

WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE



ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2019

Activities and projects from 1st of January to 31st of December 2019

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If you are interested in becoming a Member of the WAVE Network, please contact our WAVE Office:

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WAVE ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2019

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WAVE Office staff and interns



Impressions from the WAVE Conference 2019

1. Introduction from the Executive Manager

The year 2019 was a year full of action within the WAVE Network, with the development of innovative approaches to deal with various existing and new forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG) and their prevention. This year also marked the beginning of the WAVE 25-year anniversary.

There were several positive developments, such as the notable success of the continued Youth Ambassador campaign which has been increasing its impact and reach throughout the year, making key contributions towards motivating many young people to vote in the European parliamentary elections in May; WAVE starting to implement its 4-year Strategic Plan and WAVE receiving a funding extension from UN Women to research the provision and gaps of sexualized violence specialist services in the Western Balkan region and Turkey. Furthermore, in a number of Western Balkan countries, notable progress towards implementing at least parts of the Istanbul Convention (IC) happened, e.g. local legislation against gender-based violence (GBV) is increasingly brought in line with the IC requirements, new legislation to protect women from (mainly) domestic violence has been adopted in the region and women's specialist services were consulted in the development process (Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia); new national action plans against violence against women have been developed in North Macedonia and the Republic of Srpska, and again women's NGOs were consulted in the process. However, our Members report that despite some of these positive developments, there is still an insufficient amount of funding being allocated by most of their governments to effectively implement these actions and governments do not necessarily collaborate/support NGOs in their work as is recommended in the IC. Structural and legal changes usually take their time to be effectively implemented, but often

need intense and continued advocacy from civil society – such as WAVE Member organisations – to continue the political agenda until they are actually put into practice.

WAVE is proudly being more strongly represented in a number of key international forums/conferences, a total of 36 through the active participation of more Staff, Board and Advisory Board Members in these key platforms.

WAVE and its Member countries also experienced a range of significant challenges, which are mainly related to the increasing backlash against women's human rights all over Europe. Some key issues included the government of Slovakia's withdrawal of its signature from the Istanbul Convention in May or the refusal of the Bulgarian government to continue any dialogue about signing/implementing the IC. Our Members in the Czech Republic reported a significant cut to their shelter service funding, as well as the potential threat by their government of needing to pay back funding they already had received for the past two years.

However, and especially in light of the 25-year anniversary of WAVE, it is important to bear in mind that WAVE in its history has overcome a range of incredible and serious challenges and has grown consistently despite of them. In its founding years, there was hardly any public or other funding for women's specialist services available, and the persistent and resilient advocacy efforts of this generation of women governance finally led to some, and later on, growing financial support by governments for the women's specialist sector. These efforts were later continued by following previous generations and the women's specialist sector in Europe, which step-by-step have developed professional services which are now able to address a wide variety of forms of VAWG.

Today, WAVE is a strong and ever-expanding Network of over 150 Members (individual NGOs, NGO networks) and



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WAVE President Pille Tsopp-Pagan (Estonia) and WAVE Vice President Marcella Pirrone (Italy) in Vienna, Austria

WAVE Team with Policy Officer of the Gender Equality Unit of the European Commission Halliki Voolma

12 individual Members in 46 European countries who are all working towards tackling and preventing violence against women. Together our Members support approximately one million women experiencing GBV every year by providing life-saving services such as advocacy, legal support, emergency accommodation and therapeutic services. Our Members' work is essential and lifesaving, and saves governments billions of euros every year, as they ensure women reach safety faster, with less repeat service interventions, receive expert holistic advice and are supported in rebuilding their lives. Apart from their life-saving capacity, studies from the UK and France show that women's specialist services also save governments approximately € 6–8 for every € 1 invested in them; particularly in the following areas: costs for hospital stays, policing, social services, temporary/emergency housing and lost working hours due to injury and trauma.

It is our collective responsibility as the WAVE Network representing at least two, going on three generations of women's activists to continue these efforts, facing newly arising challenges with the knowledge that with persistent resilience and joint forces we are able to continue our efforts and impact towards tackling and preventing VAWG. A key step within this process is to include more young people in our advocacy and campaigning efforts, as they are the key to not only the organisations' survival, but also its sustainability in the future. Solidarity and collaboration within the women's sector and building new alliances/bridges with the wider population (including non-traditional allies) is also an important aim of the 4-year WAVE Strategic Plan.

The WAVE Office would also like to congratulate WAVE Estonian Board Member Pille Tsopp-Pagan for being elected the WAVE President in October 2018, having faithfully and tirelessly represented WAVE at numerous international and Estonian events as well as in the press. Congratulations as well to Italian Board Member Marcella Pirrone, who was elected Vice-President in October 2018. We would also like to take

this opportunity to thank the former President Rosa Logar for her outstanding work and support for the WAVE Network. We are pleased that Rosa Logar will continue, as a Board Member, to play an important role in the WAVE Network, as she has done for the past 25 years. The former Vice-President, Hilary Fisher, continued to support the WAVE Network as a Board Member in 2019, however, stepped down during the General Assembly in October 2019 after years of enthusiastic and invaluable commitment to the WAVE Network.

We would like to dedicate an especially big THANK YOU to our funders who continue to make our essential and life-saving work for women on European level possible:

- Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Union
- Federal Ministry for Women, Families and Youth Austria
- Federal Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumers Protection Austria
- Municipality of Vienna, the Department for Women's Affairs (MA57) Austria
- Oak Foundation
- UN Women Europe and Central Asia
- Open Society Foundations
- Philip Morris International

The WAVE Office would also like to express its sincere gratitude to the following interns who dedicated their time, skills and passion to make our work in 2019 a success:

- Chiara Paganelli
- Valentina Canepa
- Katie Clarke
- Corinne Schoch
- Claire Davis
- Martina Fontana

Stephanie Futter-Orel



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WAVE Member Maria Rösslhuber (Austria), WAVE Vice-President Marcella Pirrone (Italy), and WAVE Member Lepa Mladjenovic (Serbia) paying tribute to 25 years of WAVE



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WAVE Members celebrating 25 years of WAVE

2. Brief Overview of the Network

Since 1994, the WAVE Network has been one of the most influential European-wide feminist networks of women's non-governmental organisations (NGOs) (women's shelters, women's centres and helplines, as well as aid organisations for migrant and refugee women). It aims to establish gender equality by eliminating GBV. WAVE is the only European network focusing solely on the elimination of violence against women and children, and its Office – which is a legal entity as of 2014 – serves as a linchpin for the whole Network and is governed currently by eight Board Members.

As of December 2019, the WAVE Network is comprised of 153 Members located throughout 46 European countries. This year, WAVE welcomed 14 new Members to the Network: Psycho-Social Centre Vatra (Albania); Pärnu Women's Support Centre (Estonia); Democrat Women's Organisation of Samtskhe-Javakheti (Georgia); Alina Kuhl, Individual Member (Germany); Silvia Menecali, Individual Member (Italy); Cristina Gamberi, Individual Member (Italy); Kosovar Gender Studies Center (Kosovo); Necuvinte Association (Romania); Doctors to Children (Russia); St. Petersburg Regional Public Organisation Institute of Non-discriminative Gender Interrelations – Crisis Center for Women (Russia); Oasis of Safety (Serbia); Roma Center for Women and Children Daje (Serbia); Center Women's Perspectives (Ukraine); and Standing Together (United Kingdom).

The WAVE Network (WAVE Members, together with the online WAVE Database) reaches women's organisations across Europe. Members of WAVE include single organisations, individuals such as academics, as well as entire women's networks for specialist support services. Members serve as regional and national bases to share and exchange information, expertise and experience. A full list of WAVE Members can be found on the [WAVE Website](http://www.wave-network.org).

WAVE Members are responsible for dissemination and collection of information on violence against women in their country. The WAVE Office continually provides Members with relevant information (for instance, exchange of national and international news) and vice versa, good practice examples, international recommendations, policy papers, and legal and policy changes regarding violence against women. While at the same time, Members report on current developments in their respective countries. Members are also primary contacts for inquiries by women affected by violence and regarding research inquiries. Over the years, WAVE has been advised and supported by numerous experts in the field, which affirms the importance of WAVE keeping this expertise within the Network.

WAVE Advisory Board Members, considered to be international experts in the field, support the Board in the development, implementation and evaluation of policies and activities of the Network. The Advisory Board consists of one delegate and one co-delegate (substitute) from each country. Delegates and co-delegates are appointed by the Member organisations of the respective country for a certain period. WAVE statutes, and information about how to become a Member of the WAVE Network, are available on the WAVE Website: www.wave-network.org



Participants of the spring Advisory Board Meeting in Vienna, Austria



Group discussions during the spring Advisory Board Meeting in Vienna, Austria

3. WAVE Activities 2019

3.1. Advisory Board Meetings

The first Advisory Board Meeting (ABM) was held in Vienna from 13–15 May at the co-working venue, L'Office. The meeting gathered 45 participants from 30 countries (24 EU countries). On the morning of the first day participants split into small groups to discuss the political backlash against women's rights, particularly the top three challenges related to the backlash in their countries. Participants also identified any good practice example of successful lobbying/campaigning against the backlash. Delving deeper into the backlash issue, participants were later divided into small groups to discuss how the WAVE Network can effectively mobilize against the far-right backlash.

Step Up! Campaigners met during the lunch break to discuss general issues related to the Campaign. Later in the afternoon, Katarina Višnar (Campaign Coordinator) updated participants about the Step Up! Campaign activities. Following this campaigning session, small working groups brainstormed strategies to mobilize the Network towards effective campaigning for EU elections.

The second day of the meeting focused primarily on internal Network issues, such as membership fees, external partner involvement in WAVE activities, cooperation and mutual support on urgent issues in Member countries. Participants also discussed advocacy at the European level for countries such as Poland where Members are unable to secure national co-funding for European projects. Other issues discussed were diversity within the WAVE Network, preparation for the Country Report 2019 and data collection, thematic working groups, the upcoming WAVE Conference in Tallinn, Estonia and the Network's 4-year Strategic Plan and activities for 2019. To conclude

the meetings, participants were invited to join the film showing 'Like a Pascha'.

The third and final day was dedicated to any outstanding issues which participants wanted to go over, as well as thematic conversations about new approaches to tackling violence against women and domestic violence.

The fall ABM took place on 9 October at Hestia Hotel Europa in Tallinn, Estonia with 68 participants from 32 countries (23 EU countries). The meeting primarily focused on important internal issues pertaining to Network organisation and structure, such as cooperation with other organisations and institutions and WAVE's 4-year Strategic Plan. External issues discussed included developing a joint WAVE approach for addressing the backlash against women's human rights in Europe and providing input on the European Commission Gender Equality Strategy.

3.2. Board Meetings

Throughout the year, 13 Board meetings were held to discuss burning issues (e.g. fundraising, strategic planning, annual work plan, monitoring of vision and strategy, and membership issues), as well as guide Network activities and work plans for upcoming years. Six of these Board meetings were held in person (14 and 15 January, 12 and 15 May, 6 October and 9 October). Since the Board brings together women professionals from different European countries, most of the meetings were held online, with seven online meetings being held throughout the year.



2019 WAVE Board Members before the General Assembly in Tallinn, Estonia

3.3. 4th WAVE General Assembly

On 8 October, following the second day of the WAVE Conference in Tallinn, WAVE's General Assembly took place. 85 participants attended the meeting, representing Member organisations from 33 countries (22 EU countries). Activities of the General Assembly included the presentation and approval of the 2019 activity and financial report, display of the budget forecast 2020, discussion of WAVE membership fees, election of auditors, and election of the new Board Members for the next year.

The following individuals were elected as Board Members: Baljit Banga (Imkaan, UK), Sari Laaksonen (Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters, Finland), Rosa Logar (Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre Vienna, Austria), Marcella Pirrone as Vice-President (D.i.Re, Italy) and Pille Tsopp-Pagan as President (Women's Support and Information Center, Estonia). Current Board Members which will continue without the need for re-election are: Dušana Karlovská (Fenestra, Slovakia) Branislava Marvánová Vargová (ROSA, Czech Republic) and Susana Pavlou as Treasurer (Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies, Cyprus). The Board has decided to continue with the current role assignment until their first face-to-face meeting in Vienna in February 2020. Therefore, the roles for President, Vice-President and Treasurer will continue.

3.4. Capacity Building of WAVE Office

WAVE's ongoing formalization process continues to lead towards structural and organisational improvements, facilitating the monitoring of Network activities. The WAVE Office maintains to improve policies for increased inclusion, democracy and transparency, which further allows Members to become more involved in decision-making. The Monitoring and Evaluation Plan will allow the WAVE Office to better plan, set priorities for tasks, improve communication and determine impact of activities. Furthermore, the recruitment of the Communications & Research Officer and the Youth Ambassador Coordinator has increased the capacity of the WAVE Office to carry out additional tasks in a timely manner.



EIGE Consultation Meeting on Femicide in Vilnius, Lithuania

In 2019, the WAVE Team participated in three trainings and one team-building event. The trainings were related to developing skills to better conduct work in the WAVE Office. Trainings included: an on-demand online course on mobile video reporting and editing, a course on advancing Excel expertise on 12 December, and a training on digital campaigning by the eCampaigning Forum Europe (ECF) in Berlin from 28–29 November.

Finally, the WAVE Office also focused on strengthening its presence and representation within the local community through allying with grassroots organisations as well as with relevant European organisations and networks.

The WAVE Network connected with **REloading Feminismus** in June, an Austrian network aimed at providing a platform for feminists and raising awareness about women's rights and gender equality. On 21 September, the International Peace Day, the WAVE Team attended the Hellwach event in Vienna to end violence against women and children, which was co-hosted by the **Austrian Women's Shelter Network**. Beverly Mtui, WAVE Youth Ambassador Coordinator, spoke about the complexity of cyber violence and highlighted the importance of ensuring youth inclusion in prevention efforts. On 6 November, the WAVE Office welcomed **Ni Una Menos Austria**, a grassroots feminist movement born in Argentina which campaigns against GBV. The purpose of this meeting was to brainstorm ways in which the WAVE Network can collaborate with this local organisation, which resulted in the WAVE Office participating in a multidisciplinary event on 25 November in Vienna with various feminist collectives and artists. During the event participants exchanged experiences on GBV and reflected on how this issue can be made more visible. On 11 November, **HeForShe Vienna** visited the WAVE Office to discuss potential collaboration in the future, including how to promote the Step Up! Campaign.

Inclusion Europe reached out to the WAVE Network in August, asking for support in improving their questionnaires to assess the accessibility of victim support services and women's organisations across Europe for people with intellectual disabilities. WAVE supported its development, along



DIS.CO Project Steering Group Meeting in Belfast, Northern Ireland

with Victim Support Europe, and successfully disseminated this questionnaire to Network Members. WAVE continued to cooperate with AGE Platform Europe, sharing project results from TISOVA and WHOSEFVA and participating in online campaigning to raise awareness about the rights of older people.

3.5. Conference Participation

WAVE is often called upon to participate at numerous international conferences and to present on latest developments and research, including WAVE publications, in the field of gender-based violence. In 2019, the WAVE Office and WAVE Board Members represented WAVE at 36 conferences, events, project meetings and trainings.

- **16–17 January | EIGE Consultation Meeting on Femicide (Vilnius, Lithuania)** The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) located in Vilnius convened a consultation meeting in January to bring together a group of academics, researchers and practitioners working in the area of femicide. EIGE wanted to discuss various approaches – qualitative and quantitative – undertaken for collecting data on femicide, as it plans to conduct a study in this field later in 2019. There were approximately 40 participants at the meeting from several European countries, such as the United Kingdom, Malta, Germany, Sweden, Slovakia, Austria, Greece, Cyprus, Portugal, Italy, Spain and Israel. The meeting was also attended by the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women Dubravka Šimonovic. The first day of the meeting consisted of various presentations on the topic of femicide, evidencing different methods for data collection. EIGE presented its set of indicators for data collection on rape, femicide and intimate partner violence. On the second day of the consultation, the European Observatory on Femicide chaired a meeting to plan activities for the following months and discussed a draft questionnaire that will be used for data collection. The questionnaire reflects qualitative methodologies and seeks to collect key information on victims and perpetrators for each case identified.



Cybersafe Project Kick-Off Meeting in Heraklion, Greece

- **31 January–1 February | DIS.CO Project Transnational Meeting (Belfast, Northern Ireland)** The second-last DIS.CO steering group meeting was held in the offices of Nexus NI in Belfast. Project partners came together to coordinate the upcoming intellectual outputs and activities of the project. On the first day of the meeting, each partner gave a presentation overview of the activity to which they have been assigned. WAVE is responsible for dissemination in which Digital & Social Media Coordinator Lina Piskernik presented the upcoming dissemination activities of the project while also re-emphasizing the importance of tracking dissemination of the project outputs. Further planning was done among the partners regarding an upcoming training in Barcelona in May 2019 by M&M Profuture. The meeting was documented via pictures which were posted on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. After the meeting ended, partners travelled to Derry, Northern Ireland, where an official reception was held for them by the mayor of Derry, Councillor John Boyle. Partners discussed the importance of the DIS.CO project and counselling at a distance with the councillor for over an hour.

- **6 February | WAVE Working Group on Sexualized Violence (WGSV) in-person Meeting (Vienna, Austria)** For the first time, nine members of the WGSV gathered together in Vienna for a one-day meeting hosted by WAVE. The aim of this event was to provide participants with the opportunity to develop the new questionnaire which will survey national legislation and approaches to rape and consent within Europe. After designing and assigning the questions to relevant sections (e.g. legal definitions, consent, education on sexualized violence, reporting and investigation, forensics, access to justice, multi-agency responses and access to compensation), the questionnaire was sent to WAVE Members by mid-April for responses. The meeting also allowed participants to update each other on developments and to strategize for involvement in Step Up! Campaign activities.

- **11–13 February | Cybersafe Project Kick-Off Meeting (Heraklion, Greece)** The three-day kick-off meeting for the new EU project CYBERSAFE was held in Heraklion. With WAVE as dissemination partner, the project aims to address cyber VAWG as a form of gender-based violence while de-

veloping a gender sensitive approach to prevent it. Project partners from eight EU countries met to discuss the different outputs of the project, especially the serious video game which will prevent cyber violence against women and girls with ICT tools. Project partners agreed on the hashtags of CYBERSAFE which are #cybersafespace #endcyberVAWG. There was also much discussion regarding the serious video game, as there were many aspects to be considered, such as what platform to use, how many levels the game would have, and whether the game should be created only for mobile phones.

- **18–19 February | UN ESCWA Expert Meeting (Beirut, Lebanon)** The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia invited WAVE representatives to an expert meeting to develop regional guidelines based on the Istanbul Convention. WAVE President Pille Tsopp-Pagan, long-standing Board Member Hilary Fisher, GREVIO President Marceline Naudi, WAVE Member and Director of the Association for Liberty and Equality of Gender Camelia Proca from Romania as well as WAVE Member Janet McDermott of Women's Aid UK contributed to the framework. Participants wrote a [review](#) on the ESCWA's report on availability and accessibility of shelters for survivors of violence in the MENA region. They assessed its key findings, proposed policy recommendations and exchanged knowledge as well as good practices.

- **1 March | WAVE Gender Neutrality Working Group in-person Meeting (Vienna, Austria)** Seven members of the Gender Neutrality Working Group gathered in Vienna for a one-day meeting hosted by WAVE. This event provided an opportunity for members of the working group to finetune important issues and activities relevant for the 2019 workplan. In the morning, membership issues were discussed, followed by a conversation about key themes, priorities and messaging for the working group. After lunch, participants strategized about upcoming activities, including the study visit in Edinburgh, in the fall of 2019 as well as the publication of the Handbook in 2020. Discussions also included involving the working group in the Step Up! Campaign.

- **5–6 March | 'The right to live free from violence! Strengthening, supporting and protecting women victims of violence and their children in Austria and Europe' (Vienna, Austria)** The international conference was organised by the Domestic Intervention Centre Vienna. It welcomed more than 200 participants, mostly from Austria. The purpose of the event was to celebrate 20 years of work undertaken by the Domestic Intervention Centre Vienna, but also to analyse what has worked, what has not worked and how to move forward when it comes to preventing violence and offering better protection to survivors of violence. Presentations were made by Dubravka Šimonovic, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences, and by Daniele Cangemi, Head of the Human Dignity and Gender Equality Department (Council of Europe). They gave insight on relevant international legislation and in addition to that, presented reports on newer forms of violence, such as cyber violence, but also the Istanbul Convention and some



WAVE President Pille Tsopp-Pagan representing WAVE at the 63rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

of the GREVIO findings in the evaluated countries. Membership & Legal Project Coordinator Anca Ciupa of the WAVE Office contributed to a workshop, speaking on 'Empowering and specialist support for survivors and their children: What is needed?'. She also provided an overview of the situation of women's specialist support services in Europe and the overall development of preventing as well as eliminating violence against women. The conference continued with reiterating the importance of EU institutions and how they contribute to women's and children's safety. It ended with a political talk, where members of different political groups discussed what women can expect from European politics.

- **8 March | Vagina Monologues Event and World Café (Vienna, Austria)** WAVE was invited to speak at an event held to celebrate International Women's Day on 8 March. Lina Piskernik, WAVE Digital & Social Media Coordinator, attended the performance of the Vagina Monologues, followed by a World Café, which was held in three 15 minutes sessions. During each session, new participants would come to the table and have the allotted time to discuss the Istanbul Convention. The first five minutes were used to explain the Istanbul Convention and the backlash against this convention in Europe. During the last ten minutes of each session, participants had a lively discussion regarding the Istanbul Convention.

- **11–22 March | CSW, 63rd Session (New York, USA)** This year's 63rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women was dedicated to the theme 'Preventing and combating violence against women and girls: From Data to Policy and Action'. During the two-week session, themes tackled included: the social protection system, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. WAVE was represented by the Network's President Pille Tsopp-Pagan. The participants identified a serious need for good practices and policies for the implementation of social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure, women's empowerment alongside sustainable development. There is also a lack of common standards for collecting and storing data, barriers to providing women's support services. In this re-



Rosalyn Park of Advocates for Human Rights speaking at the CSSP Training on the Istanbul Convention in Podgorica, Montenegro

gard, it was encouraged to develop data collection rules and habits by region in order to have comparable sets of data.

Tsopp-Pagan participated in several side events, such as a meeting discussing the OECD-led survey on the well-being and safety of women 'From Data to Policy and Action'. She presented WAVE's experience with data collection and suggested information gathering methods in similar projects. On 11 March, a parallel event was conducted, discussing WAVE partner projects WHOSEFVA and TISOVA with participants. These projects aim at professionals working with elderly survivors of domestic violence. On 14 March, WAVE President Pille Tsopp-Pagan participated in a parallel event on 'Women's shelters: The heart of Social Protection Systems' hosted by the Global Network of Women's Shelters. She elaborated on shelters run by governments, which often do not provide access to all women, such as those with special needs and those who are undocumented. Adding to that, the rise of conservative and nationalist parties is affecting women's support services legally and financially. The last day was dedicated to the adoption of the CSW63 report and the arrangement of the provisional agenda for the 64th session.

● **25–27 March | CSSP Training on the Istanbul Convention, Monitoring and Reporting (Podgorica, Montenegro)**

The training was organised by SOS Niksic, Montenegro, as part of the project: Support the establishment and strengthening of regional platforms of CSO (with a special focus on organisations representing minoritized and marginalized) to advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies, and improve the accessibility of women's NGOs regional network for all women who experience GBV in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention, under the Programme 'Ending Violence against Women: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds'. The training welcomed an overall of 20 participants from countries such as Austria, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and USA. The first two days of the event were open to the public, and the third day was dedicated only to CSSP partners.

The first two days of the training focused on sharing experiences in relation to court monitoring, the example of Mon-



Tackling Gender Stereotypes and Sexism Conference in Helsinki, Finland

tenegro being highlighted through the lens of a judge of the Misdemeanour Court in Podgorica. Furthermore, good practices were shared regarding the follow-up process after receiving GREVIO's country recommendations, as an example the 'Protocol on Action, Prevention and Protection against violence against women and domestic violence'. The accessibility of women's specialist services to women from minority groups was discussed among participants and presented from the perspective of a women's rights activist but also from the Council of Europe office in Montenegro. Participants received an introduction to the essential components of a court monitoring and documentation process, by Rosalyn Park, the director of Advocates for Human Rights.

The last part of the second day involved a presentation by partner Gorica Ivić of the Foundation United Women Banja Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina). She presented a toolkit developed for women's NGOs for monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. Finally, the last day was reserved for CSSP partners to discuss pending project activities, such as the upcoming social media campaign, the on-going assessments, and identifying priority issues in partner countries.

● **28–29 March | Tackling Gender Stereotypes and Sexism: Conference organised during the Finnish Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (Helsinki, Finland)**

The conference welcomed 135 participants from 35 countries, composed of member states' representatives, non-member states with observer status within the Council of Europe, international and regional organisations, organisations and committees of the Council of Europe and civil society organisations. The event aimed at highlighting standards, work and activities of the Council of Europe in combating gender stereotypes and sexism, with a particular focus on the workplace, media and on violence against women and girls as the most severe manifestation of gender stereotypes and sexism. Presentations such as the one given by Gareth Sansom (Criminal law Policy Section, Department of Justice, Canada) examined the interrelationship between cyber violence and violence against women, while others explored the impact of gender stereotypes, sexism



WAVE Executive Manager Stephanie Futter-Orel, Advisor to Commissioner Věra Jourová, Monika Ladmanova of the European Commission (centre) and WAVE President Pille Tsopp-Pagan in Brussels, Belgium

and sexist behaviour in the workplace. Some good practices were identified when it comes to tackling problems and overcoming challenges posed by gender stereotypes and sexism. On the second day, participants were invited to question their own assumptions in an interactive and powerful session held by Dil Wickremasinghe. Lastly, the event looked at strengthening the cooperation and synergies with action at international, national and regional level to address sexism, gender stereotypes and VAWG.

● **9–10 April | Brussels Key Stakeholder Visit (Brussels, Belgium)** WAVE President Pille Tsopp-Pagan and WAVE Executive Manager Stephanie Futter-Orel met with the European Women's Lobby (EWL) and Monika Ladmanova of the Advisor to Commissioner Věra Jourová, Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality. The key aims of these meetings were to update the European Commission as well as Monika Ladmanova on current WAVE's work priorities, key challenges for Members in relation to the backlash against women's human rights and positive developments within the WAVE Network, such as the ongoing and new project work, the successful Youth Ambassador campaign and the strengthened advocacy work for the ratification and implementation of the IC. They also discussed the Network's contribution to the European Commission's public consultation regarding the new Gender Equality Strategy 2020–2023. With the EWL, the aim was to strengthen collaboration and exchange of expertise in the areas of advocacy for women's human rights, in particular in the areas of preventing and addressing sexualized violence and online gendered violence; and to provide effective joint advocacy on

WAVE Youth Ambassador Coordinator Beverly Mtui and WAVE Youth Ambassador Dejana Stošić from Serbia at the Girls Regional Forum in Bucharest



Panel at the event for "Implementing Norms, Changing Norms" in Istanbul, Turkey with WAVE Executive Manager Stephanie Futter-Orel (centre)

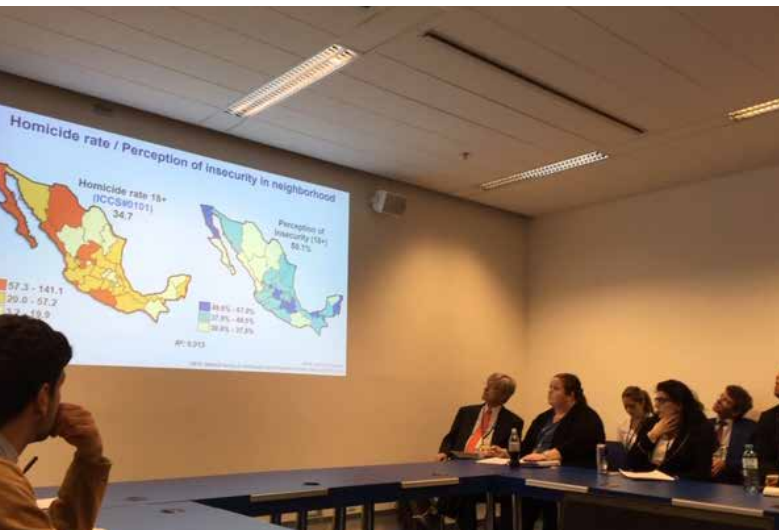
ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

● **23 April | Girls Regional Forum (Bucharest, Romania)**

Dejana Stošić, WAVE Youth Ambassador from Serbia, and Beverly Mtui, WAVE Youth Ambassador Coordinator, were invited to attend and speak at the Girls Regional Forum: 'Who Is Afraid of Gender Equality and What Does This Mean For Girls?' in Bucharest. They presented the activities of the WAVE Youth Ambassadors inside and outside the Step Up! Campaign to a diverse young female audience from across Europe. It was also a great opportunity to network with other young women and girls from Eastern European countries on how to collaboratively work towards the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence.

● **7–8 May | Partnering to end violence against women, EU-UN Women regional programme on ending violence**

against women in the western Balkans and Turkey: 'Implementing Norms, Changing Minds' (Istanbul, Turkey) WAVE Office's Anca Ciupa and Stephanie Futter-Orel attended the meeting along with over 70 participants, representing women's NGOs from the Western Balkans and Turkey, with a focus on Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey. The objectives of the meeting were to examine the main challenges, achievements and lessons learned on the three areas of programme support: Creating and enabling legislative and policy environment in line with international standards on eliminating violence against women and all forms of discrimination; promoting favourable social norms and attitudes to promote



United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice conference in Vienna, Austria

gender equality and prevent discrimination and violence against women; and empowering women and girls who have experienced gender-based discrimination or violence, including those from vulnerable groups, to advocate for and use available, accessible and quality services. Furthermore, the purpose of the meeting was also to inform about the implementation of the programme in the next 24 months, to draft recommendations for developing the agenda of the 2019 Regional Forum on the Promotion of the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention, and to facilitate networking opportunities among the partners. Stephanie Futter-Orel talked about the Civil Society Strengthening Platform, the work that has been carried out since the project's start, lessons learned, and challenges encountered along the way.

● **20–24 May | United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna, Austria)** The thematic focus of this year's session was the responsibility of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems in preventing and countering crime motivated by intolerance or discrimination of any kind. Delegations from governments, civil society organisations and academia organised over 100 side events that addressed a wide range of issues related to the overarching theme of combatting hate crime. A side event about misogynistic hate crimes addressed the alarming spread of misogynistic cultures and the relationship between misogyny and femicide. The role of technology in facilitating and addressing sex trafficking was discussed during another side event. Undoubtedly the increased availability of new and advanced means of communications technology is leading to the emergence of new forms of exploitation and violence within cyberspace. The importance of just and humane criminal justice systems that ensure access to legal aid and provide reparations for victims were stressed during several discussions. During another discussion, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences Dubravka Šimonovic argued that gender-related killings of women and girls or femicides should be investigated and prosecuted



Participants of the Youth Ambassador Meeting in Vienna, Austria

from the perspective of a state's obligation to protect the lives and women and girls and comply with due diligence standards. Lastly, the importance of linking data collection efforts and statistics on crime and violent incidents to policy making processes was emphasized in a side event about best practices to improve the availability and quality of crime statistics. WAVE was represented by Data Manager and Analyst Andrada Filip.

● **3–4 June | Youth Ambassador Meeting (Vienna, Austria)** The very first WAVE Youth Ambassador meeting was organised by WAVE Youth Ambassador Coordinator Beverly Mtui and held in Vienna. Five of the ten dedicated WAVE Youth Ambassadors from across Europe came together and met for the first time in person to discuss the state of gender equality and the fight against GBV in their respective countries as well as in Europe. The aim of the meeting was to continue developing strategies to ensure youth inclusion in promoting non-violence. At the beginning of the first day, Executive Manager Stephanie Futter-Orel visited the ambassadors to give a brief talk about the WAVE Network and its structures as well as the significance of youth engagement to the Network. After a session of sharing input and exchanging ideas, Campaign Coordinator Katarina Višnar gave an overview of the Step Up! Campaign activities for 2019 and introduced a more concrete framework of the Peace Day action for 2019. In addition to that, Digital & Social Media Coordinator Lina Piskernik presented key elements of the CYBERSAFE project to highlight the various forms and dimensions of GBV; both in the real world as well as in the digital sphere. The ambassadors were encouraged to engage in critical discussions and discuss approaches on how to most effectively share the definition of consent with young people through pictures and videos during the week of the 2019 Peace Day. On the final day of the meeting, conceptual artist Louise Deininger, founder and president of GYCO Global Youth Conference, was invited to present her experience with youth engagement as well as youth empowerment. This session was dedicated to strengthening



Brainstorming at the Storytelling Workshop hosted by REloading Feminismus in Vienna, Austria



Publications at the European Network on Gender and Violence Conference

the WAVE Youth Ambassadors' will and confidence in being young activists and unlocking their full potential. The last two sessions of the meeting were aimed at concretizing the action for the upcoming 16 Days of Action as well as discussing final points and visions of future achievements. The two productive days of brainstorming and planning were crucial to fortifying team building as well as developing further ideas and strategies to educate young people on the effects of VAWG.

● **12 June | Storytelling Workshop 'You are a Gender Equality Hero - Tell your story!' (Vienna, Austria)** Three members of the WAVE Office took part in a Storytelling Workshop in Vienna, organised by the REloading Feminismus Network. This event brought together around 30 participants, both professionals working in the field of women's rights and people interested in the topic. Participants learned about the most important tools of storytelling and did different exercises to learn how to tell the stories of every-day heroines contributing to gender equality.

● **24 June | UN Youth Forum at CBTB Science & Technology Conference (Vienna, Austria)** Organised by the preparatory commission for the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty organisation (CTBTO), WAVE intern Katie Clarke attended the panel 'Our Present, Our Future: Global Citizenship and Youth Inclusion for the SDGs, Peace and Security', in the Hofburg Palace. There were approximately 150 people in attendance, mostly youth. As a central part of the 2019 CTBT Science & Technology Conference, the Youth Forum on Global Citizenship and Youth Inclusion for the SDGs, Peace and Security convenes young leaders and expert decision-makers to foster exchange and fruitful discussion on the topics of sustainable development, peace and security. The conference included welcome remarks by Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation, and a special address by Heinz Fischer, Former President of Austria and Co-Chair of the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens. Although the conference topic was science and technology, the youth

panel was relevant for WAVE Youth Ambassadors' endeavour to connect with young people by demonstrating connections between social justice issues, and the way women are disproportionately affected by issues like climate change, nuclear disarmament and poverty.

● **17–19 July | European Network on Gender and Violence Conference (Freiburg, Germany)** The 2019 Annual Conference of the European Network on Gender and Violence was hosted by the Social Science Research Institute on Gender Issues at the Protestant University of Applied Sciences in Freiburg. Approximately 180 participants attended the three-day event. Plenary sessions presented new research findings on gender violence from the host country Germany, such as a new CEINAV study on workplace harassment and a qualitative study with professionals in intervention against violence and research on sexualized violence against boys. Panels featured contributions from over ten countries on

UN Youth Forum at CBTB Science and Technology Conference in Vienna, Austria





Participants at the CSSP final partners' meeting in Tirana, Albania



GewaltFREI Leben Forum in Vienna, Austria

conceptions of gender and violence, femicide research, survivors and youth, the role of institutions, service providers and work with perpetrators. Throughout the conference, a closer collaboration and knowledge exchange between academics and professionals was encouraged.

● **11–12 September | Civil Society Strengthening Platform: A two-year partnership (Tirana, Albania)**

The final partners' meeting 'Implementing norms, changing minds. Civil Society Strengthening Platform: A two-year partnership' welcomed 28 participants from all seven partner countries as well as policy makers, such as representatives from the Albanian Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Albanian Ombudsman, Albanian Parliament, Albanian State Police and UN Women. Participants gathered together to reflect on main achievements and lessons learned in the programme's past two years and to showcase any best practice examples or successful stories from the region. Moreover, the meeting also aimed at bridging the gaps between policy makers and women's NGOs to ensure a more effective partnership between the two stakeholders. The first day of the meeting was moderated by GREVIO Vice-President Iris Luarasi and started with a discussion on how to ensure effective partnership between women's NGOs and state institutions. Throughout the session, participants shared advantages and challenges of being part of a network (be it national or regional), the collaboration that partners have with their national institutions, as well as good practice examples when it comes to approaching national governments. The second session welcomed presentations from Serbia and Kosovo, sharing national good practice examples. From 2016–2019, Serbia established seven centres for survivors of sexualized violence, out of which three are currently running in North Serbia as the result of cooperation between the Serbian national government, the women's NGO 'Center for Support of Women' and the UN Trust Fund. The second part of day showcased key deliverables of the CSSP partnership in the past two years: mainly the comparative report on 'The benefits and challenges of women's networks in the Western Balkans and Turkey', prepared by Association Fenomena, Serbia; the lobbying activities for the implementation of the

Istanbul Convention in Bosnia and Herzegovina; the comprehensive report on 'Advancing the Istanbul Convention implementation: The role of women's NGOs and networks in the Western Balkans and Turkey'; and last but not least the results and benefits of the social media cooperation among the CSSP partners.

The second day was reserved for CSSP partners, where partners had the chance to discuss the results of the mapping on sexualized violence services in the Western Balkans and Turkey as well as future possibilities in addressing these gaps. Furthermore, all CSSP partners and other women's NGOs representatives discussed how to further strengthen the CSSP platform, how to further engage in advocacy activities together and what would be more useful to focus on in the upcoming year.

● **16 September | GewaltFREI leben! Expert Forum on the Prevention of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Vienna, Austria)**

GewaltFREI leben! ('Living FREE of Violence!'), the Expert Forum on the Prevention of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, coincided with the week of the International Day of Peace. The aim was to highlight the current state of Austria in the effective prevention of violence against women and domestic violence, as well as the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. The forum was organised by the alliance GewaltFREI Leben, which consists of victim support services and civil society organisations, including Austrian WAVE Members Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre Vienna and Austrian Women's Shelter Network. The role and responsibility of politicians, the judicial system as well as the media were at the forefront of the forum, along with an assessment provided by WAVE Board Member Rosa Logar and former MEP Ulrike Lunacek on what is needed to prevent GBV. The six-hour event was divided into two workshop sessions, with five parallel workshops being conducted during each session; targeting violence against migrant women and girls, sexualized violence, children as victims and witnesses, prevention work, prosecution and more. Around 100 participants attended the forum. WAVE was represented at the Expert Forum on



Cybersafe Steering Committee meeting in Leiden, Netherlands



Austria's interim Federal Minister for Women, Families and Youth Ines Stilling (second from left) and WAVE Member Maria Rösslhuber from Austrian Women's Shelter Network in Vienna, Austria at the Hellwach event

the Prevention of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence by Youth Ambassador Coordinator Beverly Mtui and Office Administrator & Project Assistant Maria Knaub.

● **16–17 September | Cybersafe Steering Committee Meeting (Leiden, Netherlands)** WAVE and CYBERSAFE project partners met in Leiden to discuss the project implementation. Representatives of the University of Ljubljana and the University of Tartu discussed the framework of cyber violence against women and girls. The International Child Development Initiatives (ICDI) updated everyone on their work on the CYBERSAFE toolkit which will include the video game and educational guidelines for facilitators to use. The partners were also able to test a prototype of the game, being developed by Serious Games Interactive (SGI). On the second day, WAVE's Lina Piskernik and Elena Floriani presented on the project's dissemination activities, announcing that several YouTube videos for the project will be created in coordination with WAVE Youth Ambassadors. The University of Tartu also presented and discussed the evaluation plan and procedures to be taken in schools for evaluation of the Cybersafe toolkit. UWAH (Greece), Retesalute (Italy), WSIC (Estonia) and Nexus NI (UK) will be piloting the toolkit in schools in their respective countries.

● **20–22 September | Children living with violence: About children's experiences in families with domestic violence, Nordic Women Against Violence Conference (Copenhagen, Denmark)** The Nordic Women against Violence (NKMV) Conference was hosted by the National Organisation of Women's Shelters in Denmark (LOKK). This annual Conference gathered over 250 participants (mostly women's support services) from the Nordic countries Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The theme this year focused on children's experiences living with violence, including in families with domestic violence. On the first day, the Conference welcomed Mary, the Crown Princess of Denmark, who provided an opening speech. This was followed by the presentation of LOKK's new report 'Consequences of sexual assault on children' in Denmark as

well as a presentation about how children and young people experience negative social control, presented by the Danish Children's telephone helpline. The second day included several opportunities for workshops, such as a workshop held by Allan Wade about recognizing children's resistance to violence, and a workshop about violence and custody rights. Presentations covered topics including infant therapy as a trauma-relieving method and how criminal codes endorse violence against women and children. The third and final day concluded with a presentation about vulnerable children in Greenland, based on research carried out by Else Christensen; trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a consequence of domestic violence which provided an overview of research on the effects PTSD has on women's health; and the consequences of children witnessing their mother's murder (femicide) and how to prepare shelters with appropriate knowledge and tools.

● **21 September | HELLWACH - Matinee at the Vienna State Opera to end violence against women and children (Vienna, Austria)** The Austrian Women's Shelter Network celebrated the International Day of Peace at the Vienna State Opera in cooperation with WAVE. The aim of the event was to highlight the prevalence of violence against women and children in Austria, as well as to shed light on the various forms and dimensions of GBV. The event was dedicated to emphasising both necessity and urgency to provide all people access to living a life free of violence. During the matinee, prominent media and TV personalities from Austria read testimonies of women and children affected by violence. A particularity of the event was the performative reading act 'Hinter der Fassade' (behind the façade) by three actresses of the Junges Volkstheater, Vienna. Additionally, the matinee included artistic performances by mezzo-soprano singer Zoryana Kushpler, member of the Vienna State Opera ensemble, and Argentine Tango duo Gabi Ertl and Jorge Bosicovich. Around 50 guests attended the matinee, including Austria's interim Federal Minister for Women, Families and Youth Ines Stilling and Ulrike Lunacek, politician and former MEP from Austria. During her opening remarks, Maria Rösslhuber, Executive



International Conference against Sexual Violence in Belgrade, Serbia



ILGA-Europe Conference in Prague, Czech Republic

Manager of the Austrian Women's Shelter Network, drew attention to the importance of women's support services as well as the need to allocate sufficient funds for organisations, shelters and centres providing services to women and their children affected by violence. Beverly Mtui, WAVE Youth Ambassador Coordinator, spoke on the complexity of cyber violence and highlighted the importance of ensuring youth inclusion in the fight against GBV as well as effectively incorporating prevention work in education. Both reiterated that political cooperation and civil society participation must be strong pillars in ending VAWG.

● **27–29 September | International Conference against Sexual Violence (Belgrade, Serbia)** The WAVE Network was invited to attend the International Conference against Sexual Violence, hosted by the European Women's Network against Sexual Violence in Belgrade. For three days, 70 participants from different organisations within Europe focused specifically on the topic of sexual violence. The first day included speakers from international institutions and organisations such as the Council of Europe, World of Children, Fundamental Rights Agency, International Society for the prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect and the European Institute for Gender Equality. Sessions focused on international framework and cooperation, diversity issues, child and women human rights defenders, and rape in war.

The second day brought together voices of survivors in the morning session, followed by a session discussing sexual trauma, therapy issues and intervention. Francien Lamers-Winkelmann (Netherlands) discussed new developments in providing therapy to people suffering from adverse childhood experience and in the treatment of complex trauma. Janetta Bos (Netherlands) focused on the topic of disgust as a 'forgotten' emotion in psychiatry; Gita Rajan (Sweden) highlighted her work in a specialist clinic for sexually traumatized patients, including their development of international classification of sexual abuse: Wonsa Sexual Abuse Classification; and Goran Arbanas (Croatia) discussed sexual abuse against psychiatric patients and psychiatric

patients as sexual abuse offenders. Other sessions on the second day included training, supervision and self-care; networking and successful campaigns in the field of sexualized violence; and a lecture on truth and reconciliation by the honorary speaker Judith Lewis Herman.

The third and final day hosted a documentary-style movie called 'Who Will Love Me?' which shared stories of women who experienced abuse by their mother in childhood. This was followed by a presentation by Ulla Lemberg and Joanna Lundquist (Sweden) who discussed a ground-breaking learning game for children between the ages of 8-10 called 'Hidden in the Park'. This game aims to raise awareness against grooming, based on evidence-based research, and provides a first-hand experience of choices and potential negative consequences of online interactions focusing on grooming. It is available for free in Swedish schools and is advised to be used together with guidelines which adults can use to sit down together with children after playing the game to discuss their experiences.

● **18 October | Meeting with Dr. Sylvia Spurek (Brussels, Belgium)** MEP Sylvia Spurek initiated a meeting with WAVE President Pille Tsopp-Pagan to discuss urgent problems and ways of improving rights for women and girls affected by violence in Europe. They discussed the rise of the far-right family support movements and the decrease of funding for women's specialist services. Both agreed to continue working together in order to strengthen feminist voices for a more equal society.

● **23–26 October | ILGA-Europe Conference (Prague, Czech Republic)** The theme of this year's ILGA-Europe Conference was Stronger Together. It was hosted by Prague Pride and gathered approximately 500 participants. Key speakers included Dunja Mijatović, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights; Tomáš Petříček, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic; Marija Golubeva, Member of the Latvian Parliament; and Irena Moozova, Director for Equality and Union Citizenship (European Commission).



DIS.CO Final Dissemination Conference in Vienna, Austria



The 4th World Conference of Women's Shelters in Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Panel discussions and presentations discussed various issues such as new research on violence against LGBTI communities and the backlash against human rights as well as the LGBTIQ community in Europe.

● **28–30 October | Civil Society Forum and Beijing +25 Regional Review Meeting (Geneva, Switzerland)** Along with more than 400 feminists and activists from 45 countries, WAVE President Pille Tsopp-Pagan participated in the Civil Society Forum to establish common feminist priorities and prepare for the Beijing +25 Regional Review Meeting during the next days. A WAVE information stand was set up in order to increase the Network's visibility and distribute its publications. WAVE actively participates in the regional Beijing +25 Working Groups online as well as offline to make sure Members' interests are adequately heard at UN CSW meetings.

● **29 October | UN OSCE Security/Human Dimension Committee meeting (Vienna, Austria)** The OSCE joint meeting of the Security Committee and the Human Dimension Committee was held on the topic of 'Preventing and combating violence against women' in Vienna. WAVE Board Member Branislava Marvánová Vargová joined a panel with GREVIO Vice-President Iris Luarasi and Romanian judge Lorena Tarlion. Vargová gave a presentation on the WAVE Network, stressing the key role of women's support services and further spoke on the impact of the backlash on women rights, women's organisations and on the implementation and ratification of the Istanbul Convention. A side event presented the main findings of the thematic report 'Armed conflict and violence against women' based on the OSCE-led survey on the wellbeing and safety of women.

● **4–5 November | DIS.CO Final Dissemination Conference (Vienna, Austria)** The final dissemination conference for the DIS.CO project titled 'Counselling at a distance – making psychological support services more accessible to all women experiencing gender-based violence' was opened by Chairwoman from the Sub-Committee on Gender Equality for the Council of Europe, Petra Bayr and Nicholas Spetsi-

dis of Union of Women Associations of Heraklion Prefecture. This was followed by an expert panel discussion with Olga Themeli of Crete University, Maria Pentaraki of Queen's University Belfast, Stavros Paralis of Frederick University (Cyprus) and GREVIO Vice-President Iris Luarasi. The conference consisted of a presentation of the DIS.CO e-course, a demonstration of the DIS.CO app and a lively set of workshops. Over 50 students to psychologists and other professionals in the field of counselling at a distance and gender-based violence participated.

● **5–8 November | 4th World Conference of Women's Shelters (Kaohsiung, Taiwan)** The 4th World Conference of Women's Shelters drew over 1,500 participants, including WAVE President Pille Tsopp-Pagan. She spoke in a panel on new methods in shelter management and social work, challenging participants to think outside the box regarding the protection of survivors by reviewing innovative systems and integrating resources and services that meet their diverse needs. Pille Tsopp-Pagan further hosted the European Regional Caucus Meeting, in which information on regional issues were collected by the Global Network of Women's Shelters' team to be further discussed during the next Commission on the Status of Women Conference. WAVE Board Member Rosa Logar hosted a WAVE workshop together with Silvia Menecali of D.i.Re and Leyla Soydinic of Mor Çatı titled 'Worldwide backlash against women's rights and how to counter it'. They spoke about the backlash against abortion and the feminist activities as well as struggles for women's rights in Italy and in Turkey. Rosa Logar summed up their inputs with a short overview on the extreme rights and conservative forces in Europe. This gave way to intense conversations by women from across the globe. Other themes included: art and advocacy, policy and legislation, equality and economic empowerment as well as the reduction of poverty along with discussions on data collection and LGBTQ shelter movements.

● **6 November | High Level Expert Meeting (Brussels, Belgium)** The High-Level Expert Meeting on 'What future for



MARVOW project partners in Vienna, Austria at the Kick-Off Meeting



WAVE Board Members Sari Laaksonen, Pille Tsopp-Pagan and Branislava Marvánová Vargová at the 'Stop the Backlash – Stop Domestic Violence' conference in Helsinki, Finland

victims' rights?', organised by the European Commission, was held on 6 November in Brussels. WAVE Board Member Sari Laaksonen contributed to a vision for victims' rights by presenting the three levels of victims' needs, ranging from the personal to systemic level and the level of statutes with the joint implementation of the Victim's Rights Directive and the Istanbul Convention. The personal level stresses the importance of safety and respect for a survivor of violence. On the systemic level, prevention and access to justice are the main points. Laaksonen also warned about secondary victimization. She elaborated on the synergy of many legal documents, the urgent need to guarantee proper working conditions for specialist NGOs in all the member states and monitoring national and international developments.

● **18 November | FEMM Hearing** For the International Day of the Elimination of Violence against Women, the European Parliament Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM Committee) held a hearing devoted to analysing the current state of violence against women in the EU and to exchange good practices. The event began with an overview of the international legal instruments in fighting VAW, followed by a session taking a closer look at specific cases of the member states' actions against VAW. The hearing included the launch of EIGE's 'Guide to risk assessment and risk management of intimate partner violence against women for police'. WAVE President Pille Tsopp-Pagan spoke about the right-wing backlash which pushes legal reforms that harm women's safety and equality, represses the civic engagement of women's rights organisations and distorts women's rights messaging to the public.

● **18–19 November | MARVOW Kick Off Meeting (Vienna, Austria)** The kick-off meeting of the project MARVOW, Multi-Agency Responses to Violence against Older Women, welcomed 18 participants from Austria, Estonia and Germany. The partners will develop and implement a comprehensive multiagency cooperation model for working with elderly victims of abuse and will work to improve the knowledge of stakeholders in prevention and response. Training materials

and guidelines for replication will be developed and disseminated at local, national and international level, to be accessible to stakeholders across Europe. The project is co-funded by the European Commission.

● **26–27 November | Stop the Backlash, Stop Domestic Violence Conference (Helsinki, Finland)** The conference 'Stop the Backlash – Stop Domestic Violence' was held in Helsinki as an official side event to the Finnish EU-Presidency. It gathered almost 200 participants from 24 European countries, including 70 representatives of national level authorities and EU-level leaders and decision-makers. The conference welcomed several influential speakers, such as Tuula Haatainen, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Finland and President of the Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters; Tarja Halonen, former President of Finland; Neil Datta, Secretary of the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights; Tiina Astola, Director General for Justice and Consumers at the European Commission and GREVIO President Marceline Naudi.

The themes of the conference covered analyzing the anti-gender movement, i.e. the backlash, its consequences, the implementation of the Istanbul Convention as well as an expert panel discussion on ways to stop domestic violence and the backlash in the European Union. The second day tackled the rights of the child and domestic violence as well as the Helsinki Declaration message to the Finnish and Croatian EU presidencies. WAVE President Pille Tsopp-Pagan, together with the General Secretary of The Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters Riitta Särkelä, presented the Helsinki Declaration to the representatives of current and upcoming EU-Presidencies; Finland Minister of Foreign Affairs Pekka Haavisto and Croatia State Secretary and Minister for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy, Marija Pletikosa. The Declaration encourages EU Member States, the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament and European Commission to take urgent and concrete actions against the backlash against women's rights and gender equality.



NANE Women's Rights Association celebrating its 25th anniversary in Budapest

● 9 December | NANE Conference (Budapest, Hungary)

Long-standing WAVE Member NANE Women's Rights Association celebrated its 25th anniversary by organising a one-day conference on 'Safety and protection in the family and in society – 25 years for acting together against violence against women and children' along with PATENT Association. The conference was organised in the European Youth Centre Budapest and welcomed 160 guests, representing civil society organisations, professionals from the public and health care sector, and policy makers from Hungary. Three panels focused on access to justice and protection of rights of victims of VAW and DV, protection and support of children in the context of IPV and on the topic of sexual violence and harassment. The conference ended with two parallel sessions; one on the topic of young people and the role of prevention and the other one focusing on new tools and methods of support for professionals and victims. WAVE's Anca Ciupa presented on the two-years project DIS.CO project. The conference ended with a short celebration, marking 25 years of NANE's existence in Hungary.

3.6. Improving Network Structure

With a strong funding base from the European Commission through the Operating Grant, WAVE has continued to focus on maintaining and improving the overall structure and organisation of WAVE.



From 14–15 January, the WAVE Board met in Vienna for a strategic planning meeting. From this meeting, after input from the Advisory Board and WAVE Office, and with support of an external strategic consultant, a 4-year Strategic Plan was developed. This plan encompasses the time period 2019–2022 and is based on the Theory of Change methodology, with a problem statement, impact

statement, and outcomes for the next four years. The first outcome is that public engagement with the issue of VAWG and its impact on survivors will increase. The second outcome is that political will to implement the IC has increased and more effective protection systems and prevention work against VAWG are in place. The third outcome is that WAVE, as the leading European network organisation in preventing and tackling VAWG, ensures that women's voices are more effectively heard by decision-makers.

On 8 October, a General Assembly was held after the WAVE Conference which allowed Members to approve key activities and financial issues of the Network, as well as to elect a new Board. Information about the new Board can be found in section 3.3 of this report. With the support of new Board Member, Baljit Banga (UK), the WAVE Network will develop an Equality Assessment to aid the Network in achieving better representation of women experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence. This is particularly important as the WAVE Network membership continues to grow (with 14 new Members since last year alone). An [Informational Leaflet](#) was developed, promoting WAVE Members, highlighting the work of WAVE and attracting new Members to the Network.



During Advisory Board Meetings and Board Meetings, issues such as core values of the Network, policies, complaint procedures and political issues were also dealt with. Improving the intergenerational exchange and transfer of knowledge and power were also discussed.

WAVE has also been able to focus on diversification of funding. In 2019, WAVE managed to secure funding from the Oak Foundation. This core funding makes it possible for non-EU countries to actively take part in WAVE activities, which is becoming even more crucial as many countries outside of the EU are unable to access EU funding and as the backlash against women's rights threatens sustainable funding of specialist women's support services. Allowing the participation of WAVE Members outside the EU to join key events ensures that their representation is included in the overall European framework and their voices are heard in the overall European strategy of ending VAWG. Oak Foundation funding also ensures providing critical supplemental funding for carrying out all WAVE activities as well as operational work.

WAVE also continues to receive contributions from Austrian ministries, in addition to continued project funding from UN Women, PMI and Open Society Foundations. WAVE and the Autonomous Women's Shelters Austria (AÖF) started a new campaign on 'Men against male violence' which resulted in the making of an awareness raising video that aims to address male perpetrators of violence. The purpose of the video is to demonstrate the importance of men taking responsibility for their actions by seeking counselling in order

to prevent/end abusive as well as violent behavioural patterns. It was produced by News on Video Austria and in corporation with Austria's umbrella organisation on work with men, young males and fathers (Dachverband für Männer-, Burschen- und Väterarbeit Österreich), men's counselling organisation Vienna (Männerberatung Wien), the NGO poika working with boys and teenagers, and White Ribbon Austria. The goal is to promote gender equality by critically deconstructing masculinities and encouraging non-violent conflict resolutions.

Executive Manager Stephanie Futter-Orel was one of ten around the world to receive the New Executive Manager Fund which supports new managers of organisations to succeed in leadership positions. The funding will resume once Futter-Orel returns from maternity leave in June 2020.

A WAVE Monitoring and Evaluation Plan was developed in 2019 to ensure effective implementation of key outcomes. The internal plan has been left to adjustments and improvements during the year and according to feedback after activity evaluations. It also reflects goals of the WAVE 4-year Strategic Plan and serves to demonstrate how WAVE is making an impact throughout Europe and among its target groups.

3.7. Thematic Working Groups

In April 2016, Advisory Board Members voted on the top three most important issues for the Network to focus on. Gender neutrality, sexualized violence, and the strength-based, needs-led approach were the top three topics as determined by Members. The topic of children's rights was additionally recognized as crucial. Since then, four working groups have carried out extensive work over the years. Below is an update on the developments of each thematic working group.

Gender Neutrality in Women's Specialist Services Working Group

The working group 'Gender Neutrality - Protecting Women's Specialist Services from Gender Neutral Policy and Practice' consists of 19 members. The group met in March in Vienna to discuss the future direction of its actions. The location of the study visit taking place in August was agreed upon and Edinburgh was chosen due to it being the centre of progressive feminist politics in Scotland. There was further discussion during the March meeting regarding the preparation of the handbook. During the study visit, the first two days were used by the five participants to meet with various Scottish feminist activists and scholars while on the third day, Scottish Women's Aid made their facilities available to be used by the working group members to plan the handbook. Since the study visit, the working group has been meeting regularly online to proceed with the planning of the handbook. During the WAVE Conference held in Tallinn in October, working group members had a stand, where information from WAVE Members regarding the effects of gender neutral policies on



Gender Neutrality Working Group members at the in-person meeting in March

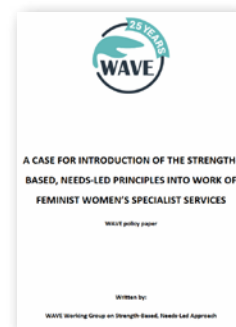
their country's women's support services was collected. By the end of 2019, the chapter summaries of the handbook are in the process of being written.

Children's Rights in Custody and Contact Proceedings Working Group

The working group on 'Children's Rights in Custody and Contact Proceedings' consists of seven members from different European countries. This year, the group was instrumental in lobbying efforts on international level. In April 2019, it was brought to WAVE's attention that the World Health Organisation (WHO) was planning to classify 'parental alienation' as a 'caregiver-child relationship problem' in the International Classification of Diseases 11th Revision (ICD-11). With the working group's expertise, WAVE and the European Women's Lobby prepared a reactionary letter to support a collective memo of concern to the WHO by the Concerned Family Law Academics, Family Violence Experts, Family Violence Research Institutes, Child Development and Child Abuse Experts. The letter was signed by 108 organisations and 36 individuals from 31 countries. Moreover, WAVE and EWL together represented more than 2000 organisations across Europe. The concept of 'parental alienation' was eventually listed as an index term in the new WHO International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11) in connection with 'parent-child relationship disorder'.

Strength-Based, Needs-Led Approach Working Group

The working group on the 'Strength-Based, Needs-Led Approach' is composed of 15 members from eight countries, half of which are European countries. The group had a busy year with several online calls in 2019 to discuss the further activities and draft a work plan for the activities in 2020. The latter encompasses the





Working Group on Sexualized Violence members with Judge Lucia Ruano Rodriguez of the magistrate specialized court on GBV in Madrid, Spain



B.a.B.e. study visit participants at the headquarters of the Autonomous Women's Shelters and Helpline Austria

development of a 'Train the Trainer Programme' including a manual and webinar, a coordination meeting in Vienna and a study visit in a good-practice country of survivor-focused multi-agency work (SFMW). The group wrote a [policy paper](#) titled 'A case for introducing the Strength-Based, Needs-Led principles into the work of feminist Women's Specialist Services'. The policy paper presents the benefits and criticisms of the SBNL approach by reviewing how this all-encompassing perspective complements the grassroots feminist approach to support women victims of gender-based violence. Historically, non-governmental specialist gender-based violence services have delivered a woman-centred, needs-led and strength-based approach rooted in a feminist model of advocacy and empowerment. This perspective recognises domestic abuse as both a cause and consequence of gender inequality and unequal power relations between men and women. The policy paper serves as a concise reference on the approach and outlines a set of policy recommendations to meet the Council of Europe's minimum standards following the SBNL framework in women's support services across Europe.

Working Group on Sexualized Violence

The Working Group on Sexualized Violence has 20 members from 15 European countries (Armenia, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Macedonia, Malta, Portugal, Serbia, Spain and Sweden).

After writing the WGSV Report of Baseline Information on Service Provision for Sexualized Violence within the WAVE Membership in April 2018, it became clear to working group members that a critical issue to focus on within the working group, and the WAVE Network, is rape and consent. The report demonstrated that differences in service provision, perspectives as well as personal opinions regarding sexualized violence are extremely important to highlight in order to better understand the different contexts Member organisations operate in, as well as to facilitate and improve the processes

of experience exchange and mutual learning among Members. With 32 out of 33 Member organisations considering sexualized violence to include rape, it is the most common form of sexualized violence that the WAVE Network organisations deal with in their work. Therefore, the working group decided to assess the different forms of service provision for rape in Europe, including definitions and national legislation, particularly whether consent is a part of the legal framework when handling rape cases.

In February, nine members of the WGSV gathered together in Vienna for a one-day meeting to develop a questionnaire which was sent to WAVE Members by mid-April for responses, and analysis was completed in December. The report will continue to be developed and finalized in early 2020 and will later include case studies.

In addition to Zoom meetings throughout the year with working group members, ten members of the working group met in November in Madrid for a study visit co-organised by WAVE Member Aspacia (see section 3.8 below for more information).

3.8. Study Visit

In 2019, WAVE organised two study visits with WAVE thematic working groups, welcomed three delegations to the WAVE Office from different organisations, and presented at one study visit in Vienna to showcase the Network's activities.

● **26 March | Be Active Be Emancipated Study Visit (Vienna, Austria)** WAVE had the pleasure to facilitate a one-day study visit by a Croatian delegation. The 12-headed group was composed of four representatives of WAVE Member organisation 'B.a.B.e. Be active. Be emancipated', two associates of victim and witness support services, two representatives of the Croatian judicial and police academy, one representative

of the Office for Gender Equality and three volunteers of the national call centre for victims of violence. The main purpose of the visit was to map and outline the characteristics of national systems of EU countries operating women's helplines, to increase overall capacities of project team members as well as volunteers and to secure multiplication of good practice examples. The long-term aim is to establish the first national women's helpline in Croatia.

The delegation was invited to visit Vienna's Women's Emergency Helpline Frauennotruf Stadt Wien. Assistant Director Martina Steiner presented on the structures, underlying ideas and intentions as well as projects of the Women's Department of the City of Vienna. She gave profound insight into the work of the 24-hours women's emergency helpline on intervention and violence prevention, which is part of the department.

Afterwards the delegation was able to look into the work of the Association of Austrian Autonomous Women's Shelters AÖF and the Women's Helpline. Executive Manager Maria Rösslhumer showcased an overview of the Austrian protection and prevention system and provided information on the structure and organisation of the helpline.

In the afternoon, the group met with Madeleine Petrovic with the Section for Women's Affairs and Gender Equality, Violence Prevention and Women's Legislation of the Federal Chancellery Austria. She provided a historic outline of the Austrian Federal Chancellery and focused on the development of the Ministry for Women's Affairs, highlighting current legislation, strategies and policies on preventing violence against women in Austria.

● **28–30 August | Gender Neutrality WG Study Visit (Edinburgh, Scotland)** The Gender Neutrality working group was hosted by Scottish Women's Aid in Edinburgh for their first study visit. Five members of the working group (from Belgium, Estonia, Italy and the UK) were in attendance. The gender neutrality working group is working with the topic of protecting women's specialist services from gender neutral policy and practice. Scotland's approach to tackling violence against women and the benefits of a gendered approach to policy making has been noted as a best practice example by the working group. Scottish Women's Aid organised two days of events which assisted the gender neutrality working group in planning the WAVE Handbook, which is set to be published in August 2020.

The first day was spent in Glasgow at a mini conference organised by Scottish Women's Aid. Shirley Ann Sommerville, Cabinet Secretary for Equalities, kicked off the meeting by emphasising the gendered way in which every law that is passed should be considered. Every law should, from the very beginning, be analysed to make the lawmakers consider how women will be affected by it. She finished her speech by giving the following advice: 'Be open and accessible but never give up on your beliefs, whether the government likes it or not.' The Executive Director of Engender, Emma Ritch, stressed the importance of women's rights advocacy across



Gender Neutrality working group members meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland for the Study Visit

borders. She explained the dynamics of the feminist organisations cooperating with the government to achieve the radical changes that are needed to make Scotland a better place to live for women. 'When women's organisations collaborate with governments, that's when the most radical policies come out.' The conference was closed by Scottish feminist historian, Lesley Orr, who gave the participants a quick overview of the women's movement in Scotland, where she concentrated on how women's organisations collaborated with political activists. This has led to many feminist activists being able to find jobs in the Scottish Parliament, which was established in 1999.

The second day of the study visit began at the Scottish Women's Aid headquarters in Edinburgh, where the working group was able to meet with Gender Equal Media Scotland (GEMS), which is transforming Scotland's media through feminist research, journalism and campaigning. Representatives from Rape Crisis Scotland and Zero Tolerance, as well as Karen Boyle, the founder of GEMS, deliberated on the situation of media in Scotland and how the organisation engages with journalists. GEMS is also developing an online course on gender and media, launching in January 2020.



Working Group on Sexualized Violence at the GBV Coordination Unit, General Directorate of Equality of Madrid's Government



Working Group on Sexualized Violence study visit participants at the specialized GBV police unit, Group Luna in Madrid, Spain

The afternoon was spent at the University of Edinburgh where the working group was able to connect with academics who shared their experiences in partnering with feminist organisations to strengthen and support calls for gendered policy in Scotland. Professor John Devaney, Head of Social Work at the University of Edinburgh, illustrated the importance of alliances across academia and civil society organisations. Claire Houghton, Gender and Violence Fellow, demonstrated how alliances between women's and children's organisations created a synergy where both organisations benefited. Meanwhile, Professor Sharon Cowan, Professor of Feminist and Queer Legal Studies at University of Edinburgh, talked to the working group about the Scottish Feminist Judgements Project, which reimagines processes and outcomes of key cases through a feminist lens.

On the last day of the visit, Scottish Women's Aid made their meeting room available to the working group, where the group was able to spend some time planning the upcoming handbook on protecting women's specialist services from gender neutral policy and practice.

● **4–5 November | Working Group on Sexualized Violence Study Visit (Madrid, Spain)** Ten members of the WAVE Working Group on Sexualized Violence met in Madrid for a two-day study visit. Participants came from Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Ireland, Malta, Portugal, Serbia, Spain and Sweden. As one of the first European countries to introduce a specific framework law on gender-based violence (the Organic Law 1/2004 on Integrated Protection Measures against Gender Violence) Spain was determined as a suitable location for delegates to learn from. During this time, participants were able to better understand the Spanish model towards preventing GBV and protecting victims, including victims of sexualized violence. Participants received in-depth knowledge of how institutions and organisations are implementing unique measures to combat GBV, as well as what could be improved.

Participants began the Study Visit at the GBV Coordination Unit, General Directorate of Equality of Madrid's Government. During this visit, participants learned of how the region of Madrid is implementing measures to support and protect victims of GBV, including the several different non-residential and residential services which specialize in various forms of violence against women. Following this, participants visited WAVE Member office Aspacia, to better understand how Spanish law is implemented, including how different agencies such as the police work with organisations to ensure effective protection. Specifics of Spanish law regarding sexualized violence were clarified, and shortcomings were explained, such as limits of the health system in providing forensics.

The Cimascam Sexual Assault Center (which provides support such as general counselling, legal assistance during the judicial procedures and treatment for complete recovery, training, awareness activities, and psychological care to victim of sexualized violence) welcomed the delegation to their center in the afternoon. In addition to offering a brief tour of the facilities, participants got to ask questions specifically about the centre's specialized work in the field of supporting victims of sexualized violence as well as Spanish definitions and procedures for violations of various forms of sexualized violence. It was learned here the shortcomings of definitions regarding sexualized violence in Spain, such as the definition of rape, which requires the use of 'violence or intimidation'.

Interestingly, this same evening there was a public protest in the centre of Madrid (on 4 Monday, November) which participants of the working group attended. Hundreds of protesters gathered after a Barcelona court cleared five men of sexual assault charges, ruling that the crime did not fit the legal definition of rape because the unconscious teenage victim did not fight back.

On the second day, participants were welcomed by the specialized GBV police unit, Grupo Luna, which is renowned for its specialist and coordinated model focusing on supporting

victims of GBV. Participants learned about the structure of Grupo Luna, how risk assessment is carried out, how the police cooperates with other agencies in the city, how staff are trained on the topic of GBV, the process for instituting emergency barring orders, and how the police unit engages with campaigning and awareness-raising to combat stereotypes which perpetuate GBV in the region. Afterwards, participants visited the magistrate specialized court on gender-based violence. Judge Lucia Ruano Rodriguez offered important insight into the functioning of Madrid's specialized court, highlighting great achievements during her time serving as a feminist judge in Spain, but also challenges which need to be overcome, particularly as societal norms and practices evolve.

● **6 November | Collaboration Visit from Ni Una Menos and WAVE Office (Vienna, Austria)** Representative of Ni Una Menos Austria visited the WAVE Office. This grassroots feminist movement was born in Argentina and has spread across several Latin American countries and overseas too, campaigning against gender-based violence, particularly against femicide. The meeting was a productive networking chance, as both WAVE and Ni Una Menos are active in the same field and have an international approach. Ni Una Menos invited WAVE to participate in a World-Café, organised on 25 November, on occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

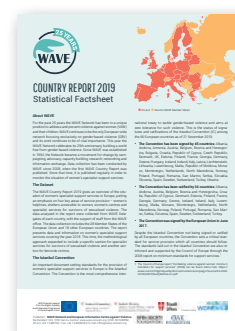
● **11 November | Meeting with HeForShe Vienna and WAVE Office (Vienna, Austria)** Members of the WAVE Office met with Olivia Schneider, Project Coordinator and Board member of HeForShe Vienna, to discuss potential collaboration in the near future. What ensued was a fruitful discussion, sharing ideas on how to involve more men in the fight against violence against women. There was also brainstorming on how the two organisations can collaborate on an event in the future to further promote activities of the Step Up! Campaign.

● **21 November | Study Visit with UN Women Serbia (Vienna, Austria)** Anca Ciupa presented WAVE during a study visit organised by the UN Women Serbia office titled 'Inte-

grated Response to Violence against Women'. The study visit brought together 17 participants from different stakeholders in Serbia such as national policy makers from the Gender Equality Coordinating Body and Provincial Secretariat in Novi Sad, legal professionals, representatives of the police, and women's NGOs. Anca Ciupa held a presentation on the aims and activities of the WAVE Network, the different membership criteria to become a WAVE Member and the different projects that WAVE is currently involved in. One of the mentioned projects was the UN Women/EU three-year programme 'Implementing norms, changing minds' which aims at ending gender-based discrimination and violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey. Furthermore, she also mentioned the partnerships established by WAVE with the Council of Europe in preparing an online tool on VAW and domestic violence for legal professionals or the European Coalition to end VAW convened by European Women's Lobby. Lastly, the presentation discussed the lack of sexualized violence services in the Western Balkans and Turkey and some of the challenges faced Europe-wide in implementing the Istanbul Convention.

3.9. WAVE Statistics

The [WAVE Statistical Factsheet 2019](#) is based on data collected for the WAVE Country Report 2019. The report presents data and information on women's specialist support services covering the year 2018. The factsheet gives an overview of the situation of women's specialist support services in Europe, putting an emphasis on four key areas of service provision – women's helplines, shelters accessible to women, women's centres and specialist services for survivors of sexualized violence.

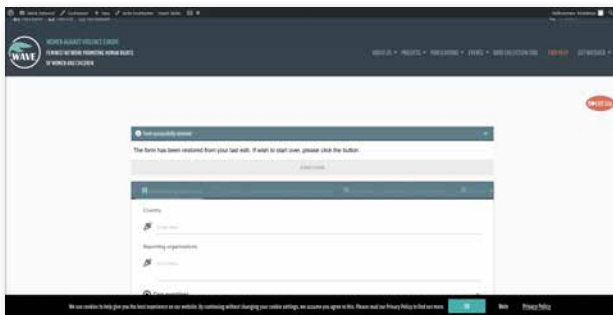


The data collection includes the 28 member states of the European Union and 18 other European countries. This time, the methodological approach expanded to include a specific section for specialist services for survivors of sexualized violence and another section for femicide victims.

The data analysis shows that 75% of EU countries and 78% of countries outside the EU have at least one national women's helpline. Furthermore, although shelter accommodation is available in a wide number of European countries, most nevertheless fall short of Istanbul Convention requirements. Data collected from 46 European countries shows that 62% of needed beds are missing. In EU member states, 51% of needed beds are currently missing, while in the other European countries outside of the EU, 79% of beds are missing. Overall there is a wide variety of women's centres throughout Europe, amounting to at least 3,323 women's centres. 42 European countries have at least one women's centre, while four countries do not have any specialised women's centres.

HeForShe Vienna visit in the WAVE Office on 11 November





View of the online Data Collection Tool

3.10. Data Collection Tool

The new online tool developed by WAVE collects data that is presented and analysed in the [WAVE Country Report 2019](#). The Data Collection Tool was first used for the previous Country Report published by WAVE in March 2018 and is a critical resource for harmonized European data collection by specialist women's support services throughout 46 European countries. Since then the online tool was completely redesigned, to make it more user-friendly. In addition to this, the number of sections and questions included in the online questionnaire were also shortened and reformulated, to make the data and information requests more explicit and concise. This was done to facilitate the data collection process and ensure that more countries can submit replies to the questionnaire and provide updated data on the number of services for specialist women's support services.

The new online tool consists of six sections and four introductory questions. Sections are divided into core and additional questions, to highlight which questions are to be prioritized by the responders, in case of insufficient data or available human resources to gather the information and fill out the questionnaire. The entire online questionnaire consists of 47 questions, many of these with multiple choice answers. As in previous years, service and user statistics on women's shelters, women's helplines and women's centres were collected, as well as a new section on specialist services for survivors of sexualized violence and femicide.

Before starting the actual data collection process for the report, the online data collection tool was piloted in four countries (Albania, England, Georgia and Spain). The aim of this was to gather feedback from the country delegates who are primarily responsible for submitting replies to the online questionnaire. Thanks to the pilot phase, it was possible to make further improvements to the structure of the sections and formulation of questions, and ensure the questionnaire is concise yet comprehensive at the same time.

The questionnaire was then submitted to all WAVE Member countries in the summer of 2019, and from the data collected, country profiles and an analysis were developed by December to form the WAVE Country Report 2019.



Participants at the Multidisciplinary Training in Vienna, Austria

3.11. Multidisciplinary Training

From 5–6 September, the WAVE Network, together with the Finnish organisation Empowering Old Age Coop (VoiVa), carried out the Multidisciplinary Training 'Strengthening co-operation between specialist women's support services and the health sector in effectively responding to elder abuse'. This was a two-day interactive training and brought together professionals primarily from the specialist women's support service sector, in addition to some participants from the health sector. In total there were 27 participants from 16 European countries (eight EU countries).

The morning of the first day focused on reviewing the pre-evaluation results from participants and addressing stereotypes and ageist attitudes pertaining to older people and violence against older persons. Participants discussed good practices such as legislation and policies in place to prevent elder abuse or help in intervention. This was followed by an





Participants of the WAVE Training Institute in Bratislava, Slovakia



introduction to the multidisciplinary perspective on prevention of violence against older persons.

The afternoon discussed how to identify violence against older women, which included using a SWOT analysis within the context of group work based on a case study. Barriers to help-seeking and help-giving were also addressed, with group work utilizing the World Café exercise based on a case study. Routinely throughout the day, participants were asked to reflect on their own professional roles when relating to the material.

The second day of the training looked more closely at screening and disclosure of violence among older persons in the emergency department. A socio-drama exercise helped demonstrate how emergency services can impact an older persons' experience in receiving support, and the ways in which health settings can improve. A role-play exercise based on a case study helped participants to understand safety-planning with older women and the ways in which safety-planning for older women may differ than usual safety-planning with younger women.

Finally, the training concluded with ways in which participants can build multi-agency cooperation and trust to develop age-friendly shelter and domestic violence services. This portion of the training included a stakeholder mapping exercise.

3.12. WAVE Training Institute

This year, the WAVE Training Institute took place in Bratislava, Slovakia from 13–15 November and was dedicated to 'effective campaigning strategies, advocacy and defending human rights defenders'. The 22 participants included campaigners of the WAVE Step Up! Campaign as well as those interested in becoming part of the campaign. The training was coached by Jernej Verbič, Managing Partner & Content Strategist of the Slovenian company Dobre zgodbe. Day one was divided

into a lecture, workshop and presentation on storytelling and its importance in the context of NGOs, and concluded with a debate on possibilities to neutralize extremist discourse with stories, as well as an exchange of experiences by the participants. Day two was dedicated to a more concrete campaign focused approach by sharing case studies on turning campaigns into movements. The participants were later joined by Dionyz Hochel and Sona Mellak, two representatives of the European Parliament Liaison Office in Bratislava, who shared results and outcomes of the successful campaign 'This Time I'm Voting'. The last day of the training was facilitated by Katarina Višnar, Campaign Coordinator, to plan and discuss the progress of the Step Up! Campaign, including on how to best incorporate the WAVE Youth Ambassadors. Beverly Mtui, WAVE Youth Ambassador Coordinator, and Alicja Switon, interim Executive Manager, participated at the training as well.

3.13. Step Up! Campaign

In 2019, WAVE's Step Up! Campaign gathered 23 European countries, which is the highest number of WAVE Member countries taking part in the campaign since its start in 2016. Three strategic priorities, defined in 2017–2018, were covered through European-wide campaigning activities, namely: Campaigning for maintaining and improving women's specialist services through adequate funding, mainstreaming of the Istanbul Convention and improving prevention of violence against women through involving young people.

The campaigning team worked successfully on connecting the new logo, commissioned in 2018, with the campaign's key messages. A 6-page interactive [campaigning leaflet](#) was published both physically and online and further translated into Italian.

New merchandise was designed and distributed at events throughout the year. Colorful t-shirts, hoodies, tote bags featuring a SHERO design by Finnish artist Maria Laakso as



New Step Up! Campaign T-shirts



President of the Republic of Estonia Kersti Kaljulaid sporting the Step Up! Campaign look

well as stickers and postcards met with enthusiastic response across Europe.

Throughout the year, campaign actions were organised around significant international dates. On International Women's Day, the campaign highlighted the historical continuity of the international feminist struggle for women's rights and the overall importance of women's specialist services.

Campaigning activities in spring focused on women's rights within the framework of EU elections. Questionnaires were sent to European Parliament candidates in EU countries to map their positions on women's rights.

The summer was particularly productive. During the Peace Day Action Week, campaigners wrote a 4-page [educational leaflet](#) answering the questions 'What is sexual violence? What is consent?'. It is written in simple language, aiming at the broad public as the target



group. It was met with much interest and disseminated widely. So far, the leaflet has been translated into 17 languages of the campaigning countries. It was simultaneously published and distributed in campaigning countries, both physically and online during the action week, and will be used in future activities.

Fall was dedicated to the 16 Days of Activism against VAW with various interactive events by campaigning organisations. Simultaneously, WAVE Office curated and opened the SHERO exhibition in Amazone Centre in Brussels on 3 December. It showcases the original artwork that is collected and published in WAVE's successful [SHERO brochure](#), freely available on the website. In a warm, feminist, friendly and welcoming atmosphere, the visitors were greeted by the president of the board of Amazone Centre, Valerie Tanghe, as well as by the WAVE Network interim Executive Manager, Alicja Switon. Both emphasized the need to establish new alliances and reach across the



WAVE Step Up! Campaign leaflet on sexual violence and consent



SHERO exhibition in Amazone Centre in Brussels



The first generation of WAVE Youth Ambassadors meeting in June in Vienna, Austria

field. The exhibition is a way to open new collaborations among dedicated feminists in ending violence against women. Before Brussels, the exhibition was also shortly hosted in Vilnius, Lithuania (4–5 October) and in Tallinn, Estonia (6–9 October) as conference side events.

The Step Up! Campaign was further instrumental in the organisation of the WAVE Training Institute, focusing on effective campaigning strategies, advocacy and defending human rights defenders.

3.14. Youth Ambassadors

Since October 2018, the WAVE Youth Ambassadors support the Step Up! Campaign in mobilizing and encouraging young people to raise awareness of the human rights violation that is violence against women and girls. This year, the aim was to increase efforts to target the youth across Europe and highlight topics such as gender equality, women's rights, empowerment of women and girls, and feminisms. The ten ambassadors who are representing both EU (six) as well as non-EU countries (four) form a conscious, open-minded and critical peer group. As a new group of ambassadors is chosen every two years, the first generation of WAVE Youth Ambassadors continues until 2020.

The ambassadors contribute to the strategic development and practical implementation of the Step Up! Campaign by developing actions and activities to promote youth engagement, youth participation, youth campaigning and youth inclusion within the context of preventing gender-based violence and discrimination. The ambassadors create independently as well as in a team engaging contributions and audio-visual material to challenge inequality and shed light on the importance of standing together and demanding change. Resources and information, such as data and statistics, from the WAVE Network, the Step Up! Campaign and its campaigners as well as from other affiliated projects or organisations are effectively implemented to become more



WAVE Youth Ambassador Anita Pavić from UK/Croatia for the awareness raising social media action on International Women's Day

accessible for young people. All of the content created is published and disseminated on Facebook ([WAVE, Step Up! Campaign](#)), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) as well as the WAVE Website. In addition to that, the ambassadors initiated their own bi-weekly column series on the WAVE Blog entitled '[Speak up to Step Up!](#)' to share their opinion on the state of gender equality in their respective countries and experiences with activism, youth engagement and more. This year, the aim was thus to create a strong online presence to reach and engage as many people, specifically young people, as possible. In 2020, a more proactive approach is intended in order to strengthen the platform created by our ambassadors and turning it into a movement and a support system for other young people across Europe. Therefore, local events targeting youth are planned to be conducted by some of the ambassadors in their respective countries.

Young people and political engagement

For International Women's Day, the ambassadors highlighted the importance of political engagement through self-made contributions (seven videos and three written statements) and discussed the responsibility of young citizens to use their right to vote. This action was particularly successful, as two videos generated up to more than [600 views](#). In May, before the EU parliament elections 2019, the ambassadors interviewed young people in their respective countries about the importance of voting, particularly their role and responsibility in voting during the EU parliamentary elections. For this action, the focus was put on more proactively talking to and engaging with young people. The interviews were shared on social media, where some of them generated around [800 views](#) or [even more](#). These numbers evidently reflect that the public does not only have great interest in listening to the voices of young people, but there are also many motivated and engaged young people who view it as a necessity to share their opinion in order to act as catalyst of positive change. Two of our ten ambassadors, Mirta Bašelović from Croatia and Antonella Crichigno from Italy with support of the Italian Step Up! campaigners,

managed to each interview a politically influential figure of their respective country. **Bojan Glavašević**, a representative in the Croatian Parliament who works closely with the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual & Reproductive Rights and **Francesca Puglisi**, former Senator of the Italian Republic and member of the Democratic Party in Italy, were asked about current issues regarding the limitation of women's rights.

Increasing visibility of the WAVE Network and its organisations, and promoting interaction

The WAVE Youth Ambassadors acted as advocates for youth engagement in numerous events in their respective countries and across Europe. The aim of including youth campaigning in the Step Up! Campaign is to not only reach young people on social media and amplify youth voices on the digital sphere, but to also have the ambassadors' work and outputs be presented on public events to increase visibility of the Network, the campaign as well as the cause, and spark even greater conversation. The WAVE Youth Ambassadors are considered a great gain to network and campaign, as they effectively adapt and implement relevant information in such ways that they are accessible to young people. This was particularly successful during the week of the International Peace Day, during which the ambassadors collaborated with the Step Up! Campaign campaigners as well as the Working Group on Sexualized Violence. To promote the info-leaflet 'What is sexual violence? What is consent?' the ambassadors created animations including different analogies of what consent means. The animation intended to debunk common misconception about consent and sexual violence. They were disseminated on social media with the first animation generating more than **1400 views**.

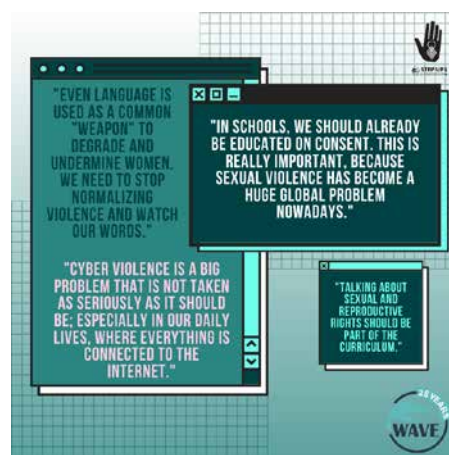
Starting a discussion and encouraging young people to become multipliers of effective change

Another task the WAVE Youth Ambassadors completed was the thematic group work. Its aim was to highlight the knowledge of young people across Europe on topics related to gender-based violence along with their needs for violence prevention. Through brief questionnaires, the ambassadors reached a total of 183 young people (16–27 years old) living in Estonia, Portugal, Spain, England, North Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Italy and Kosovo. The results were published during the 16 Days of Activism on all of WAVE's social media accounts. The thematic group work allowed the ambassadors to obtain nationally diverse responses

and focus on the differences as well as similarities of their respective countries. The topics of the questionnaire were cyber violence, sexual violence & consent and sexual & reproductive rights, and were divided amongst the ambassadors. The high number of young people that replied to the questionnaires shows the outreach the WAVE Youth Ambassadors have. It is important to build on that by establishing an even stronger connection with young people across Europe in the next year and continue to support them in raising their voices.

#YouthVoices

Cyber violence	Sexual Violence & Consent	Sexual & Reproductive Rights
<p>“ We should empower young people to act against cyber violence. For that, we need to be trained and educated.</p>	<p>“ I love that the topic “consent” is being raised globally to address communities all around the world, but we have still quite a long way to go.</p>	<p>“ No sex ed? No contraception? No choice? Astounding with how much blame and shame women are still confronted. This must stop.</p>
<p>“ I think cyber violence is more difficult to deal with than other kinds of violence, because people tend to think they can do whatever they want online, even if it means they will hurt someone.</p>	<p>“ It is important to educate parents, at first, in order to speak with their children about this problem. They should have an open relationship, as children need to feel safe and protected when they speak with their parents, not fear them. Secondly, it is necessary to organize workshops about the topic through peer education in schools.</p>	<p>“ People should really be informed about their sexual and reproductive rights, and understand that they are human rights too.</p>



3.15. Policy Work & Lobbying

WAVE continued lobbying and monitoring at the European and international level in 2019, with an even stronger focus on addressing the backlash towards women's rights and the impact of gender neutrality on WAVE Members. Strong cases were also made for introducing strength-based, needs-led principles into the work of women's specialist services and against classifying 'parental alienation' as a 'caregiver-child relationship problem' by the World Health Organization. More information in section 3.7 above.

Most policy work and lobbying focused on promoting the effective implementation of the Istanbul Convention, but also to addressing misinformation surrounding the Istanbul Convention in some countries. There has recently been a trend in several European countries towards retracting signatures of the Istanbul Convention based on false information about the Convention. The WAVE Network has therefore made it a mission in 2019 to re-frame anti-VAWG messages spread by conservative/right-wing groups by creating and disseminating positive messages about how the Istanbul Convention (and other key international legal frameworks) protect women from violence and empower them – while protecting also all people from violence, including men. The aim is to also increase awareness among the broader population about the topic and to make messages and values about the Convention accessible to the general public.

For instance, as part of the project CSSP positive messaging campaign on the Istanbul Convention launched in the Western Balkans, Turkey and across Europe, nine important articles from the Istanbul Convention were launched. Positive messaging focused on the following articles: Article 1 (Purpose of the Convention); Article 3 (Definitions); Article 4 (Fundamental rights, equality and non-discrimination); Article 6 (Gender-sensitive policies); Article 8 (Financial resources); Article 9 (NGOs and civil society); Article 22 (Specialist support services); and Article 59 (Residence status). The campaign was organised by Serbian CSSP partner Fenomena and WAVE. Its aim was to educate constituents from the Western Balkans and Turkey about the positive effects which the Istanbul Convention could have on their lives once it is implemented in their country. All CSSP partners took part, meaning that the campaign reached Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey. WAVE also participated in the dissemination, which led to the messages being spread across Europe as well.

The materials are now available in English, Albanian, Bosnian, Macedonian, Serbian and Turkish.

Another key issue in 2019 for the women's movement was the European Parliamentary elections from 23-26 May, as the election would have a significant influence on the future of women's human rights in the EU. WAVE urged its membership to engage in the campaigning process for encouraging people to vote in the elections, particularly during such a time with the rise of right-wing political parties that are promoting anti-democratic, anti-feminist agendas, threatening the very core of democracy including human rights and gender equality principles. These destructive developments have led to an increasing backlash against women's human rights and against the Istanbul Convention. The WAVE Network shared this initiative on social media using the hashtags #EP2019 and #FutureofEurope and encouraged all to join the EU non-partisan campaign 'This Time I'm Voting'.

WAVE also used its European platform to promote other initiatives which safeguard human rights. In January, WAVE supported the call from women and LGBTI organisations in Turkey to nominate Professor Feride Acar to GREVIO; in June, WAVE encouraged Members to join the Network in signing the petition to defend the Khachaturyan sisters from Russia; WAVE called for experts to share input on a draft of the Russian Domestic Violence Law in August; and in November, the Network drew attention to the Global Signature Campaign

against GBV launched by the Association Concerning Sexual Violence against Women.

Importantly, WAVE has provided feedback on the EC Gender Equality Strategy 2020–2023. By working closely with the European Commission, in particular Policy Officer of the Gender Equality Unit of the European Commission Halliki Voolma, WAVE is active in influencing gender mainstreaming within Europe, including relevant strategies and policies which will impact women in the EU. The conference, 'Stop the Backlash – Stop Domestic Violence' in Helsinki in November was co-organised by WAVE together with the Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters, as a side event of the official programme of the Finnish EU Presidency. The aim of the conference was to make the ongoing backlash in Europe visible and to show decisionmakers that this needs urgent actions throughout Europe. The conference was for decisionmakers at EU and member state level, European NGOs and Finnish participants, by invitation.





WAVE Conference participants enjoying the first day of the Conference in Tallinn, Estonia



WAVE President Pille Tsopp-Pagan at the WAVE Conference

3.16. 21st WAVE Conference

The 21st WAVE Conference '25 years of defending women's human rights: Milestones and visions for the future' took place in Tallinn, Estonia, from 7–9 October 2019. The conference welcomed a total of 186 participants from 42 European countries and the United States. The conference was spread over three days, the first two days being dedicated to the general public, while the last day was strictly for WAVE Advisory Board Members. The event was kicked off on 6 October, where participants had the chance to informally meet for a pre-conference welcome drink.

The conference was officially opened on the first public day, 7 October, with a speech by Kersti Kaljulaid, the President of the Republic of Estonia. She acknowledged the growth of WAVE as a reflection of a growing consciousness to recognize domestic violence and violence against women as a societal problem. The morning further continued with keynote speeches by WAVE President Pille Tsopp-Pagan, Policy Officer of the Gender Equality Unit of the European Commis-

sion Halliki Voolma and GREVIO President Marceline Naudi. The first session finished with a celebration of WAVE's 25-years anniversary, bringing together eleven voices from WAVE co-founders and Members that stated what being a WAVE Member meant to them. The following panel focused on good practices of defending women's rights by connecting the experiences of survivors, migrant women and the shelter movement. The afternoon continued with four simultaneous workshops, one on 'Effectively fighting sexual violence', the second one on 'Promoting young people as human rights defenders', the third on 'Beyond GREVIO: What's after monitoring?' and the final one on 'The strength-based needs-led approach to support women experiencing gender-based violence'. The day ended with a panel on 'Movement building for effective advocacy for women's rights'. Dejana Stošić, Youth Ambassador for Serbia and Beverly Mtui, WAVE's Youth Ambassador Coordinator, spoke on the importance of engaging young people; Marta Lempart of the Polish Women's Strike shared her experience in fighting the backlash in Poland, while Anna Pramstrahler elaborated on feminist movements in Italy. The first day ended with a fringe meeting for the WAVE Step Up! Campaign for WAVE campaigners and an optional guided tour through Tallinn's old town.



The second public day of the conference on 8 October started with a panel on 'Effective tools to tackle the backlash against women's rights', focusing on strategies to combat the radical right with an emphasis on Central Eastern Europe, the Balkan and Baltic States, as well as engaging non-traditional allies by the Cyprian example. The day continued with four simultaneous workshops on 'Protecting reproductive rights in Europe', 'Under-addressed forms of violence against women', 'The effects of gender-neutral policies on women's support services' and 'Self-care and sustainability'. The second workshop session in the afternoon tackled workshops on 'Cyber Violence against women and girls', 'Safeguarding migrant women's rights', 'Practical and legal applications of child custody proceedings' and 'Best practices for survivor-focused health care.' The day ended



WAVE Conference participants in Tallinn, Estonia



WAVE 25-year anniversary celebrations

with the WAVE General Assembly, open for all WAVE Members, and the election of the new WAVE Board. All participants were further invited to reflect on the conference and celebrate WAVE's achievements at the WAVE 25-year anniversary party in the evening.

This year the WAVE party was not only a convivial event concluding a successful and enriching Conference, but also the celebration of WAVE's jubilee. Around 100 conference participants joined the party, which took place all night. The celebration included a dinner, a 'birthday' cake, feminist decorations, a background wall for pictures and photo booth props. Three female Estonian DJs played during the party and one photographer was present as well.

The third day of the conference was specifically dedicated to the WAVE Advisory Board. The half day meeting included topics such as organising an alliance against the radical right, WAVE's cooperation and partnerships with other networks, the European Commission's Gender Equality Strategy and an overview of WAVE's 4-year strategic plan.

3.17. WAVE Information Center

The WAVE Information Center is an essential component of the WAVE Network. WAVE staff are available Monday-Friday to provide information on available services for women survivors of violence in 46 European countries, refer individuals to relevant contacts (service providers, experts and academics) in Europe, and support WAVE Members with their inquiries. The Information Center, represented by a dedicated section of the WAVE Website, can be reached by e-mail, phone and through social media.

Each month, WAVE receives cross-border support requests from women survivors of violence, or from family members of the survivors, from women's support service, or from different institutions. The requests are often received when women have not been able to find sufficient support in their

own countries, are in dangerous and high-risk situations, are not aware of the support provided in their countries, or the situation is especially complex and requires cross-border assistance. In such cases, WAVE has served both to refer the survivors to appropriate services in the relevant countries, and to provide support to survivors, whenever possible. In 2019, WAVE handled 30 help requests, mostly cross-border cases.

In many cases, situations involve women needing to relocate to other countries to escape violence as well as to seek support such as shelters or counselling. Therefore, WAVE initiates contacts with relevant women's organisations or authorities to provide the necessary support to women. In some cases, WAVE often remains involved throughout the case to ensure the woman's safety and a positive outcome. The cases in 2019 varied and included women from various countries not only in Europe but around the world.

The Information Center also responds to information requests from experts and academics, women's and other civil society organisations, and from the general public. These include requests for specific information on WAVE's publications and work, internship and partnership requests, and communication with international and European institutions. WAVE also provides information for professionals from different organisations who are seeking information for victims (e.g. legal and migrant processes), responds to questionnaires and surveys, and contacts colleagues in other countries for cross-country cooperation and exchange. In addition, an important aspect of the work of the Center is to provide information and support to all WAVE Members and to ensure that all are consistently kept updates on various activities and developments.

3.18. Database

The WAVE Database on women's specialist support services includes approximately 1,550 services throughout Europe, covering women's shelters, women's helplines, women's centres and counselling centres in 46 European countries. Useful information about these services, such as contact details, addresses, and other relevant information, are available on the WAVE Website and can be easily found by anyone who is interested. The Database encompasses information collected by WAVE through its Member organisations and is regularly updated. The search engine is user-friendly, as has been modernised together with the new WAVE Website in 2017. The Database is a useful resource for women affected by gender-based violence, women's organisations, and practitioners working in the field.

3.19. Information Dissemination & Social Media & Awareness-Raising

WAVE is active on four social media platforms: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#). These platforms have proven vital to disseminating information on GBV to the public, academics, organisations and stakeholders, as well as to display solidarity to all women survivors of violence at a European and international level. Every day, new posts are shared on social media platforms, which promote not only the work and activities of WAVE, but also the activism of WAVE Members and any relevant campaigns and articles on research on GBV.

The number of people reached and interaction via all social media channels continues to drastically increase. As of December 2019, the WAVE Facebook page has 5,211 followers, while Twitter attracted 2,469 followers and Instagram has 1,241 followers. The WAVE Website has welcomed 156,416 visits in 2019, with a peak of 24,237 visits in July.

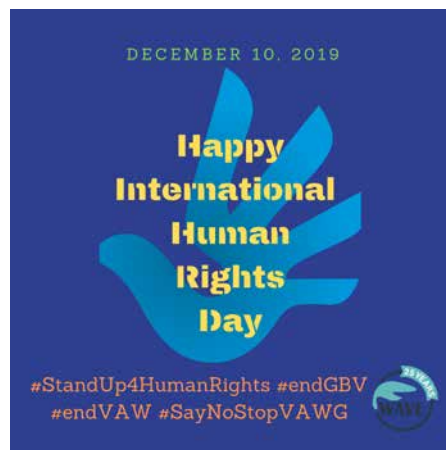
In general, the WAVE Facebook account has enjoyed a total increase in 920 followers since 1 January 2019. Most WAVE projects, exempting CSSP and MARVOW, also have their own Facebook pages. These Facebook pages are primarily used to disseminate information about the topics of the projects, such as elderly abuse (TISOVA) or cyber violence

against women (CYBERSAFE). WAVE shares all contributions from these Facebook pages as well as contributing at least one post per day about a wide-range of topics such as the ratification of the Istanbul Convention in a country, an international conference on sexual violence against women held in Kurdistan or how virginity testing is used to shame and control women.

For instance, the Cybersafe project social media includes [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). Cybersafe adhered to the Anti-Bullying Week 2019 from 11-15 November, posting every day the content created by the Anti-Bullying Alliance. 2,232 people were reached on the Cybersafe Facebook page with this campaign alone. Some of the hashtags used on Cybersafe social media are #endcyberVAWG and #CYBERSAFESpace. More than fifty stakeholders in Cybersafe partner countries were contacted to be informed about the project, and many of them started following the project social media and asked to be updated on the project outputs. Furthermore, WAVE acts as the dissemination partner of MARVOW, a European project that aims to tackle abuse against elderly women and developing practical tools for people working with the elderly. This project does not have its own social media pages; therefore, WAVE is sharing news about MARVOW on its own social media. The project partners are carrying out a social media campaign together, which started at the end of December with the first press release and the first social media post, introducing the project to the public.

WAVE has made an effort to become more intersectional by being determined to not primarily post about white, able-bodied women from the Global North. This is also reflected in our Thankful Thursday blog column, which is posted every Thursday (with a two weeks Holiday pause in December), covering women who have been forgotten by the history books.

Naturally, WAVE collaborates with other organisations who are working on similar topics. For example, on 1 October, International Day of Elder Persons, WAVE supported Age Platform Europe for the #AgingEqual Campaign by stating that 'human rights do not diminish with age!'. A photo was taken with WAVE staff holding up a sign of the statement which was then disseminated on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. On International Day



on Zero Tolerance for FGM, a WAVE Blog article was released, explaining why FGM is also a European issue in support of the #OurIssueToo/#MyIssueToo campaign by the End FGM European Network. In May, WAVE also cooperated with Serbian women's organisation Fenomena, within the framework of the CSSP project, to create an international campaign to raise awareness on the benefits of the Istanbul Convention. Together, WAVE formulated messages and had them translated into Serbian, Albanian, Turkish, Bosnian and Macedonian. These images were then shared by CSSP partners in the region, showing an especially good response in Turkey, where multiple women's organisations asked to use the images for their own campaigning purposes.

WAVE naturally likes to take the opportunity to use international days to promote the feminist cause as well as own projects. This can be exemplified by this year's International day of Non-Violence where a powerful quote from the 60 Minutes TV interview with rape survivor Chanel Miller was illustrated and posted on WAVE social media. Further prominent dates throughout the year include among others the International Human Rights Day, to which WAVE contributed by reflecting on women's rights as human rights.

Over the past year, the WAVE Blog has expanded to become a platform for more than just editorials. What began as a humble blog which posted weekly entries about women forgotten by history, has turned into a space for Step Up! Youth Ambassadors to 'speak up' as well as place to celebrate WAVE's 25th anniversary. The Blog has received 34,850 visitors since January 2019.

As of 1 January, 79 blog posts have been published. Currently the Blog has five categories: #25yearsWAVE, Voices, Speak up to Step Up!, Fem-power and Inspirational Women. In the Voices category, WAVE staff and Members are encouraged to write editorials about their personal beliefs regarding feminist issues. The topics discussed varied from Iranian women being allowed in football stadiums to the importance of recognizing feminist activists as human rights defenders. The Inspirational Women category has recently celebrated its 111th contribution, profiling actress and activist Yalitzza Aparicio.

The WAVE Website is also a critical platform for showcasing the Network's activities and disseminating information about developments around Europe and the world regarding women's human rights and GBV. The website also provides the opportunity for target groups such as Members, stakeholders, academics, media and the general public to

access information (such as download WAVE publications), to browse the Database about specialist women's support services in Europe, and to receive contacts of WAVE Members or to receive cross-border support through the WAVE Information Centre.

A new series of posts started on the 28 October on the WAVE Blog. 25 posts will be published in total biweekly, including articles, videos, interviews and presentations of different WAVE Members across Europe. The aim is to celebrate the achievements of the WAVE Network and its Members in the last 25 years, especially giving visibility to the Members.

The post series began with an article about the history of the WAVE Network and was followed by an article regarding the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing (September 1995), which was the key event offering the momentum for women non-profits such as the WAVE Network to soar and promote women's rights in their respective regions. Two of the WAVE Network's founders, Lepa Mladjenovic and Urszula Nowakowska, were interviewed during the last WAVE Conference and this interview was part of the post series, connecting the history of WAVE to the visions for the future. The following posts on the WAVE Blog in 2019 include a trailer of the last WAVE Conference, sharing the experiences of eleven conference attendees, and an interview with Executive Manager Stephanie Futter-Orel.

3.20. WAVE Newsletter

The WAVE Newsletter is disseminated bi-monthly to over 1,000 subscribers on the mailing list. It is structured around several core sections: WAVE news, a section on WAVE messaging and a joint approach for addressing the backlash, upcoming events and international news. The first section presents issues concerning the WAVE Network including activities of WAVE Members and news from the WAVE Office, such as new publications and webinars. The second section highlights developments concerning the backlash against women's rights with the aim of developing a shared messaging and approach for addressing the backlash. The third section announces upcoming events, while the final one provides space for international issues as well as progress relating to gender-based violence and/or discrimination, for example recent developments regarding international organisations such as the United Nations, campaigns, new research or trainings, and so on.



The founders' voice: Lepa Mladjenovic and Urszula Nowakowska



3.21. Press Releases

WAVE press releases aim to raise consciousness of the issue of violence against women among media stakeholders and encouraging them to spread the message among the general public. Press releases also serve to inform about latest developments in the field of gender equality, disseminate WAVE activities and increase WAVE's visibility in the media. Press releases are sent to nearly 1,000 important contacts on WAVE's mailing list and disseminated on the website and social media channels. In 2019, WAVE published five press releases. The first one was published on 13 November on the final dissemination conference for the DIS.CO project on counselling at distance. Drawing on this, a second press release on 26 November was published, informing about the publication of the 'counsellor at a distance' profile. A third press release on 6 December announced the opening of the SHERO exhibition in Brussels. The launch of the new EU-project MARVOW (Multi-Agency Responses to Violence against Older Women) was made public on 19 December. Finally, the release of the WAVE Country Report with comprehensive data on helplines, women's shelters, centres and additional women's specialist services was announced on 30 December.

3.22. Fempower Magazine, no. 30



This issue of [Fempower Magazine](#) includes articles that address advances made in the field of fighting violence against women in Europe over the last 25 years. This Fempower issue is intended to celebrate WAVE's anniversary and is a reflection of milestones reached in the path to advance women's rights to live a life free from violence. The year 2019 marks an important milestone on the path undertaken by WAVE and its Members to promote

and strengthen the human rights of women and children in general and to prevent violence against women and children in particular. The articles published in this year's issue of the Fempower magazine highlight what has been done so far to advance women's rights and tackle gender-based violence in Europe, drawing attention to critical issues that have emerged in recent years and other challenges pertaining to the framework of tackling violence against women, which have remained unaddressed by policy makers. A total of twelve articles were submitted, each of these reflecting on and exploring specific topics related to violence against women and the work undertaken by women's organisations to protect and support survivors of gender-based violence.

3.23. Webinar Platform

Three webinars were hosted by the WAVE Office in early spring.

- **The Challenges of fighting cyberviolence against women and the Cybersafe Project (28 March)** Welcoming 21 participants, the webinar addressed cyberviolence and hate speech online against women. Cyberviolence occurs on a variety of platforms and infringes upon women's fundamental rights. It exists as part and parcel of a continuum of violence, often starting offline and reverberating online and vice versa, pushing back women from public spaces to the private sphere. In this webinar, Lina Piskernik, WAVE Digital & Social Media Coordinator, went over the challenges which are faced when fighting cyberviolence against women. The newly launched project CYBERSAFE was also introduced.



- **Using CEDAW Committee, GREVIO and UPR as tools for protecting women's rights (20 May)** The Center for Legal Civic Initiatives led this webinar with 29 participants. It was focused on using CEDAW Convention and CEDAW Committee concluding observations, Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and GREVIO's recommendations and the recommendations of UPR for Albania as living tools of change. The experts of the Center for Legal Civic Initiatives (CLCI) shared with participants: the CLCI's practices in using these international standards in the judicial processes; the experience of preparation and presentation of shadow reports; using the recommendations of international bodies for lobbying and advocacy.

- **StepUp4Youth: Youth Engagement and Campaigning with the WAVE Step Up! Campaign (29 May)** Beverly Mtui, WAVE Youth Ambassador Coordinator, and Katarina Višnar, WAVE Step Up! Campaign Coordinator, led this webinar with 12 participants and highlighted the importance of youth inclusion within the WAVE Network. Starting in October 2018, WAVE made youth engagement as well as campaigning an intrinsic part of its work by electing WAVE Youth Ambassadors to support the Step Up! Campaign in raising awareness on the fight for gender equality and against GBV. After six months of collaborative work, Mtui and Višnar reflected on the outputs as well as shared with the audience the efforts, findings and visions to creating a strong platform for youth in Europe within the framework of the WAVE Step



Up! Campaign. The long-term goal is to encourage young people to educate themselves on the various dimensions of gender-based violence and become multipliers in promoting non-violence.



3.24. DIS.CO Project

The last year of the DIS.CO project came to an end in December 2019. Over the year, several outputs were published: a Training Curriculum on Counselling at a Distance when working with women victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence or Abuse; Informational DIS.CO Brochures published in all project languages; a Training Course on Counselling at a Distance-Structure & Modules; and a Distant Learning Tool, consisting of an e-course on an e-learning platform.

All outputs were published on the WAVE Website and social media. After the publication of every output, a short article about it was published in WAVE's newsletter as well. The project also had its own newsletters which were published in August and December of this year. The final dissemination conference of the project was organised by WAVE in Vienna on 4 November.



3.25. UN Women Project: Civil Society Strengthening Platform

The second year of the Civil Society Strengthening Platform (CSSP), part of the project 'Support the establishment and strengthening of regional platforms of civil society organisations to advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Con-

vention', in frame of the EU/UN Women programme 'Implementing norms, changing minds' started with the year two project launch meeting in Belgrade, Serbia. The purpose of the meeting was to clarify the project action plan for 2019, the activities to be carried out and the partners responsible in delivering these activities.

The main objectives for the CSSP platform in 2019 were to continue strengthening the cooperation between women's NGOs in the region by sharing resources, and engaging in joint activities, followed by strengthening their ability to monitor the effective implementation of the IC in the region and continue building women's NGOs capacity by building on the momentum gained in the first project year.

The second activity undertaken by CSSP platform was the compilation of an in-depth assessment in all seven partner countries. The purpose of the assessment is to show if collaboration of women's NGOs and networks accessible to women from all backgrounds, has positively influenced the implementation of the IC in project partner countries. The answers were compiled by project partner AWEN Network, Albania and were further included in the comprehensive report 'Advancing the Istanbul Convention implementation: The role of women's NGOs and networks in the Western Balkans and Turkey'. This report offers an overview of the current situation regarding the IC implementation in the Western Balkans and Turkey, focusing on well implemented articles of the IC in each country, articles that are most problematic to implement, and examining the amount of government funding available for women's NGOs in the field of VAW.

The third activity carried out by the partners was the organisation of the three-day 'Training of the Istanbul Convention, Monitoring and Reporting' in Podgorica, Montenegro. The training was organised by CSSP partner 'SOS Niksic' from Montenegro between 25–27 March 2019. A total of 20 participants attended the training, from the following partner countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey as well as three WAVE staff members and one trainer from the Advocates for Human Rights, USA.

Another important activity to highlight is the CSSP campaign to raise awareness on the benefits of the Istanbul Convention in the Western Balkans and Turkey. The campaign was carried out by all nine partner projects, in all seven countries, as well as by the WAVE Office on social media. CSSP partners participated in the campaign from 27–31 May 2019. The purpose of the campaign was to focus on disseminating positive messages about the Istanbul Convention. Partners worked together with the WAVE Office in selecting key articles of the Convention to be targeted and decided on the following: Article 1 (Purpose of the Convention); Article 3 (Definitions); Article 4 (Fundamental rights, equality and non-discrimination); Article 6 (Gender-sensitive policies); Article 8 (Financial resources); Article 9 (NGOs and civil society); Article 22 (Specialist support services); Article 59 (Residence status).

Based on the responses received by the CSSP partners and WAVE's Office reach, the one-week campaign managed to target at least 128,603 people online. The highest numbers were registered in Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Turkey, while in Montenegro, social media was not the most effective way to reach the wider public. One of the most encouraging outcomes of this campaign was the North Macedonian partner receiving over 60 messages requesting support from victims of violence. This shows that the campaign helped raise awareness not only on the benefits of the Istanbul Convention, but also encouraged victims of violence to seek support.



Throughout the activities carried out in 2019, all seven partners in the Western Balkans and Turkey identified the lack or only rudimentary provision of specialist sexual violence services in the region. Moreover, there is neither a holistic data collection about the number of support services working with victims of sexual violence nor the type of institutions that might be providing these services. Therefore, the CSSP partners, supported by EU/UN Women Programme, prepared a research report

'Mapping of sexual violence services in the Western Balkans and Turkey – Executive Summary' which compiles information on sexual violence services in all seven partner countries. The mapping aims at providing an overview of the number of support services for victims of sexual violence currently available in all seven countries. It aims to assess who provides these services and what kind of services are provided in the country. Furthermore, the mapping also looks at better understanding whether government institutions and women's NGOs do collaborate in providing these services.

In order to showcase the true benefits of collaboration between the partners of the region, the theme of the annual **partner video** of 2019 was 'Stronger Together: Collaborating towards an effective implementation of the Istanbul Convention.' Members from all nine CSSP partner organisations participated in the video, speaking in either their local language or English. The subtitled 5:32 minute video was spliced together from nine videos, where partners answered the question: 'How has collaboration between women's NGOs and networks contributed to the effective implementation of the Istanbul Convention in your region?'

The last activity involved the organisation of the final partners' meeting 'Implementing norms, changing minds. Civil Society Strengthening Platform: A two-year partnership' in Tirana, Albania from the 11–12 September 2019.



3.26. TISOVA Project

TISOVA – Training to Identify and Support Older Victims of Abuse – is a European Erasmus+ project launched on 1 September 2017, intended to establish associated and strategic partnerships with senior centres from each of the partner countries Austria, Estonia, Greece and Finland. The aim is to counteract any form of violence against the elderly, especially women, for the duration of three years.

During the year, project partners met in person twice: first at the 3-day Steering Committee Meeting and training in Tartu, Estonia from 3–5 April. The second meeting took place following the WAVE Conference in Tallinn, Estonia on 7 October. During this brief meeting, project activities and timeline were discussed, and the free online course (MOOC) was officially introduced.

During the year, partners carried out mutual learning workshops and trainings and an evaluation of the project was carried out, based on several indicators, including surveys by training participants from volunteers, care home professionals and older people themselves. The TISOVA Training Manual was also developed, with translations of the manual available on the WAVE Website in the partner languages for European transferability. In addition to the training manual, Estonian partner University of Tartu developed the MOOC course in English for identifying and supporting older victims of violence. To take the course, participants should be professionals working in a senior or day care centre, a volunteer or a senior. The MOOC will be made available again in 2020 in national partner languages. One free ECTS credit is also given to students who complete the course.



3.27. MARVOW Project

From 18–19 November, the Kick-Off Meeting of the project MARVOW, Multi-Agency Responses to Violence against Older Women took place in Vienna. The project is funded by the 2018 Rights, Equality and Citizenship Work Programme of the European Commission. The project partners are the Austrian Women's Shelters Network, the WAVE Network, the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence, the Union of Women Associations of Heraklion Prefecture, the University of Tartu and the Women's Support and Information Centre.

The MARVOW project will develop and implement a comprehensive multiagency cooperation model for working with elderly victims of abuse. It will do so by bringing together a wide range of stakeholders from relevant sectors of activity (eldercare, healthcare, protection and social services, judiciary and police among others) to identify the gaps that exist within current systems that hinder their ability to adequately serve older victims. MARVOW will also assist these actors in implementing direct interventions to support victims and work with perpetrators to try and break the cycle of violence. The model will be extensively evaluated and improved before being disseminated to a wide audience of policy makers and service providers in partner countries (Austria, Estonia, Greece, Germany) and throughout Europe for replication.



3.28. Cybersafe Project

In 2019 the CYBERSAFE project was kicked-off in Heraklion, Greece in February. Previous to the kick-off, the dissemination plan and logo were created in agreement with all partners. In March, all social media ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)) accounts were created and were advertised on WAVE's social media as well as with a webinar which was specifically tailored for the project with 51 registrants. In September, two WAVE Office members attended the second Steering Committee meeting of the project in Leiden, Netherlands where they were able to discuss the upcoming website and promotional materials which were published in December of this year. The Cybersafe project was introduced by Nicholas Spetsidis (Greece) at the workshop titled 'Abuse accelerated: Tackling cyber violence against women and girls' which took place at the annual WAVE Conference in Tallinn, Estonia in October 2019. An estimated 45 people, consisting of WAVE Members and public, were introduced

to the project and had the chance to ask questions and give feedback. The first project newsletter was sent out in May and was shared on all social media sites of Cybersafe as well as WAVE social media.

3.29. Oak Foundation

Thanks to generous core funding from the Oak Foundation, WAVE was able to continue its activities as well as support WAVE Member organisations from outside of the European Union. Without Oak Foundation funding, it would be even more challenging to allow for participation of our Member organisations outside the European Union. As WAVE has membership throughout 46 European countries, with only 28 being EU countries, several countries are therefore excluded from EU project and operational funding; this often means that women's NGOs (many of which are experiencing a right-wing backlash), are often excluded from EU policies and the general framework in combating and preventing GBV throughout Europe. Thanks to the Oak Foundation, women's NGOs from outside of the EU are able to share their own valuable experiences, learn good practices from other countries, and highlight their own work and developments in the region. Finally, the Oak Foundation provides critical funding to other operational activities of the Network, including hosting key events such as the Advisory Board Meeting, covering staff costs, and allowing the WAVE Team to participate at various events, particularly events organised within the context of the Step Up! Campaign. Oak Foundation funding has furthermore contributed to organisational and structural improvements and built the capacity of the WAVE Office to carry out their work in a timely and efficient manner.

4. Annex

4.1. Board List of CVs as of October 2019



Pille Tsopp-Pagan (President)

Pille Tsopp-Pagan is a Board Member and co-founder of the Tartu Women's Shelter in 2002, which at the time was the first domestic violence shelter in the Baltics. For the past seven years, she has served as its Executive Director, working to rebrand the organisation as the Women's Support and Information Center (WSIC), a more internationally-oriented organisation that participates in policy analysis and advocacy, research and education. In this role she has managed national and international projects supported by EU Justice, Erasmus and other funders.

She helped to write the 2007–2014 UN CEDAW shadow report on Estonia and presented it to the CEDAW Committee in Geneva. Within Estonia, she has advocated for changes to the penal code and worked with policy makers to bring the country in line with the Istanbul Convention. Furthermore, she has over twenty years of experience in financial management of both non-profit and for-profit firms. She has been responsible for financial management of dozens of international projects and for several large and small organisations.



Marcella Pirrone (Vice-President)

Marcella Pirrone is a feminist lawyer who has worked for over thirty years in Italy. At international level, she has continuously promoted and advocated for the rights of women, specifically women victims of violence. She works as a family and criminal lawyer, public service commissioner for sexual harassment and discrimination. Her career encompasses numerous feminist achievements. She is co-founder and President of a women's shelter, co-founder of D.i.Re (the Italian umbrella association for autonomous women's shelters) and member of its board, and university law professor.

Moreover, she has participated in several international projects, plays an active role in WAVE, as she has represented Italy for over 20 years and most recently as a member of its Advisory Board. In 2018-2019, she coordinated together with Elena Biaggioni on behalf of D.i.Re and 25 other Italian women's NGOs the shadow report GREVIO, outlining Italy's response to the Istanbul Convention.



Baljit Banga

Baljit Banga served as director of London Black Women's Project (LBWP) from 2007 to 2019. She became the Executive Director at Imkaan in May 2019. In 2019, she also joined the Board at WAVE. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from York University and a Masters in Planning and Policy from Heriot Watt, now located in the University of Edinburgh. Baljit's professional life has been involved in and dedicated to policy research and practice specifically gender policy, women's human rights, and how official state policy can impact upon women's equal representation, access to resources and opportunity and citizenship rights. She is dedicated to working as an intersectional black feminist. Her work has involved strategic development and sustainability of black and minoritised women's organisations. Areas of interest focus on intersectionality and black feminism in reimagining public administration and policy-making away from neo-liberal framing and towards a transformative social justice approach. She is currently completing her Doctorate at the University of Bath at the Institute of Policy Research.



Dušana Karlovská

Dušana Karlovská is a feminist activist and practicing psychologist. Over the past 17 years, she has been directly supporting women and their children, developing and carrying out trainings, campaigns and advocacy activities on violence against women. She is the Program Director of Fenestra – a grassroots feminist organisation, being one of the first in Slovakia to work with women survivors of violence. Within the organisation, she is responsible for creating dialogue with different authorities, NGOs and with the Slovak government. She has initiated the establishment of multi-agency cooperation in Kosice and the founding of an informal network of women's NGOs in Slovakia.

She is the author of several publications and a member of the Gender Equality Committee, an advisory body under the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family in Slovakia, as well as of the Government Council for Crime Prevention. At international level, she has participated in many international projects. She has been involved in the WAVE Network since 2005. She has been an Advisory Board Member representing Slovakia in the recent years.

She strongly believes that feminist women's groups, organisations and networks play a key role in changing the lives of women and girls.

Sari Laaksonen

Sari Laaksonen is a development director in the Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters, which has 30 member organisations throughout Finland. Previously Sari has worked as the director of the Shelter in Helsinki and in Central Union for Child Welfare. She has been an active member in the Nordic Women Against Violence network since 2009 and WAVE Advisory Board since 2014. She is also chairing the board of Victim Support Finland. She coordinated the Istanbul Convention shadow report of Finland in co-operation with Women's Line and organized several international conferences, latest the Nordic Women Against Violence Conference 2018 and the Stop the Backlash Conference connected with the Finnish EU-Presidency with WAVE, both in Helsinki. She has also been involved in developing projects on outreach work, violence against the elderly, children of asylum seekers and prisoners as well as transgenerational violence. Sari is an experienced network developer and NGO lobbyist, with a university degree on educational administration, development and research.



Rosa Logar

Rosa Logar is Executive Director of the Domestic Abuse Intervention Program Vienna, a victim/survivor service that was established with the Domestic Violence Act (1997). She is a lecturer at the University of Applied Sciences/Department of Social Work and member of the Austrian inter-ministerial working ground on the new Domestic Violence Act. Rosa co-founded WAVE in 1994, and participated in selected international activities: member of the UN Expert Group Meeting Good practices in legislation on Violence Against Women in Vienna (2008); member of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence (2006-2008); from 2008 until 2010 she represented the Austrian Federal Minister for Women in the CoE Ad Hoc Committee which was in charge of drafting the new CoE Convention on preventing and combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence. Since May 2015, Rosa is a member of the GREVIO committee, which monitors the implementation of the Istanbul Convention – in September 2015, she was nominated as first vice-president of the GREVIO.



Branislava Marvánová Vargová

Branislava Marvánová Vargová is head of the Information and Counselling Centre ROSA that provides support and counselling for women who experienced violence in their close relationships. ROSA – Centre for women has been established 25 years ago as one of the first women's NGOs in this field in the Czech Republic. As for her professional background, she has been a psychologist and psychotherapist working with women who experienced violence for more than 18 years.

Since 2016, she has been chairwoman of the Government Committee for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women, which prepares a national Action Plan to Prevent Domestic and Gender-Based Violence and monitors its implementation. By combining her activities in direct work with women, victims of violence and at policy-making level, she seeks to promote that the voices and needs of women are always at the heart of all planned and implemented measures on individual as well as structural level. She has been actively engaged with WAVE since 2004, participated in several WAVE projects (Bridging Gaps, Protect I, Protect II) and has been a trainer at the WAVE Training Institute. She is the author of several publications and actively involved in international exchange and cooperation.



Susana Pavlou (Treasurer)

Susana Pavlou started her career at the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) in 2005 and has served as Director of the Institute since 2008. In this capacity, she has coordinated and implemented transnational projects on violence against women including domestic violence, sexual violence and rape, female genital mutilation, and gender-based violence among adolescents.

Susana has also served as an expert on violence against women for European networks and organisations including the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), and the Council of Europe. She served as an expert in the EWL Observatory on Violence against women for six years and served on the Advisory Board of the WAVE Network. As a senior researcher for the European Institute for Gender Equality, she has worked specifically on administrative data collection on violence against women, gender-based violence among refugee women and, most recently, on risk assessment by police on intimate partner violence.

In Cyprus, Susana is currently President of the Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Combating of Violence in the Family, a coordinating body for the implementation of the law on domestic violence and to promote multi-agency cooperation. In her capacity as expert on violence against women and domestic violence, she has worked closely with the Cyprus Ministry of Justice on mapping the legislative framework of Cyprus and its compliance with the standards of the Council of Europe Convention on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, as well as in preparing a study on models and tools on risk assessment and risk management of intimate partner violence.



4.2. Women's Helplines in 46 European countries

The following is a table of the national women's helplines available in the 46 European countries. If there is no national helpline, a regional or general helpline is listed (these countries are marked with a *). Women's national helplines are among the most vital services for women's survivors of violence, they are one of the first places women can turn to receive immediate counselling and advice.

It is important to note that some of the following phone numbers cannot be called from abroad, as they are strictly national helplines and can only be used within the country. In such instances, we invite you to get in touch directly with the WAVE Members in relevant countries.

Country	Name	Phone number
Albania	Linja Kombetare e Keshillimit per Gra dhe Vajza / National Counselling Line for Women and Girls	+355 116/117 + 0 800 40 20
Armenia	The National Hotline for Women Victims of Domestic Violence and their Children	+374 105 428 28
	Women's Support Center Hotline	+347 998 878 08
Austria	Frauenhelpline gegen Gewalt / Women's Helpline Against Violence	+43 0800 222555
Azerbaijan*	Qaynarxətt-"Hot Line" / Main Department on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings at the Ministry of Internal Affairs	+994 152 +562-21-12
Belarus	Общенациональная горячая линия для пострадавших от домашнего насилия / National Hotline for Survivors of Domestic Violence	8-801 100 8 801
Belgium*	Écoute violences conjugales (domestic violence helpline)	0800 30 0 30 (French)
	Mon Mariage M'appartient (forced marriage helpline)	+32 0800 90901 (French) 02/218 77 87
	SOS Viol (sexual violence helpline)	0800 98 100 (French) +32 (0) 253 436 36 (French)
	Tele Accueil / Telephone Hotline	107 (French)
	Tele Hilfe / Telephone Hotline	108 (German)
	Tele Onthaal / Telephone Hotline	106 (Flemish)
	1712 bij vragen over geweld / Violence and Child Abuse Hotline (not gender specific)	1712 (Flemish)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	SOS Helpline 1265 – Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	+387 1265
	SOS Helpline 1264 – Republika Srpska	+387 1264
Bulgaria	Alliance for Protection against Gender Based Violence (domestic violence helpline)	+359 0800 11977
	National Helpline for Survivors of Violence	+359 080018676
Croatia*	B.A.B.E SOS Phone Line	0800 200 144 01/4663 666
	Centar za žene Adela / Adela Women's Center	044/888-888
	Sigurna kuća Istra PONEJELJKOM I PETKOM / Secure house Istria SOS Telefon	052 500 148
	Sklonište i savjetovalište za žene i djecu žrtve obiteljskog nasilj SOS Telefon	0800 333 883
	SOS liniju za suzbijanje trgovanja ljudima / SOS Helpline for victims of trafficking	+385 (0) 800 77 99 +385 145 511 28
	Udruga HERA Križevci SOS Telefon / AUTONOMOUS WOMEN'S HOUSE ZAGREB SOS TELEFON	048 711 077 048 271 335
	Women's Counselling Centre	48 23 259 0800 55 44

Country	Name	Phone number
Croatia* (cont.)	Ženska pomoć sada – SOS telefon za žene i djecu žrtve nasilja u obitelji / Women's help now – SOS phone for women and children victims of domestic violence	0800 655 222 01 46 55 222
	Ženska grupa Lošinj – grupa za zaštitu ženskih ljudskih prava (women's helpline)	+385 (0) 512 336 50
	Ženska udruga "IZVOR" SOS Telefon / Women's Association "IZVOR" SOS Telefon	0800 200 151
Republic of Cyprus*	ŽGK „KORAK“ SOS telefon / Women's Group Step Karlovac SOS Telefon	385 47 655 925
	Emergency Hotline – Helpline 1440 (domestic violence helpline)	1440
Czech Republic*	Violence Against Women Notice Line – North Cyprus	+357 183
	Bílý kruh bezpečí – Linka Pomoci Obetem / White Circle of Safety – victims help line	116 006
Denmark	Elektra – Centrum pomoci ženám sexuálně zneužitým v dětství /Support Centre for Child Sexual Abuse Women Survivors	+420 603 812 361
	Landsdækkende, døgnåben Hotline om vold i nære relationer / National Helpline (not gender specific)	+45 702 03 082
Estonia	Ohvriabi Kriisitelefoni / Victim's Crisis Helpline	+372 116 006
Finland	Nollalinja – The Zeroline against domestic violence and violence against women	+358 080 005 005
France	Violence Femmes Info (all forms of violence against women)	+33 3919
Georgia	State Fund for Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking	+995 116 006
Germany	Hilfetelefon Gewalt gegen Frauen / Violence Against Women Helpline	+49 08000 116 016
Greece	SOS Helpline for Abused Women	+30 15900
	SOS HELPLINE UWAH	+30 8011116000
Hungary	NANE Segélyvonal / NANE Helpline, for adult and child survivors of domestic violence	+36 06 80 505 101
	KERET Segélyvonal / KERET Helpline (sexual violence helpline)	+36 30 98 25 469
Iceland	Kvennaathvarfið – símaþjónusta / The Women's Shelter – Phone Service	+354 561-1205
Ireland	Women's Aid 24hr National Freephone Helpline (domestic violence helpline)	+353 1800 341 900
	Dublin Rape Crisis Center National 24hr Helpline (sexual violence helpline)	+353 0800 77 8888
Italy	Numero Nazionale Antiviolenza e Stalking 1522 / National helpline against violence and stalking	+39 1552
Kosovo	Numri i Linjës Ndihmëse (national women's helpline)	+383 080011112
Latvia	Center Marta for Trafficking in women	+371 800 020 12
Liechtenstein	Frauenhaus Liechtenstein (national women's helpline)	+423 380 02 03
Lithuania	Pagalbos Moterims Linija / Helpline for Women	+370 8 800 66366
Luxembourg*	Fraenhaus	44 81 81 49 08 771
Malta*	APPOGG Agency within the Foundation for Social Welfare Services (general helpline)	179
	Victim Support Malta	+356 2122 8333
Moldova	Telefonul de Încredere pentru Femei și Fete / Trust Line for Women and Girls	+373 0 8008 8008
Montenegro	National SOS Helpline for Victims of Domestic Violence	+382 080 111 111

Country	Name	Phone number
Netherlands*	Bel Mij Moviera	088 3 744 744
	Blijfgroep voor hulp	088 234 24 50
	Centrum Seksueel Geweld / Rape and sexual assault helpline	0800 0188
	Hear my voice	0800
	MIJN FIER 24/7 HULP	0800 32 000 32
	Tagen Je Will / Against Her Will	088 20 80 000
	Veilig Thuis / Safe Home (domestic violence helpline)	0592 34 74 44
North Macedonia	Национална СОС мобилна линија за жртви на семејно насилство / SOS Mobile National Line	+389 70/75/77 141 700
	Телефон на доверба – СОС линија / National SOS Line	15 700
	Национална СОС линија за жртви на семејно насилство / National SOS Line for Women Victims of domestic violence	+389 (0) 15 315
Norway	Vold-og overgrepslinjen (VO) – nasjonal hjelpelinje for alle som utsettes for vold i nære relasjoner og seksuelle overgrep / National Helpline for all subjected to violence in intimate relationships and sexual violence	+47 116 006
Poland	Emergency Helpline for Women Victims of Violence	+48 600 070 717
Portugal*	Associação Portuguesa de Apoio à Vítima / Victim Support Line	116 006
	Serviço de Informação às Vítimas de Violência Doméstica / Information Service for Victims of Domestic Violence	+351 800 202 148
Romania	Linia telefonica gratuita pentru ajutor specializat / Free Helpline for Specialized Support	+40 0800 500 333
Russia	Всероссийский телефон для женщин, пострадавших от домашнего насилия / National helpline for women suffering from domestic violence	+7 8800 7000 600
Serbia*	SOS telefon Vojvodine / SOS Helpline of Vojvodina	+381 (0) 800 101 010
	SOS Telefon za žene sa iskustvom nasilja	+381 (0) 800 100 007
Slovakia	Národná linka pre ženy zažívajúce násilie / National Helpline for Women Experiencing Violence	+421 0800 212 212
Slovenia	Društvo SOS telefon za ženske in otroke – žrtve nasilja / SOS Helpline for Women and Children – Victims of Violence	+386 080 11 55
Spain	016 línea de atención a víctimas de malos tratos por violencia de género / 016 gender-based violence victim's support helpline	+34 016
Sweden	Kvinnofridslinjen / Sweden's National Women's Helpline	+46 020 5050 50
Switzerland*	Association Viol-Secours / Rape and sexual assault helpline	+41 (0) 223 452 020
	Dargebotene Hand / General crisis helpline	143
	Frauen-Nottelefon, Notwohnungen für bedrängte und geschlagene Frauen (women's helpline)	+41 (0) 313 301 015
Turkey	Emergency Domestic Violence Hotline	+90 0212 6569696
Ukraine	Національна "гаряча" лінія з попередження домашнього насильства, торгівлі людьми та гендерної дискримінації / National hotline on prevention of domestic violence, trafficking and gender discrimination	+380 0800 500 335 116 123
United Kingdom	ENGLAND: Freephone 24hr National Domestic Violence Helpline	+44 0808 2000 247
	NORTHERN IRELAND: 24hr Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline	+44 0808 802 1414
	SCOTLAND: Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline	+44 0800 027 1234
	WALES: Live Fear Free Helpline	+44 0808 8010 800

4.3. WAVE Members (156 as of 02/2020)

	NAME OF ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
1	Gender Alliance for Development Center (GADC)	Albania
2	Counselling Line for Women and Girls	Albania
3	Human Rights in Democracy Center (HRDC)	Albania
4	Women's Association Refleksione	Albania
5	Woman Forum Elbasan	Albania
6	Albania Women Empowerment Network (AWEN)	Albania
7	Woman to Woman	Albania
8	Psycho-Social Centre Vatra	Albania
9	Center for Legal Civic Initiatives	Albania
10	Women Center Light Steps	Albania
11	Women's Rights Center	Armenia
12	Women's Support Center	Armenia
13	Sexual Assault Crisis Center	Armenia
14	Austrian Women's Shelter Network – Information Centre against Violence AÖF	Austria
15	Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre Vienna	Austria
16	Network of Austrian Counselling Centres for Women and Girls	Austria
17	Renate Egger (Individual Member)	Austria
18	Clean World Social Union	Azerbaijan
19	International Public Association „Gender Perspectives “	Belarus
20	Law Initiative – Commission on Women's Rights	Belarus
21	Collectif contre les Violences Familiales et l'Exclusion (CVFE)	Belgium
22	Department of Health and Welfare, Violence Victims and Policy Coordination – Province of Antwerp	Belgium
23	Garance ASBL	Belgium
24	Foundation United Women Banja Luka	Bosnia and Herzegovina
25	Medica Zenica Information	Bosnia and Herzegovina
26	Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation	Bulgaria
27	Nadja Centre	Bulgaria
28	Alliance for Protection against Gender-Based Violence	Bulgaria
29	Autonomous Women's House Zagreb	Croatia
30	B.a.B.e, Be active, Be emancipated	Croatia
31	Women's Room – Center for Sexual Rights	Croatia
32	Centre for Women War Victims ROSA	Croatia
33	Domine Organization for Promotion of Women's Rights	Croatia
34	Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS)	Cyprus
35	Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family	Cyprus
36	Association of Women to Support Living	Northern Cyprus
37	ProFem – Central European Consulting Centre	Czech Republic
38	ROSA – Centre for Battered and Lonely Women	Czech Republic
39	L.O.K.K National Organisation of Women's Shelters in Denmark	Denmark
40	Tartu Child Support Center	Estonia
41	Women's Support and Information Centre	Estonia
42	Pärnu Women's Support Center	Estonia
43	Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters	Finland
44	Women's Line Finland	Finland
45	FNSF - Federation National Solidarite Femmes	France
46	Cultural Humanitarian Fund 'Sukhumi'	Georgia
47	Sakhli Advice Center for Women	Georgia
48	Women's Information Center (WIC)	Georgia
49	Anti-Violence Network of Georgia	Georgia
50	Democrat Women's Organization fo Samtskhe-Javakheti	Georgia
51	BIG e.V. – Berliner Interventionsprojekt gegen häusliche Gewalt	Germany
52	Frauenhauskoordinierung e.V.	Germany

NAME OF ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
53 Bff: Bundesverband Frauenberatungsstellen und Frauennotrufe – Frauen gegen Gewalt e.V.	Germany
54 GESINE – Netzwerk Gesundheit.EN	Germany
55 Prof. Carol Hagemann-White (Honorary Member)	Germany
56 KOFRA – Kommunikationszentrum für Frauen zur Arbeits und Lebenssituation	Germany
57 PAPTAYA – Kriseneinrichtung für Junge Migrantinnen	Germany
58 ZIF – Zentrale Informationsstelle der autonomen Fraunhäuser der BRD	Germany
59 Karin Heisecke (Individual Member)	Germany
60 Alina Kuhl (Individual Member)	Germany
61 European Anti-Violence Network	Greece
62 Union of Women Associations of Heraklion Prefecture	Greece
63 NANE – Women's Rights Association	Hungary
64 Stigamot – Counselling and Information Centre on Sexual Violence	Iceland
65 Women's Shelter Organization in Iceland	Iceland
66 Sexual Violence Centre Cork	Ireland
67 Rape Crisis Network	Ireland
68 Safe Ireland	Ireland
69 Women's Aid Ireland	Ireland
70 Associazione Nazionale D.i.R.e contro la Violenza	Italy
71 Associazione Nazionale Volontarie Telefono Rosa-Onlus	Italy
72 Cristina Gamberi (Individual Member)	Italy
73 Silvia Menecalli (Individual Member)	Italy
74 Women's Wellness Centre	Kosovo
75 Kosovo Kosovar Gender Studies Center	Kosovo
76 Krizu un Konsultaciju Centrs Skalbes	Latvia
77 Frauenhaus Fürstentum Liechtenstein	Liechtenstein
78 Vilniaus Moteru Namai – Intervention Centre	Lithuania
79 Femmes en Detresse asbl	Luxembourg
80 Commission on Domestic Violence	Malta
81 Network Forum Malta	Malta
82 Dr. Marceline Naudi (Individual Member)	Malta
83 Association against Violence 'Casa Marioarei'	Moldova
84 Center for Support and Development of Civic Initiatives 'Resonance'	Moldova
85 Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims "Memoria"	Moldova
86 Women's Law Centre	Moldova
87 National Coalition Life without Violence	Moldova
88 SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Niksic	Montenegro
89 Federatie Opvang	Netherlands
90 MOVISIE	Netherlands
91 National Council for Gender Equality – NCGE	North Macedonia
92 National Network to end Violence against Women and Domestic Violence – Voice against Violence	North Macedonia
93 Secretariat of the Shelter Movement	Norway
94 Centrum Praw Kobiet	Poland
95 Autonomy	Poland
96 AMCV – Associacao de Mulheres Contra a Violencia Portugal	Portugal
97 A.L.E.G Association for Liberty and Equality of Gender	Romania
98 ANAIS Association	Romania
99 Artemis Counselling Centre against Sexual Abuse	Romania
100 CPE – Center Partnership and Equality	Romania
101 Necuvinte Association	Romania
102 FILIA Center	Romania
103 ANNA – National Center for Prevention of Violence	Russia
104 Crisis Centre Ekaterina	Russia
105 Nizhny Novgorod Women Crisis Center	Russia
106 Interregional nongovernmental organization for the support of family, motherhood and childhood 'Doctors to Children'	Russia

	NAME OF ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
107	St. Petersburg Regional Public Organisation Institute of Nondiscriminative Gender Interrelations – Crisis Center for Women	Russia
108	Autonomous Women's Center (AWC)	Serbia
109	Association Fenomena / SOS Kraljevo	Serbia
110	Oasis of Safety/Oaza Sigurnisti	Serbia
111	Association of Women Sandglass	Serbia
112	Roma Center for Women and Children Daje	Serbia
113	Human Rights Committee Vranje – Organizational Unit SOS Telephone Vranje	Serbia
114	Alliance of Women in Slovakia	Slovakia
115	FENESTRA – Interest Association of Women	Slovakia
116	Association SOS Helpline for Women and Children	Slovenia
117	Association for Nonviolent Communication	Slovenia
118	Asociacion de Mujeres Valdes Siglo XXI	Spain
119	Fundacion para la Convivencia ASPACIA	Spain
120	Centro de Asistencia a Víctimas de Agresiones Sexuales CAVAS	Spain
121	Directorate General for Gender-Based Violence, Youth Affairs and Juvenile Crime	Spain
122	Helia – Asociacio de support a les dones que pateixen violencia de genere	Spain
123	Oficina de Gestion, Preparacion y Supervision de Programas Europeaos. Fundacion para la Atencion e Incorporacion Social (FADAIS). Consejeria para la Igualdad y Bienestar Social	Spain
124	Plataforma Unitaria contra les Violencias de Genere	Spain
125	Asociacion Otro Tiempo	Spain
126	Federacion de Asociaciones de Mujeres Arena y Laurisilva	Spain
127	Roks – National Organisation for Women's and Girls' Shelters in Sweden	Sweden
128	UNIZON	Sweden
129	Dachorganisation der Frauenhäuser der Schweiz und Liechtenstein	Switzerland
130	Violence que Faire	Switzerland
131	Terre des Femmes	Switzerland
132	Kadin Dayanisma Vakfi – The Foundation for Women's Solidarity	Turkey
133	Mor Cati – Women Shelters Foundation	Turkey
134	Mor Salkim Women's Solidarity Association	Turkey
135	Kadriye Bakirci (Individual Member)	Turkey
136	International Women's Rights Center la Strada	Ukraine
137	Sumy Local Crisis Center (SLCC)	Ukraine
138	Women's Information Consultative Center	Ukraine
139	Center Women's Perspectives	Ukraine
140	IMKAAN	United Kingdom
141	Latin American Women's Aid	United Kingdom
142	REFUGE	United Kingdom
143	Scottish Women's Aid	United Kingdom
144	Welsh Women's Aid	United Kingdom
145	Women's Aid Federation of England	United Kingdom
146	Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland	United Kingdom
147	Latin American Women's Rights Service	United Kingdom
148	Solace Women's Aid	United Kingdom
149	Standing Together against Domestic Abuse (STADV)	United Kingdom
150	Melanie McCarry (Individual Member)	United Kingdom
151	Kathleen Rees (Individual Member)	United Kingdom
152	Greta Squire (Individual Member)	United Kingdom
153	London Black Women's Project	United Kingdom
154	Zero Tolerance	United Kingdom
155	Shazia Choudhry (Individual Member)	United Kingdom
156	Beverley Gilbert (Individual Member)	United Kingdom



WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

Values

Feminism¹, solidarity, intersectionality, equality, respect, transparency and human rights.

Vision

A world where all forms of discrimination and violence against women² and their children have been eliminated and all women and girls are able to enjoy their human rights.

Purpose

The WAVE Network exists for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and their children, to strengthen the human rights of diverse women and girls and to ensure their right to access all services that help them live their lives free from violence.

Mission

To enable all women and their children to live free from violence, particularly through strengthening and sustaining a European network of specialized support and prevention services, experts and survivors. To share expertise and experience to prevent, challenge, address and ultimately end violence against all women and their children, through an intersectional feminist approach.

1 = WAVE defines the term feminist to mean aiming at de jure and de facto equality between women and men in all areas of society. See WAVE Statutes, page 1 reference 3.

2 = WAVE understands the structural nature of violence against women as gender-based violence and that violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men