021



The annual report detailing WAVE's activities during the year 2021 is now published! Download the report [here](#) to update yourself on what has happened in 2021.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

updates from WAVE Members and political developments

GENDER DISCRIMINATION AND LABOUR RIGHTS

Although labour right violation consists of a wide range, gender discrimination in the workplace still poses an issue as it is either underreported or not properly addressed. In the majority of cases, women are ashamed of or discouraged from reporting it. Even in cases that are reported, the focus remains on monetary compensation.

For 5 consecutive years now, Albanian WAVE member Gender Alliance for Development Center has advocated and represented women who suffered great injustices and gender-based discrimination while also encouraging them to fight the mentality and their fears. Despite challenges faced, since old habits die hard, brave women were inspired to not only come forward but also to see the matter through until the very end.

Such is the case of a young woman, who faced discrimination and unfair treatment for a long period of time until she decided enough is enough and therefore reported her employer for every single violation, he had done to her. Threats, stalking, use of power, intimidation were only some of the means used to scare the young woman and force her to drop the charges. Nevertheless, they were not enough to make the young woman back down and after many documents and communication with the Commissioner of Protection against Discrimination, a decision was taken in recognizing gender discrimination in the workplace in this case.

This decision marked a success in terms of gender discrimination in employment by the direct superior, a problematic case due to external influences and constant pressure to drop the charges. More often than not, employers commit violations in the workplace because they are aware that finding employment is hard, at the end of the day women need to provide for their families and therefore need the salary. Unfortunately, this sort of abuse of power is an old-standing practice and the aforementioned issues are only some of the reasons why women do not address such a mainstream gender-based violation. Results such as this one give us the strength to support and empower women in addressing gender issues, especially those that women are most reluctant to speak up about or demand justice, especially in the workplace, and support them in receiving everything that rightfully and lawfully belongs to them.

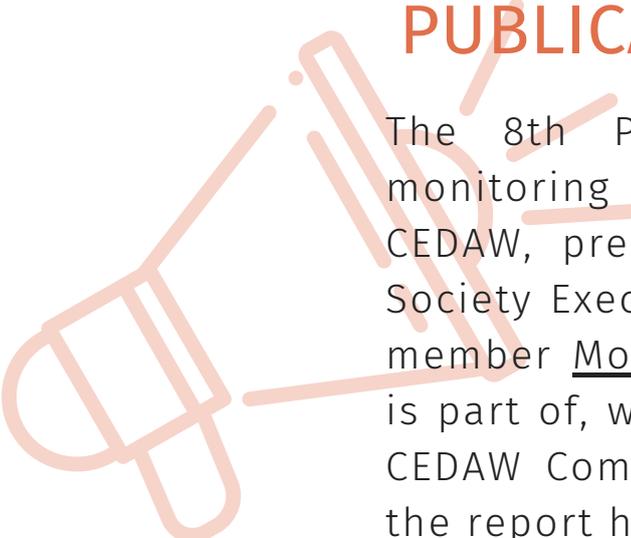
Albania is the 3rd country in Europe, after Italy and Greece, which ratified the ILO Convention C190 on violence and harassment in the world of work. C190 (for short) is the first international treaty to recognize the right of everyone to a world of work free from violence and harassment, including gender-based violence and harassment. The Convention was adopted in June 2019, by the International Labour Conference of the International Labour Organization (ILO), and came into force on 25 June 2021.



SHADOW REPORT "THE EFFECTS OF MALE VIOLENCE AND MECHANISMS TO COMBAT MALE VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS"

Not only can children be exposed to violence directly, they can also be affected by the violence in an environment where their mothers are subjected to violence. However, the fact that the mechanisms for combatting violence against women do not consider the best interest of the child, that the state does not fulfill its obligations, and that the legislation is insufficient and its implementation is arbitrary render children's needs invisible within the system and causes children to experience secondary victimizations. The shadow report by Turkish WAVE member Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation presents the effects of male violence and mechanisms to combat male violence on children's rights in Turkey. It is written for the submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child for the Pre-sessional Meeting and Report Prior to Adoption of the List of Issues 91st Pre-session (7 February – 11 February 2022). The report is available [here](#).

PUBLICATION TIP BY MOR ÇATI



The 8th Periodic Shadow Report for the monitoring of Turkey's implementation of CEDAW, prepared by the Turkish CEDAW Civil Society Executive Board, of which Turkish WAVE member Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation is part of, was presented to the United Nations CEDAW Committee in July 2021. You can reach the report [here](#).

MONITORING NETWORK AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN ALBANIA

On 28 February, the Monitoring Network Against Gender Based Violence participated in a dialogue with 83 Pre-Sessional Working Group (PSWG) of the CEDAW Committee.

Important issues were raised regarding the implementation of CEDAW recommendations on GE Mechanism, Gender Based Violence, economic empowerment, education and employment, by the Albanian state. More information is available [here](#).

The Monitoring Network Against Gender Based Violence in Albania is established since November 2017. The network is coordinated by Albanian WAVE member [Center for Legal Civic Initiatives](#).

The network's contribution to the CEDAW Committee is made possible under the frame of implementation of the project “Strengthening the role of the Monitoring Network Against Gender Based Violence”, financed by the European Commission and implemented with the support of UN Women.



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WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDERS IN THE UKRAINE
AND IN NEIGHBOURING
COUNTRIES!**