

WOMEN  
AGAINST  
VIOLENCE  
EUROPE

**ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2021**



## WAVE ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2021

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# WAVE ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2021

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## WAVE VOICES

“Working in the field of eliminating violence against women is highly important to us. We are happy to be part of WAVE, since it provides us with a place to connect, communicate and share common experiences, as well as brainstorm new initiatives and increase connections. The exchange is **inspiring** and we strongly believe that cultural diversity is an asset, added value and an opportunity to promote our work.”

Women Wellness Center, Kosovo

“I joined WAVE, because I am a feminist and a women’s rights advocate, and I wanted to join a network of like-minded women who are fighting for a better **tomorrow**; not only for ourselves, but all the women surrounding us in our lives.”

Myrto Karydi, WAVE YA from Greece

“Fighting against gender-based violence with other women’s organisations across Europe makes us feel stronger. Strengthened efforts to end violence against women is essential to guarantee women’s rights and a **free and equal** Europe for all.”

Fundacion Aspacia, Spain

“Campaigning at WAVE really lets us embed and ratify the Istanbul Convention, which is so necessary and so important to tackle and prevent violence against women and girls, and all forms of that violence, as well as provide **protection** to people who have survived these experiences, who need the shelters and helplines, to leave those abusive relationships and abusive partners in a safe way.”

Sabiha Azad, WAVE YA from Wales

“As an official member of the WAVE Network, we serve as a focal point for Montenegro. The WAVE Network has showed us a good way in communicating with the beneficiaries and general public and serves as an **excellent tool** in raising awareness on issues such as domestic and sexual violence against women.”

SOS Niksic, Montenegro

“I think the strength of WAVE lies in our network and **diversity** of our members. While at times it can be hard to align our work with all the different perspectives and regional challenges, this diversity is what makes the network thrive in my opinion.”

Léa Dudouet, Office Administrator and Project Assistant

“If the pandemic year has proven anything, it is that violence against women and children is a big problem, and it is a transnational problem which has to be tackled on an **international level**.”

Antoniya Kischeva, Event Coordinator

“Talking to, learning from, exchanging, and working with WAVE members who share incredibly valuable **insight and knowledge** has shaped me professionally as well as personally, which is the most rewarding aspect of my work here.”

Beverly Mtui, Communications Coordinator

# I. INTRODUCTION

**A**n active and challenging year 2021 lies behind us, shaped by the volatile development of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing shadow pandemic that is violence against women and girls. Again, our members proved their resilience and continued providing life-saving services, enabling women and girls to live free from violence. We therefore look back at this year acknowledging its challenges, but also celebrating our achievements and the strength of our network.

Despite work-intensive months, reviewing the aims and impact of WAVE planning, advocacy and campaigning activities, considering the increasing political backlash against women's human rights and the adverse impact of the pandemic, 2021 was dedicated to ensuring and **strengthening capacity building of the network** as well as the office. Furthermore, we bridged the majority of gaps that resulted from moving most network communication to the digital sphere, and started restoring the offline connection within the network. We are happy to announce that our hard work continues to be recognized, as we secured an **Operating Grant from the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme of the European Commission**. This support will enable us to strengthen our network over the next four years. We are thus also delighted to have welcomed **three new colleagues** to the WAVE office team who enable us to conduct WAVE activities and projects more effectively. A warm welcome to our Event Coordinator Antoniya Kisheva, our new Youth Ambassador Branislava Arađan and our new Advocacy & Campaigning Coordinator Eliana Jimeno.

“Violence against women affects one in three women throughout Europe. Incidents of violence against women and femicides have increased significantly since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Istanbul Convention is and remains the most comprehensive legal framework to address this severe human rights violation, focusing on both protecting victims and prosecuting offender.”

Though we have yet to recover from the repercussions of the pandemic, we are aiming to keep a positive outlook and can therefore say that 2021 was also a year of celebrations. In June, we received the 2021 **Don & Arvonne Fraser Human Rights Award** bestowed by the Advocates for Human Rights, acknowledging the WAVE Network's contribution, commitment, and impact to protecting women's human rights. We want to sincerely thank all of our members, women's rights feminist activists, for their tireless work to promote and strengthen the human rights of women and children in general and to prevent as well as tackle violence against women and children. **Congratulations to the whole WAVE Network!**

This year, we also celebrated the **5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Step Up! Campaign**, which has been campaigning for the right to good quality women's specialist support services for all women since 2016. Each year, we have been working with 20–25 campaigning organisations from both EU as well as non-EU countries to actively support prevention and protection for victims of violence against women and girls, and to improve access to protection and

specialised support services for all women and children. Nonetheless, it is crucial to note that all the efforts and hard work of women's specialist support services need to be sustained by national governments as well as international policy makers. Celebrating the **10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Istanbul Convention** on 11 May 2021 served as a symbolic reminder of the need to fight the continuous backlash against women's rights and gender equality by properly implementing the Istanbul Convention across Europe. This demands the space for participation and active inclusion of relevant civil society by decision makers at political, national as well as European level, to put measures into place, that prevent and tackle violence against women and domestic violence, and put women's rights and gender equality at the heart of strategic decision-making. WAVE is committed towards continuing to advocate for the ratification and active implementation of the Istanbul Convention in a variety of international and national forums and amplifying the voices and efforts of our members.

Stephanie Futter-Orel,  
WAVE Executive Manager



# II. WAVE MILESTONES IN 2021



## JANUARY

We start the year off strong with a team building meeting dedicated to planning and organising the upcoming months. WAVE President Marcella Pirrone is invited to give her recommendations to implement the OSCE commitments on preventing and combating violence against women and girls in an **expert roundtable**.

## FEBRUARY

Almost 70 professionals attend the two-day **CSSP CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING**. This event is aimed at promoting good practice standards in supporting victims of sexual violence, amongst women's specialist support services supporting victims of sexual violence, as well as other women's CSOs and policymakers.

## MARCH

During the **65<sup>TH</sup> COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**, we host a side event together with the Advocates for Human Rights on the topic of "Rollback on women's rights: Challenges versus strategies pre- and post-pandemic". We also host a webinar on "Responding to domestic abuse in the context of COVID-19".

## APRIL

The data collection for the **WAVE COUNTRY REPORT** officially opens.

## MAY

The spring **ADVISORY BOARD MEETING** brings together 65 WAVE members, representing in total 30 countries. This year's meeting is centred around strategic planning and discussing key priorities, the Country Report and provides a space for informal networking. WAVE President Marcella Pirrone speaks in the opening session of the **10-year Istanbul Convention anniversary conference**, organised by the Council of Europe in partnership with the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth in the framework of the German Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

## JUNE

We are honoured to receive the **2021 DON & ARVONNE FRASER HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD** bestowed by the Advocates for Human Rights. The award acknowledges WAVE's contribution to defending women's human rights.

## JULY

Young activists and long-standing WAVE members meet online during the two-day **WAVE YOUTH AMBASSADOR CONFERENCE**. The two-day event results in inspiring conversations amongst WAVE members and youth activists, and highlights the need to further develop the strategy and structure of the WAVE Youth Ambassador initiative to reach more youth both online and offline.

## AUGUST

During summer, we work hard behind the scenes to prepare the upcoming online conferences and trainings. Meanwhile, the WAVE Youth Ambassadors are raising their voices in light of **INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY** to share some inspiring and encouraging words about the importance and responsibility of youth to engage in the fight against violence against women and girls.

## SEPTEMBER

We host the **MULTIDISCIPLINARY TRAINING** on "Supporting women survivors with dis/abilities: How to reduce barriers and improve inclusivity". During the two days, the trainers take the 29 participants through different models and concepts of dis/abilities as well as good practices for women's support services.

## OCTOBER

Our **23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL WAVE CONFERENCE** on "Preventing and tackling sexualised violence against women and children" is held online in collaboration with our Portuguese member AMCV. 329 participants follow the two-day event, comprised of panels and eight simultaneous workshops.

## NOVEMBER

Over 100 participants attend the final **CYBERSAFE CONFERENCE** on changing attitudes among teenagers on cyber violence against women and girls. 19 professionals are trained in our annual **WAVE Training Institute** on out of the box approaches for tackling the backlash against women's rights. We are actively engaged in promoting women's specialist services during the 16 days of activism through podcasts, webinars and interviews.

## DECEMBER

The **COUNTRY REPORT 2021** is published! The report highlights which countries within and outside the EU meet the minimum standards of the Istanbul Convention for the provision of women's helplines, shelters accessible to women, women's centres, and specialist services for survivors of sexualised violence.

# III. OUR WORK



Participated in **49 ADVOCACY AND CONSULTATION MEETINGS**, including high-level meetings

Wrote **seven** support letters, policy statements and joint petitions

Created **one policy paper** on the EU Directive on violence against women and girls

Piloted **one joint methodology** with the CoE and UN Women to positively promote the IC

**21** campaigning organisations from **20** countries, and **10** WAVE Youth Ambassadors from 10 countries

## 1. Advocacy and campaigning

After having joined the European Commission's **Victims' Rights Platform** in 2020, WAVE continued being actively represented in high-level meetings and advocacy interactions with policy makers. Constant advocacy for women's specialist services took place with the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the FEMM Committee and UN Women, to just name a few. In total, WAVE took part in 49 advocacy meetings, amplifying the voices of members and lobbying for better policies and implementation. Most notably, WAVE President Marcella Pirrone reflected on the importance of women's specialist services at the **10-year anniversary of the Istanbul Convention** "Gender equality and the Istanbul Convention: a decade of action", organised by the Council of Europe in partnership with the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth in the framework

of the German Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in May. WAVE Executive Manager Stephanie Futter-Orel also spoke on the Istanbul Convention in a [video](#) dedicated to the anniversary created by the Council of Europe. To further mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Istanbul Convention, the Council of Europe held an international conference in October to promote full ratification and implementation of the treaty's standards, including measures that ensure women's access to justice. Anca Ciupa, WAVE Team Leader, was one of the four panellists of the panel '**Setting the scene: Violence against women: the shadow pandemic, its impact and the barriers for women's access to justice**'. The session looked at the impact of COVID-19 on women's rights as seen by practitioners and experts and the intersections between violence against women and gender bias

and stereotypes as main barriers for women's access to justice. In her intervention, Anca Ciupa, focused on how violence against women and domestic violence is one of the main barriers for equal access to justice, how the COVID-19 pandemic strengthened this barrier and what is the role of state authorities as duty bearers in the post COVID-19 world towards enforcing and protecting women's full enjoyment of their rights. In November, Project Coordinator Elena Floriani of the WAVE team joined a feminist gathering organised by the **WIDE+ Network** in Berlin, to speak in a panel dialogue on the impact of COVID-19 on violence against migrant women. She shared WAVE's perspective as a European network and focused on the impact of the pandemic specifically on women's specialist services.

WAVE also provided direct consultations to policymakers and key stakeholders. For instance, WAVE shared expertise on the **European Parliament FEMM LIBE report** on the impact of intimate partner violence and custody rights on women and children, pushing member states towards increased accountability of perpetrators and the non-recognition of the so-called “Parental Alienation Syndrome”. WAVE further consulted on a **cost estimation of policy options** under the new European Directive to prevent and combat VAWG by establishing a baseline for cost estimation of shelter and helpline provision. The data for this was kindly provided by our WAVE members. In early, 2021 Executive Manager Stephanie Futter-Orel and Project Assistant Lea Dudouet attended an online roundtable meeting by **French Commission for Foreign Affairs** on the topic of violence against women in Europe on behalf of WAVE. They give input on the importance of WSS, which was later included in a research report by the National Assembly.

Throughout the year, **seven support letters** and **policy statements** were developed or co-signed. Several of these were in support of the Istanbul Convention, such as a statement regretting and condemning the decision of the President of Turkey to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention in March, and a statement on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the IC. A **policy paper** on the European Commission’s EU-wide Directive on violence against women and girls containing specific policy recommendations was further developed and widely disseminated.

Furthermore, advocacy efforts for better **protection of children** were increased by WAVE. In this regard, we were able to secure funding from Oak Foundation for a **child safeguarding and movement building** project in 2022–2023. Together with WAVE members from Croatia, Germany, Hungary and Malta, we will create a comprehensive children’s safeguarding framework that will increase the capacity of

our members to prevent violence against children and support them. This will then be utilized to strengthen international movement building for more child-friendly custody proceedings in court. We also supported Missing Children Europe in their advocacy efforts for protection from children from sexual abuse online by lobbying for the continuation of voluntary detection of abuse in communication service providers.

After having created a **joint methodology** together with the Council of Europe and UN Women to run advocacy campaigns to promote the IC, this methodology was piloted in three countries in 2021 (Czech Republic, Latvia and Poland). An online kick-off event was organised in May 2021, to introduce representatives of the respective organisations to the methodology and toolkit, followed by a communication workshop in June. Find out more about this project and outcomes in the chapter on project work.

“The Istanbul Convention is an important instrument to defend women’s human rights, which sets gold standards in preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. [...] Unfortunately, we also have to face the fact that there are several shortcomings in implementing the Istanbul Convention. And even more alarming, we have witnessed a growing backlash against women’s rights and gender equality [...] The best way to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Istanbul Convention is to stand up together and decisively make the convention a binding, living instrument that affects the lives of all women in Europe. To effectively prevent and tackle male violence against women it is vital that both policies and legislation clearly acknowledge that violence against women is a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women.”

WAVE President Marcella Pirrone during the conference “Gender equality and the Istanbul Convention: a decade of action”, on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Istanbul Convention, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021

# STEP UP! CAMPAIGN AND WAVE YOUTH AMBASSADORS

In 2021, 21 EU as well as non-EU countries participated in the WAVE Step Up! Campaign to raise awareness about the prevalence of violence against women and the **importance of providing protection and support** to the women concerned and their children. Campaigning efforts include mobilising widely for women's human rights and the implementation of crucial legislation such as the Istanbul Convention, as well as highlighting the dire need of improving the provision of adequate women's specialist support services for women and their children in the EU and in Europe in general.

The Step Up! Campaign operates both at national as well as European level. Designated campaigners aim to reach different stakeholders, decision-makers, politicians, and local actors to bring the issue of violence against women on the agenda of governments. Furthermore, it is key to put a strong emphasis on the importance of providing adequate financial support and funding for women's specialist support services to be able to effectively support victims, and thus improving access to prevention and protection for victims. The aims of the campaign also entail the challenging of attitudes and beliefs that normalise and perpetuate discrimination of and violence against women and girls.

As the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic prevailed in 2021, the Step Up! Campaign had to depend mainly on digital collaboration, which however had already been intensified and fortified in the year prior, to continue effective campaigning and resume the efforts made within the Step Up! Campaign since its launch in 2016. Besides conducting events both online as well as offline, where possible, for international human

2016 was a big year for the WAVE Step Up! Campaign. On 25 May 2016, the Campaign launched throughout all of Europe, with nearly 40 European countries showing support and promoting the rights of women survivors of violence and their children to access support and protection. While WAVE members – most specialist women's support services – were the active agents in this campaign, many other organisations and international networks showed support for Step Up! such as PICUM, EWL, WWP EN, and UN Women. Thanks to international coverage, in many countries the campaign went viral, and government officials in countries such as Cyprus joined the movement.



2017 On 27 February 2017, WAVE celebrated the Step Up! Youth Video Award Ceremony in the European Parliament. The Youth Video Award engaged groups of young people, youth organisations, (film-) schools and media departments of universities to participate actively, with the main goal to raise awareness of violence against women and encourage survivors to seek

support. Additionally, to further engage and create awareness among young people, WAVE held a meme competition in 2017. To keep the message positive and educational, and to sensitize target audiences, a common theme of "preventing violence against women" was chosen. The winning memes from several countries were then displayed at the annual WAVE Conference held in Budapest in November 2017.

Selected highlights of the Step Up! Campaign

2018 In May 2018, the Call for the first generation of WAVE Youth Ambassadors was launched. This call sought after young and committed visionaries to join a peer group of youth ambassadors for the campaign. By the deadline in September, we received around 220 applications for the pioneering roles to become women's rights defenders on behalf of the Campaign. Another call was carried out in Autumn for young female artists/cartoonists to imagine and present a figure of the SHERO – a heroine supporting women in addressing violence against women. The most inspiring works were collected in an interactive 28-page brochure available on the WAVE website.



2019

In 2019, the campaigning team worked successfully on connecting the new logo with the campaign's key messages. A 6-page interactive campaigning leaflet was published both physically and online. Furthermore, campaigners wrote an educational leaflet answering the questions 'What is sexual violence? What is consent?' and translated it into 17 languages. Meanwhile, the first generation of WAVE Youth Ambassadors conducted thematic group works. Its aim was to highlight the knowledge of young people across Europe on topics related to violence against women and girls, along with their needs for violence prevention. Through brief questionnaires, the ambassadors reached a total of 183 young people living in Estonia, Portugal, Spain, England, North Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Italy and Kosovo.



Step Up! Campaign over the years

2020

In 2020, the Step Up! Campaign collaborated with HeForShe Vienna and brought the SHERO exhibition under the theme "Solidarity and Empowerment" for the first time to Vienna, Austria. The call for the second generation of Youth Ambassadors was launched as well. Throughout the year, the campaigners and ambassadors collaborated on various occasions, notably during the 16 Days of Activism, where they prepared graphics which included information from the WAVE Country Report 2019 to explain how their respective countries would look like, if the Istanbul Convention was effectively implemented. This action exemplified the need for all generations of feminists to join forces in order to ensure, strengthen and fortify the advocacy to #signratifyImplement the Istanbul Convention, and was a significant way to end the year for the Step Up! Campaign.



2021

In 2021, Step Up! campaigners and WAVE Youth Ambassadors prepared short testimonies on the importance of fighting for women's rights and gender equality, as well as acknowledging the work of women's specialist support services and feminist youth activists on social media. Mid-2021 the WAVE Youth Ambassadors' two-day online event "Power of Youth Activism" was conducted from 28–29 July. During the 16 Days of Activism, both campaigners and ambassadors contributed to videos, podcast episodes, blog articles and info graphics to shed light on inspiring women's human rights feminist activists.

rights affiliated days, such as **International Women's Day, Peace Day**, and the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**, and honouring 10 years of the Istanbul Convention in a video that generated around 500 views across all of WAVE's social media accounts, the Step Up! Campaign celebrated its biggest milestone of the year on 25 May, its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The year 2021 was also dedicated to initiating early efforts of planning and restructuring the future of campaigning within WAVE. Based on Step Up! campaigners' feedback on WAVE campaigning activities, as well as consultations and inputs from the wider membership, the aims are to

- strengthen the political campaigning and advocacy efforts of WAVE,
- increase the accessibility of the campaign to the wider membership of the WAVE Network, so it can more effectively and swiftly respond to political developments regarding women's human rights in Europe, and
- enable the provision of capacity building to members based on campaigning and advocacy work.

These initial efforts will be further implemented in 2022 with the support of the new WAVE Advocacy and Campaigning Coordinator. The new WAVE Youth Ambassador Coordinator also aims to further improve the strategy and structure of the WAVE Youth Ambassador initiative to ensure and strengthen youth inclusion within the network and achieve effective, sustainable and long-term positive outcomes.

We want to thank all the campaigners over the last five years for their longstanding support, work and efforts within the Step Up! Campaign, as well as all the ambassadors for their participation and dedication. **#StepUpForEverybody**



## 507 PROFESSIONALS of women's specialist services were trained in 14 ONLINE TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

- ✓ 98% of surveyed participants found our trainings useful
- ✓ 75% of surveyed participants gave concrete examples of how they will implement what they learned in their daily work
- ✓ 93% of surveyed participants said that their knowledge increased as a result of the training

## 2. Capacity building and network development

Building and strengthening the capacity of our members to support women and girls affected by violence is at the heart of our activities. Under the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic, most capacity building activities were held online in the form of webinars, workshops, trainings and working groups.

### WEBINARS

In March, we hosted a webinar on **“Responding to domestic abuse in the context of COVID-19”**. This research conducted by the University of Stirling focused on how the rights of women and children experiencing violence were addressed in the context of COVID-19 and featured interviews with several WAVE members. The key findings showcase that support and access to justice have been severely restricted due to the pandemic. NGOs have creatively worked to adapt and reach women; however women and children's rights have been undermined as the state and public institutions have retracted.

During the **65<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women**, we hosted a side event together with the Advocates for Human Rights on the topic

of **“Rollback on women's rights: Challenges versus strategies pre- and post-pandemic”**. The webinar featured Rosalyn Park as well as Kaarin Long of the Advocates for Human Rights and WAVE President Marcella Pirrone. Selime Büyükgözce of Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation spoke about Turkey's decision to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention and Enikő Pap from NANE spoke about the situation in Hungary. Lily Greenan presented her research on the pandemic and public policy expert Giovanna Badalassi spoke on gender mainstreaming strategies and gender budgeting.

In November, we hosted a webinar on **“The backlash against LGBTIQ+ communities in Eastern Europe. Experiences and strategies from the WAVE Network”**. The webinar was facilitated by newly elected WAVE Board member Irene Zeilinger. The 1<sup>st</sup> generation Youth Ambassador from North Macedonia Stefan Petrovski presented his research on the anti-gender movement in North Macedonia. Mirjana Kucer from the women's specialist service Domine and Petar Dukic from the LGBT Centre Split spoke about the alliance building between their organisations

in Croatia. Agata Teutsch and Ewa Rutkowska from Autonomia spoke about their experiences in the Polish context.

### KEY TRAININGS

From 17–18 February, we conducted the **CSSP Capacity Building Training** titled **‘Strengthening the capacities of women's CSOs and national stakeholders for policy advocacy, knowledge-based expansion and partnership facilitation on sexual violence in the Western Balkans and Turkey’**. It aimed at promoting good practice standards in supporting victims of sexual violence, amongst WSS supporting victims of sexual violence, as well as other women's CSOs and policymakers. The training represented a good opportunity for all existing standards to be adapted to the specific needs of the seven project countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey). Almost 70 participants from these countries attended the two-days trainings.

On 14–15 September, we had the great pleasure to host the **Multidisciplinary Training** on **“Supporting women survivors with**

dis/abilities: How to reduce barriers and improve inclusivity". During the two days, trainers Elisabeth Udl from Ninlil and activist Elisabeth Löffler walked the 29 participants through different models and concepts of dis/abilities as well as good practices for WSS. The training drew keen interest of the WAVE membership and sparked ideas for future interventions and projects on this topic. Inspired by the training, the WAVE office translated the Ninlil publication "[Power Backup](#)" for women with learning difficulties into English.

The **WAVE Training Institute** was held online from 1–2 December 2021 and focused on "Out of the box approaches for tackling the backlash against women's human rights". It was facilitated by activists and experts in the field of human rights. Apart from providing a theoretical

**"All parts of the training were beneficial and useful. The presentations were very important to get a better overview of the situation in Europe and the second day gave me a lot of inspiration and positive energy."**

Participant of the WAVE Training Institute

background and sharing promising practices, the training gave the 19 participants the opportunity to create new strategies of resistance and counteraction. Rosalyn Park from the Advocates for Human Rights, Neil Datta, Secretary of the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights, as well as Ishtar Lakhani and Lucas Paulson, both members of the JustLabs team, provided their expertise and knowledge as trainers during the two-day event.

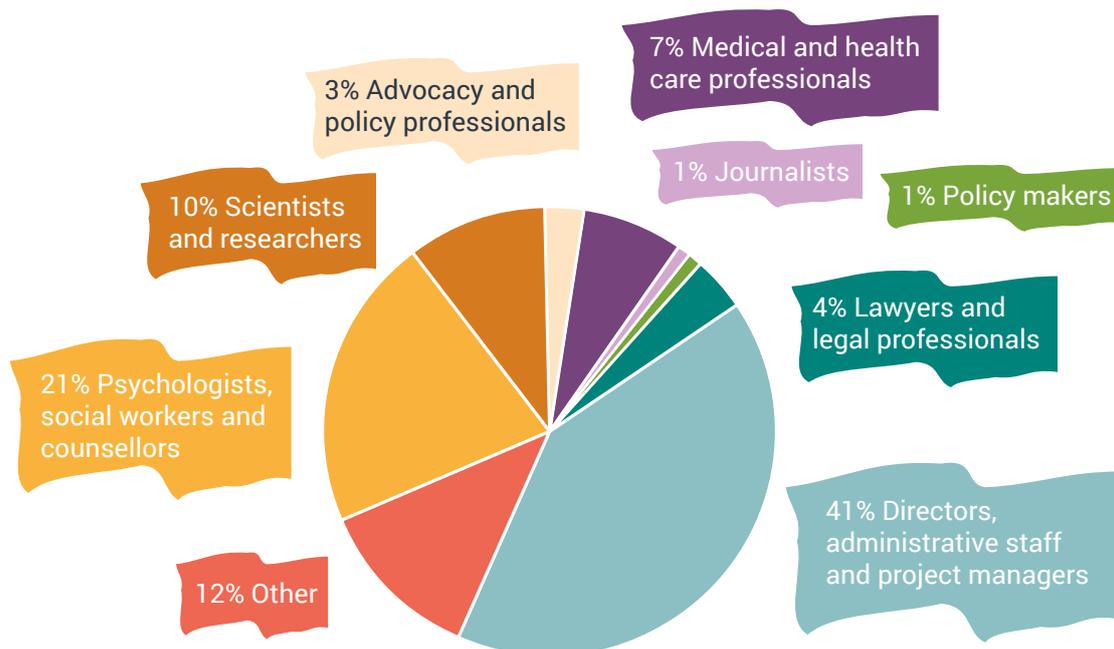
## WORKSHOPS

During the annual **WAVE Conference 2021** "Breaking the cycle: preventing and tackling sexualised violence against women and children", eight workshops were held throughout two days. Topics included among others child safeguarding policies for women's shelters, the active role of women with disabilities in combatting violence, rape and consent legislation around Europe, sexualised violence against older women, to just name a few. The workshops were designed to be interactive and encourage discussion, foster networking among participants as well as expand their knowledge of effective approaches to preventing and tackling sexualized violence. In total, 216 professionals attended these workshops.

**"Challenging my own unconscious bias, accessing resources and using a different lens were the most helpful features of this training."**

Participant of the Multidisciplinary Training 2021

## Who took part at WAVE Trainings?



**563 WAVE MEMBERS** engaged in networking activities across

- ✓ **TWO** Advisory Board Meetings, **ONE** General Assembly and **ONE** "WAVE Day"
- ✓ **ELEVEN** Board meetings
- ✓ **ONE** Youth Ambassador Conference
- ✓ **THREE** Working Groups
- ✓ **ONE** annual WAVE Conference

## NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

Network development activities are a crucial part of WAVE's internal capacity building effort. Their aim is to increase the institutional capacity of the network and to strengthen partnerships and relationships between members and the governing bodies of WAVE. These activities include giving space to members for networking and discussions during Advisory Board Meetings, the annual WAVE Conference and our General Assembly. Strengthening the overall network capacity also entails continuous work of the WAVE team in

"It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to meet the faces behind the emails and I enjoyed hearing information about the activities and projects in which WAVE is involved."

Participant at the WAVE Advisory Board Meeting in spring

managing the membership, corresponding with members, monitoring and evaluation, fundraising, as well as strategic planning.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

This year, we are happy to welcome six new members to the WAVE Network:

France – [Women for Women France](#)

Romania – [Sensiblu Foundation](#)

Russia – [Tebe Poveryat](#)

Serbia – [...IZ KRUGA – VOJVODINA](#)

United Kingdom – [Rape Crisis](#)

[Scotland](#)

United Kingdom – Lily Greenan

## 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL WAVE CONFERENCE

The WAVE Conference is an important forum for building and strengthening relationships within the membership as well as for raising awareness on the problem of violence against women and girls. In 2021, the conference was held online in collaboration with our Portuguese member AMCV on the topic "**Breaking the cycle: preventing and tackling sexualised violence against women and children**". It offered participants a holistic and intersectional approach to preventing and tackling sexualised violence. Sexualised violence remains one of the most hidden forms of violence that women and girls experience, so we intended to shed more light on the problem by covering topics such as promising and inclusive practices in providing women's specialist support

including services for survivors of sexualised violence, and effective approaches in tackling digital sexualised violence against women and children. Overall, 329 persons visited the online WAVE Conference.

## ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The WAVE Advisory Board supports the WAVE Board in intensifying the coordination and planning for the WAVE Network, and to ensure representation from all regions. It consists of one Delegate and one Co-delegate (substitute) from each country, appointed by the member organisations of the same country. The Advisory Board meets twice a year to discuss current priorities and give suggestions to the WAVE team and Board. This year's **spring meeting** was once again held online due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. Given these exceptional circumstances, it was decided that the Advisory Board Meeting should be opened up to all WAVE members and not only Delegates and Co-Delegates. 65 WAVE members participated, representing in total 30 countries. Topics included a discussion on the 4-year strategic plan, the WAVE Country Report, changes to the Board election procedure and ideas for strengthening the network. A virtual meeting event via the platform gathertown was also organised, to give participants the chance for virtual networking. The **fall meeting** was held online in October. Discussion topics were dedicated to give members space to reconnect during the pandemic, introduce a new campaigning structure and streamline delegate and membership procedures. In total, 33 WAVE members participated in this meeting.

The **WAVE General Assembly** was held in October online. It provided an essential platform for all

WAVE members to engage in important decision-making and monitoring activities including annual activities, financial budget, and the election of the new WAVE Board.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

Throughout the year, eleven **Board meetings** took place. During these meetings, the eight Board members and the Executive Manager discuss key strategic issues, guide network activities and work on the priorities of the current and upcoming year. In March, the first ever **“WAVE day”** was held online. The day was dedicated to a comprehensive review of existing working processes and relationships between the WAVE Board and the WAVE team. During this meeting, the WAVE team and Board engaged in a dialogue on effective collaboration, joint working processes and strategic planning, to build stronger relationships across the network and to increase mutual trust.

## YOUTH INCLUSION

From 28–29 July 2021, the WAVE Youth Ambassadors two-day online event **“Power of Youth Activism”** took place and was dedicated to highlighting the power of youth activism. Day one aimed to cultivate the involvement of the WAVE Youth Ambassadors within the network to encourage intergenerational partnership and support. The second and last day of the online event was open to youth activists interested in and/or working in the field of tackling violence against women and girls and violence prevention. Day two served as a safe space for youth activists from across Europe to discuss challenges and issues in countering gender-based violence, youth inclusion within feminist movements, and mental health; all of which was highlighted within the scope of youth activism. The

ten participants gave an overview of their regional contexts regarding the human rights violation that is violence against women and girls, and subsequently shared experiences as well as promising practices in raising awareness among youth. The two-day event resulted in inspiring conversations amongst WAVE members and youth activists, and highlighted the need to further develop the strategy and structure of the WAVE Youth Ambassador initiative to reach more youth both online and offline. Furthermore, WAVE President Marcella Pirrone attending the event added that it was crucial to continuously provide platforms, like this event, for the youth activists within WAVE to engage with the network and collaboratively work towards reaching institutions and organisations at national, European and international level for the inclusion of youth in the context of tackling violence against women and girls, and violence prevention.

## WORKING GROUPS

The WAVE team coordinates three thematic working groups (WGs), consisting of team members and around ten professionals from WAVE member organisations. The working groups meet regularly online to discuss recent developments, create synergies and develop tools for mutual exchange of knowledge.

The **strength-based, needs-led (SBNL) working group** consolidated its activities at the end of 2020, with the creation of a training manual containing basic guidance, curricula and associated material to support the delivery of a training on the SBNL method of work in women’s support services. In 2021, some of the working group members piloted the training in their countries. In September 2021, Silvia Menecali (WAVE individual member) conducted a 3-half-day training for an Italian women’s NGO. Ten people

working with survivors of violence joined the training. In October and November, the NGO Vilnius Women’s House conducted the training in Lithuania. After this pilot phase, the training manual was made available to all WAVE members, on the members-only section of the WAVE website.

The **working group on sexualised violence (SVWG)** continued promoting the report published by the WG in 2020 on “Rape and Consent in Europe. National differences in legislation and their implementation”. The report was presented to the Advisory Board members in the meeting in spring, with the aim of gathering feedback and suggestion for next steps. In the scope of the annual WAVE Conference, the WG organized a workshop on the topic of the report. Workshop participants were invited to express challenges around consent and rape legislation in their countries and identify strategies and methods on European level beneficial to addressing these challenges.

The **legal experts working group** met several times online to discuss different experiences by members, such as challenges related to visitation rights and child custody. Furthermore, members of the WG met with the aim of exchanging promising practices identified in national courts, for example regarding the implementation of emergency and protection orders. To be able to tackle these issues identified by the group, participants decided to prepare a document focusing on compiling information from GREVIO Baseline Reports on Article 31 of the Istanbul Convention, showcasing how the Istanbul Convention and more precisely Article 31 is not applied in courts; but also a document that highlights any promising practices to support women’s NGOs in their efforts to advocate for a better implementation of the Convention in this regard.



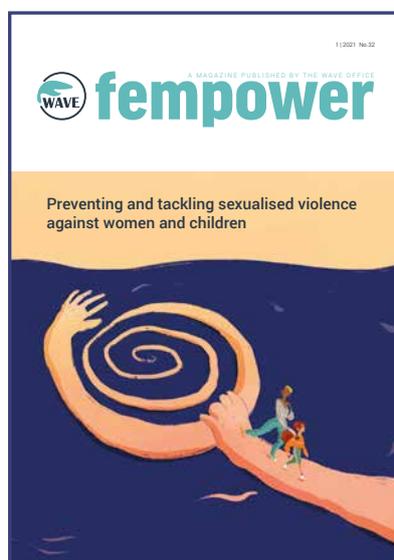
- ✓ **13%** social media increase
- ✓ **125,000** people reached
- ✓ **5,738** visits to our Database to find help nearby
- ✓ **154** information and help request processed
- ✓ **FIVE** publications: Country Report, Report on the Impact of COVID-19 on WSS, WAVE Policy Paper, CSSP Policy Paper, Fempower Magazine

### 3. Communications and research

We are a resource for our members regarding campaigning and lobbying by taking part and raising awareness in international, European and regional campaigns targeting the end of violence against women. Thus, our communication and dissemination activities are aimed at highlighting and illustrating the strength of our network, showcasing the work of our members, disseminating publications, collecting data and empowering survivors of all age groups and backgrounds. For that, our several communication channels and social media accounts are geared towards different target groups and audiences.

For instance, our [newsletter](#) was disseminated bi-monthly to over 1,000 subscribers on the mailing list, informing them of our events and international news, such as political developments and updates from members. Weekly updates to our [WAVE Blog](#) included empowering publications that range from highlighting the societal contributions of women in history, to the efforts, work and achievements of women's specialists support services, and input on youth inclusion inside and

outside the WAVE realm. Towards the end of the year, our [Fempower Magazine](#) was published, highlighting the importance of "preventing and tackling sexualised violence against women and children", as a follow-up to the topic of the 23<sup>rd</sup> WAVE Conference.



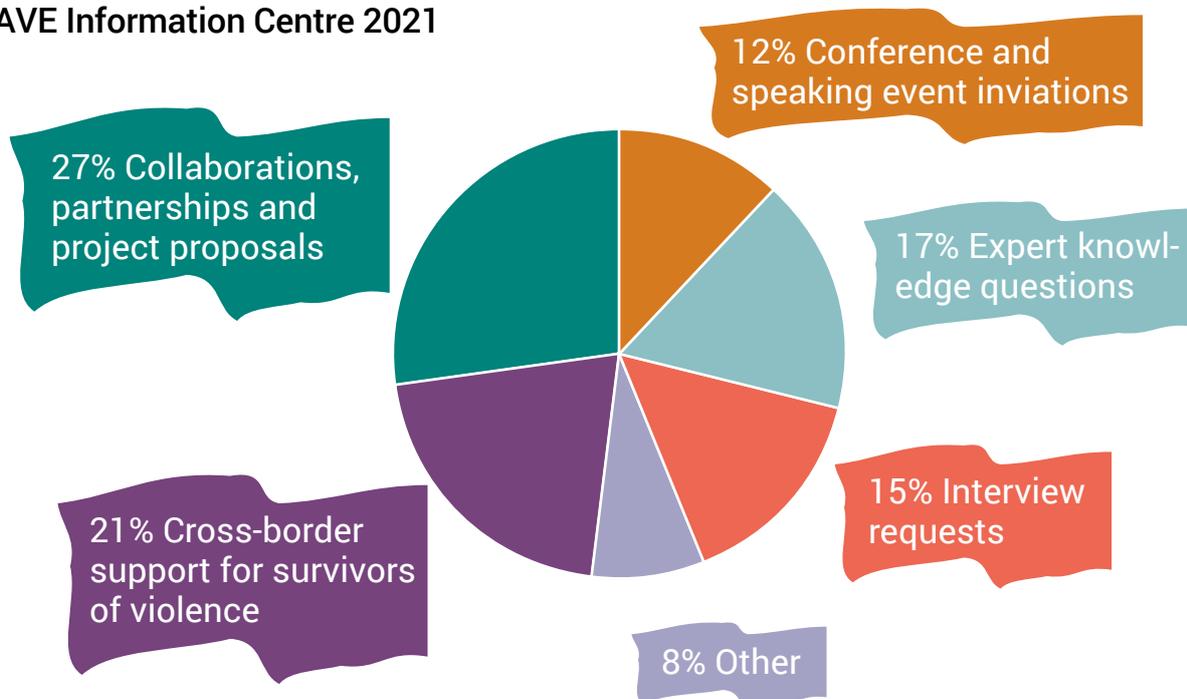
For the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**, the WAVE podcast "No More Violence Against Women" was created to reach the general public in understanding the many forms and dimensions of violence against

women and girls. To effectively promote the podcast and increase its visibility, we collaborated with Radio Orange 94.0, the largest community radio in the German-speaking region with broadcasts in 25 different languages. The three podcast episodes which provided insight on topics such as sexualised violence, online violence, femicides, violence against women with disabilities, youth activism and the Istanbul Convention can be listened to [here](#). In the scope of the 16 Days, we also shared inspiring and thought-provoking [video interviews](#) and [articles](#) with our members.



Several **key publications** were delivered in 2021. In the scope of the CSSP project, a policy paper on

## WAVE Information Centre 2021



“Promising practices of establishing and proving specialist support services for women experiencing sexual violence” was developed. A [policy paper](#) on the European Directive to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women was also published and disseminated to key stakeholders. Furthermore, we published a [research report](#) that looks deeper at the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls survivors of violence, the impact on women’s specialist support services, and how women’s specialist support services continued to provide their services throughout periods of confinement. The report is based on the data provided by WAVE members through a survey distributed to WAVE members, as well as relevant desk research.

To improve communication with members during and after the pandemic, the WAVE website was redeveloped, including a **“members only”** section for direct and confidential exchange of knowledge and training materials. The start page of the new

WAVE website also presents an [animation video](#) on WAVE, explaining our main areas of work in an illustrative way. An important feature on the website is further the [“Find Help” Database](#). This is the only European database containing around 1,440 entries of women’s specialist services that is publicly available 24/7. The database encompasses information collected by us through our member organisations and is regularly updated. The database is a useful resource for anyone affected by violence, women’s organisations, and practitioners working in the field to find help near-by. In 2021, this important resource was accessed 5,738 times.

In the scope of the **“Information Centre”**, we are available during

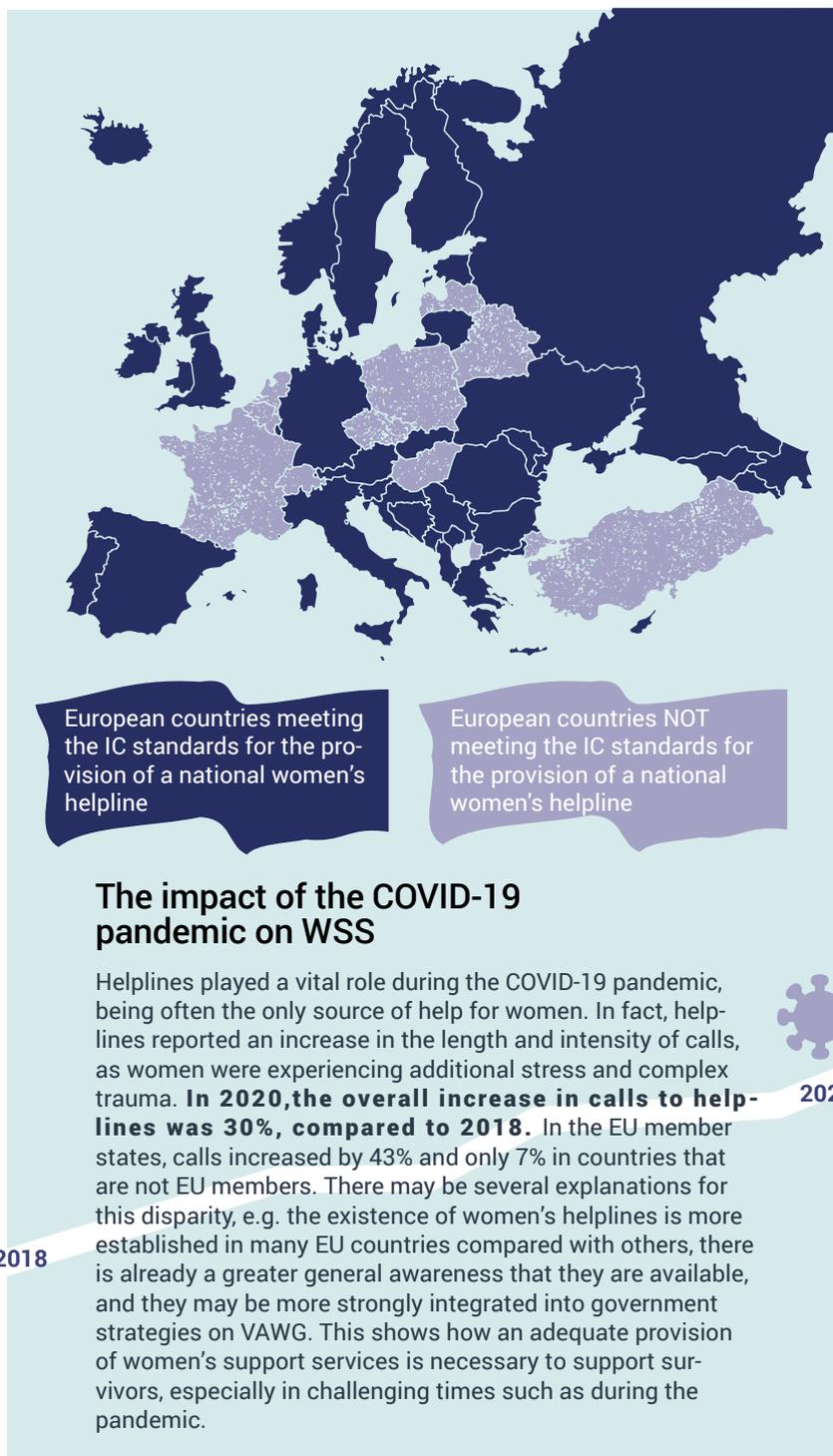
workdays for consultations on international questions related to violence against women. Requests typically include interviews on current developments, invitations to speaking events, propose partnership requests or have to do with other specific expert knowledge, such as the legislation in a specific country or where to find information on good practices. In these cases, we answer these questions with our combined expertise in the sector or facilitate the communication with our members who are experts or with other institutions. As violence does not stop at borders, we also respond to cross-border support requests from survivors, counsellors of WSS or other individuals involved, such as friends and family. In these cases, survivors often need to flee

from one country to another or face other challenges related to different legal or migration status. We refer them to appropriate services in the relevant countries, and provide support whenever possible. In 2021, the WAVE team processed 154 information requests.



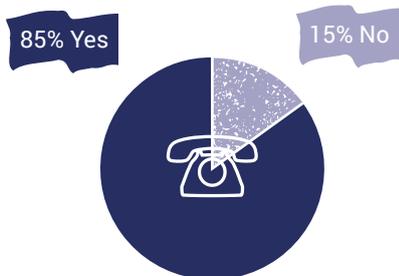
# WAVE COUNTRY REPORT 2021: THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN'S SPECIALIST SUPPORT SERVICES

The WAVE Country Report 2021 highlights which 46 European countries meet the minimum standards of the Istanbul Convention for the provision of women's specialist support services (WSSS), such as women's helplines, shelters accessible to women, women's centres, and specialist services for survivors of sexualised violence. Their comprehensive approach aims to support women in overcoming the impact of violence at every phase of the cycle of violence they might be facing. You find the full report [here](#).



## Women's helplines

European Countries with at least one national women's helpline



## The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on WSS

Helplines played a vital role during the COVID-19 pandemic, being often the only source of help for women. In fact, helplines reported an increase in the length and intensity of calls, as women were experiencing additional stress and complex trauma. **In 2020, the overall increase in calls to helplines was 30%, compared to 2018.** In the EU member states, calls increased by 43% and only 7% in countries that are not EU members. There may be several explanations for this disparity, e.g. the existence of women's helplines is more established in many EU countries compared with others, there is already a greater general awareness that they are available, and they may be more strongly integrated into government strategies on VAWG. This shows how an adequate provision of women's support services is necessary to support survivors, especially in challenging times such as during the pandemic.



2018

2020

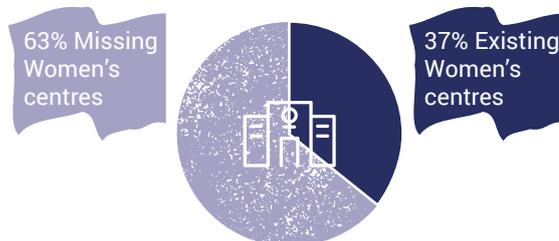
## Women's shelters

Shelters ensure immediate access to safe accommodation for women survivors of violence and their children. They also offer long-term support in order to provide women and their children (if any), with the opportunity and resources necessary to resume their lives free from violence.



## Women's centres

The term "women's centre" includes all women's services providing non-residential specialist support to survivors, such as counselling, advocacy, court/police/social services accompaniment, outreach, and other services.



# 4. Project work

Besides our ongoing core work, we also partner in smaller projects on international level.



## CYBERSAFE

CYBERSAFE is a 30-month project funded by the European Union.

Nine project partners

from eight European countries developed and promoted an innovative experiential educational prevention programme – the CYBERSAFE Toolkit – that includes playful online tools, to address the issue of **online violence against women and girls among young people** (13–16 years old), in a classroom setting. CYBERSAFE promotes healthy relationships and gender equality online. The CYBERSAFE Toolkit provides information and tools to prepare and facilitate four workshops on the issues of gender-based online violence, in order to raise awareness and to encourage and support young people in safe and responsible online behaviour. WAVE was the responsible partner for European-level dissemination taking place throughout the project cycle, mainly with the use of social media and internet sources. In between the development of outputs and carrying out of events, general awareness-raising took place on national and European level, coordinated by WAVE, and implemented by all project partners.

In 2021, a social media campaign was conducted from 2–23 November and was aimed at the general public as well as professionals working with children, teenagers and youth. The campaign highlighted the need to implement the CYBERSAFE Online Tool, offered insight on how to use the CYBERSAFE Toolkit, guided viewers through accessing the Online Tool and facilitating workshops in school settings to

address the issue of cyber violence amongst teenagers. During the three-week social media campaign, the accumulated reach of all of CYBERSAFE's social media postings reached nearly 8,500 people. The social media campaign also revolved around the **CYBERSAFE final conference**, which concluded the project. The online conference on changing attitudes among teenagers on cyber violence against women and girls was held on 9 November and presented the main findings and outcomes of the CYBERSAFE project. Furthermore, a panel with three specialists from Northern Ireland, Estonia and South Korea was organised to provide different perspectives and promising practices on cyber violence and how to tackle it. The conference was organised by us and the Greek partner organisation Union of Women Associations of Heraklion (UWAH) with technical support by ON Events, who enabled the 105 participants throughout the day to meet in the online format.



## MARVOW PROJECT

The MARVOW Project develops and imple-

ments a comprehensive multiagency cooperation model for working with **older women victims of abuse**. It brings together a wide range of stakeholders in Austria, Estonia and Greece, to identify the gaps that exist within the current systems that hinder their ability to adequately serve older victims. MARVOW also assists these actors in implementing direct interventions to support victims and work with perpetrators to try and break the cycle of violence. WAVE is the responsible partner for the communication and dissemination of the project at the international level.

In 2021, WAVE took care of the project's social media, website, and

communication. This included a social media campaign that was organised for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in June 2021, featuring interviews, videos and articles. In October, at the 23<sup>rd</sup> WAVE Conference, WAVE and the project partner UWAH organised a workshop about the issue of sexualised violence against older women. Moreover, WAVE is also responsible for coordinating the work of the creative room, a group of communication experts from each project partner, planning the communication strategies of the project. In 2021, the project partners had two official steering committee meetings, one in April (online), and one in September (in Berlin).

## ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: MULTI-COUNTRY PROGRAMME 2020-2021

In 2020, we together with the Council of Europe and UN Women joined forces to develop a **methodology to run advocacy campaigns on the Istanbul Convention** at national level. The main purpose is to promote the values, aims and benefits of the Istanbul Convention by generating positive narratives and dispelling myths and misinformation regarding the convention. Initially, five countries were selected as pilot countries for designing the communication and advocacy campaigns (Croatia, Czech Republic, Latvia, Poland and Turkey), as they have experienced significant political backlashes against the Istanbul Convention. The political landscape in these five-targeted countries does however offer opportunities that can pave the way to a ratification or the proper implementation of the convention.



To assess this pilot project, three civil rights organisations (CSOs) piloted the methodology at a national level through a campaign in 2021. The three selected CSOs were the [Czech Women's Lobby \(CWL\)](#), the [MARTA Centre](#) from Latvia and [Feminoteka](#) from Poland. Following the call for proposals launched in March, an online kick-off event was organised by the Council of Europe in May, in co-operation with WAVE and UN Women. The event was intended to introduce the representatives of the selected organisations, provide detailed information on the developed methodology and toolkit, and address any pending questions concerning the implementation of the methodology. In June, the Council of Europe also organised a communication workshop around **"Building engagement: #IstanbulConventionSavesLives"**. The workshop shared the experience of communication and advocacy professionals, and sought to inspire those running the campaigns to share techniques and ideas on how to effectively raise awareness on the Istanbul Convention. It was followed by national seminars animated by local professionals to reflect on the specificities of each of the three countries.

To evaluate the effectiveness of the methodology to further adapt it, if necessary, we assessed the piloted campaigns in the three countries. The aim of this evaluation is to feed into the final methodology with relevant toolkit, which will be ready for dissemination and implementation by civil society organisations all over Europe. Such activities are planned for 2022 and will be carried out by the Council of Europe, with WAVE's support.



## CIVIL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING PLATFORM (CSSP)

With the support of the UN Women Programme "Implementing norms, changing minds", the [Civil Society Strengthening Platform \(CSSP\)](#), active in 7 countries in the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia) and Turkey, focused on two specific goals in 2021:

- strengthening the capacities of regional CSOs networks for policy advocacy, knowledge-based expansion and partnership facilitation on sexual violence across the region and
- strengthening multi-sectoral and interagency coordination mechanisms between women's CSOs and especially women's CSOs and health care providers

In the first half of 2021, a **two-day online capacity building training** was organised. The training's aim was to promote good practice standards when supporting victims of sexual violence, amongst women's specialist support services, other women's CSOs as well as other relevant stakeholders such as policymakers. Building on the results of the training and on internal research, the **policy paper** '[Promising practices of establishing and providing specialist support services for women experiencing sexual violence. A legal and practical overview for women's NGOs and policy makers in the Western Balkans and Turkey](#)' was developed. This publication was created with the help of two international experts, Biljana Brankovic, International Council of Europe Consultant and Group of Experts on Action against Violence against women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) member in Serbia and

Clóna Saidléar, Director of Rape Crisis Network Ireland. The policy paper outlines a process of scaling and learning for women's NGOs and national policy makers in the region and assesses the need for specialised support of victims of sexual violence, expanding on the principles, concepts and rationale underlying the rape crisis model, relying partly on the experience and standards developed in Ireland.

The second half of the year focused on strengthening multi-sectoral and interagency coordination mechanisms between women's CSOs and especially women's CSOs and health care providers. A first step was to analyse existing cooperation and opportunities for cooperation between women's CSOs and health care providers. For this purpose, WAVE appointed an external researcher, Biljana Brankovic, to carry out a **research assessment**.

Furthermore, the new project also focused on **promoting and advocating for the implementation of the recommendations** highlighted in the policy paper. CSSP partners in all six countries and Mor Cati, the new CSSP partner from Istanbul, Turkey, focused on disseminating and advocating for two recommendations of the policy paper to be included into service providers protocols at national level. The findings and recommendations of the policy paper were moreover presented in two major forums, one being the WAVE Conference, and the second one being the Third UN Women Regional Forum: Ending Violence against Women in the Western Balkans and Turkey 'Integrated Policies, Inclusive Partnerships'. Both presentations addressed the progress and gaps in applying the standards and provisions of the Istanbul Convention to prevent and respond to sexual violence in the region, and outlined recommendations to offer appropriate specialist support to women victims of sexual violence.



# IV. ABOUT WAVE

Women's specialist support services ARE essential public health services which ensure that women and their children affected by violence can survive and thrive. Through the holistic support of these services, women and their children are able to leave violent situations significantly faster than through generic victim support services, decreasing their risk of being exposed to further and escalating violence or even femicide.

WAVE Country Report 2021

154 members  
in 46 European  
countries

“You are the wave on which we go far.”

Autonomia, Poland

## 1. Our members

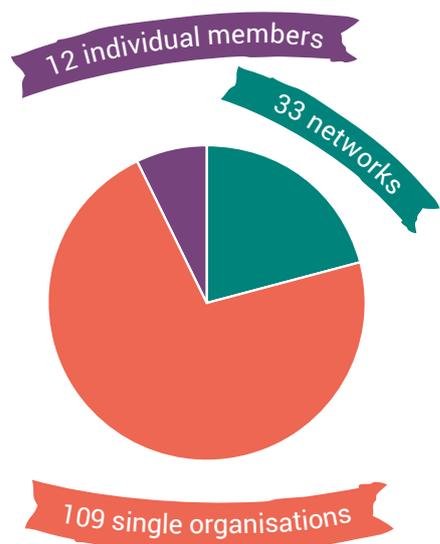
The WAVE Network is comprised of 154 members, located throughout 46 European countries. Our members are women's rights feminist activists who work towards preventing and tackling violence against women and their children. These include women's organisations, networks, and **women's specialist support services** such as women's shelters, women's centres, helplines, rape crisis centres, and policy and advocacy organisations. Additionally, individual WAVE members are key experts in the field of violence against women with close relationships with other members in their country and provide research and other related support to the network.

The WAVE office serves as a linchpin for the whole WAVE Network by providing capacity-building trainings; supporting women's specialist

support services in their advocacy and campaigning efforts; conducting research on the implementation of international and European legal standards such as the Istanbul Convention; and encouraging collaboration and partnerships between WAVE members within and across countries.

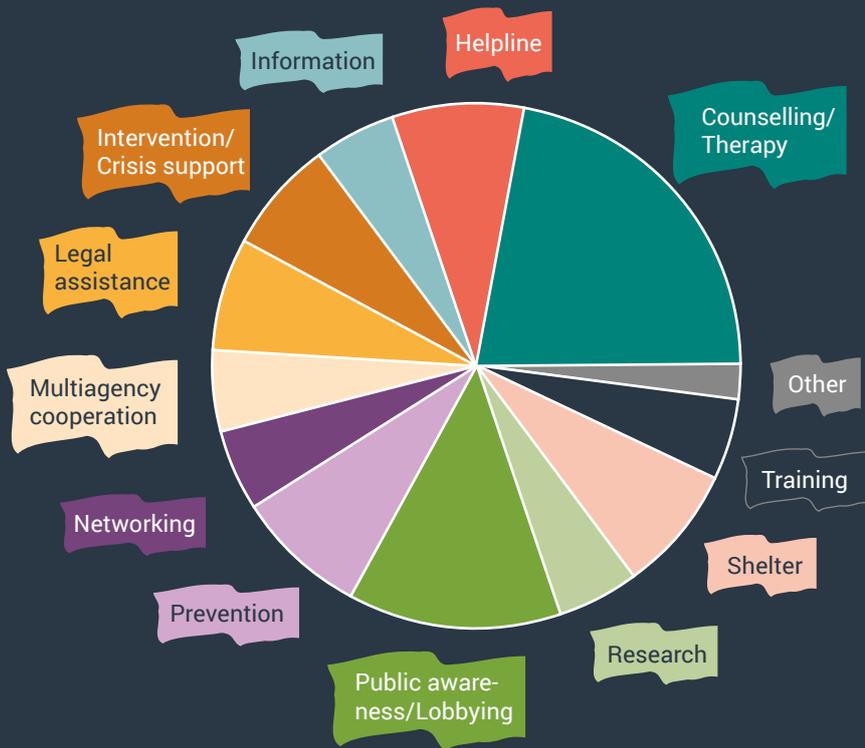
Research in several European Countries has demonstrated that for every €1 invested in women's specialist services, they return on average 6–9 times this cost in social value to society, as their holistic service provision means that there is less need for repeated police and social services interventions, fewer hospital visits, less emergency housing costs, less lost working hours because of injury, and most importantly significantly fewer human costs of ongoing suffering and trauma.<sup>1</sup>

The WAVE Network is comprised of



<sup>1</sup> Solace Women's Aid and Ascent (2015), Ascent Advice and Counselling: For women and girls affected by domestic and sexual violence; WeWorld Onlus (2017), Violenza sulle Donne. Non c'è più tempo. Quanto vale investire in prevenzione e contrasto. Analisi SROI\* delle politiche d'intervento.

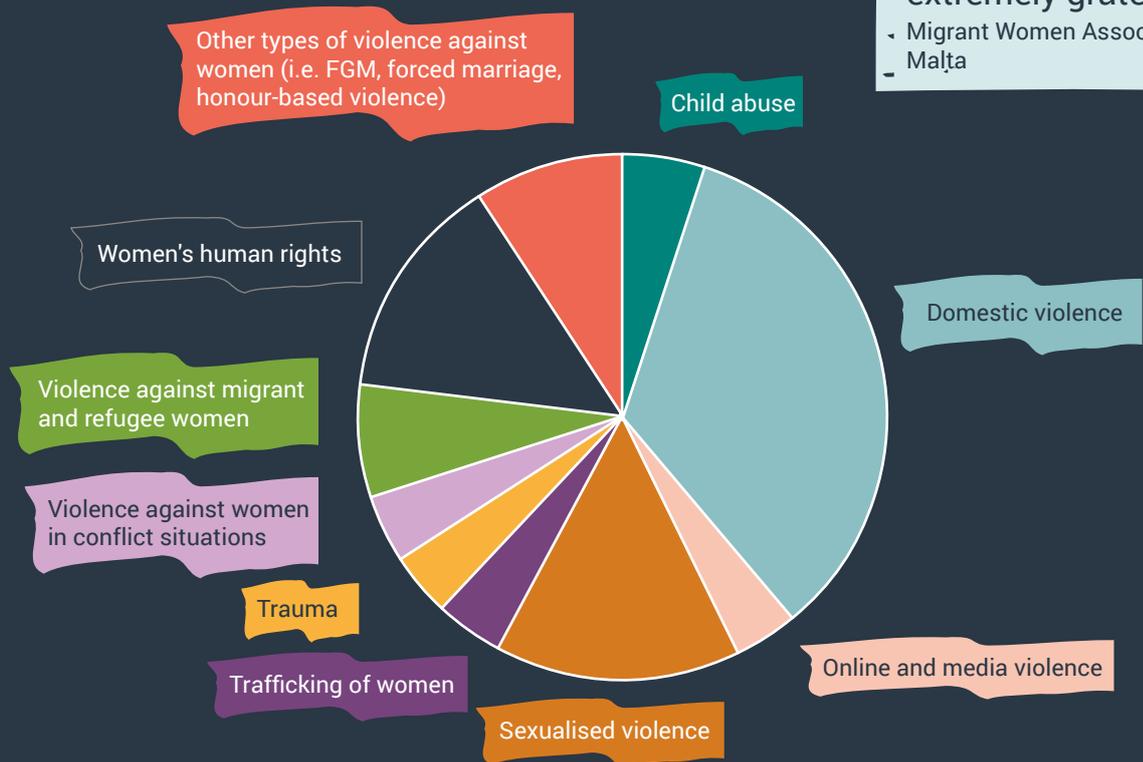
# MAIN SERVICES OF WAVE MEMBERS



Our members provide a number of essential services to survivors of violence against women. The most common services are counselling and therapy, public awareness and lobbying, as well as shelter space. Other services include prevention work, legal assistance, helplines, training, multi-agency cooperation, research, networking, information, intervention and crisis support. In terms of field of work, the majority of our members work on domestic violence, followed by sexualised violence and women’s human rights in general. Other fields of work include child abuse, trafficking in women, trauma, violence against migrant and refugee women, violence against women in conflict situations, as well as online and media violence.

“MWAM is very glad to be a member of the network that always shows support and solidarity with our work. The WAVE Network is truly making a difference for us, and we are extremely grateful!”  
 - Migrant Women Association Malta

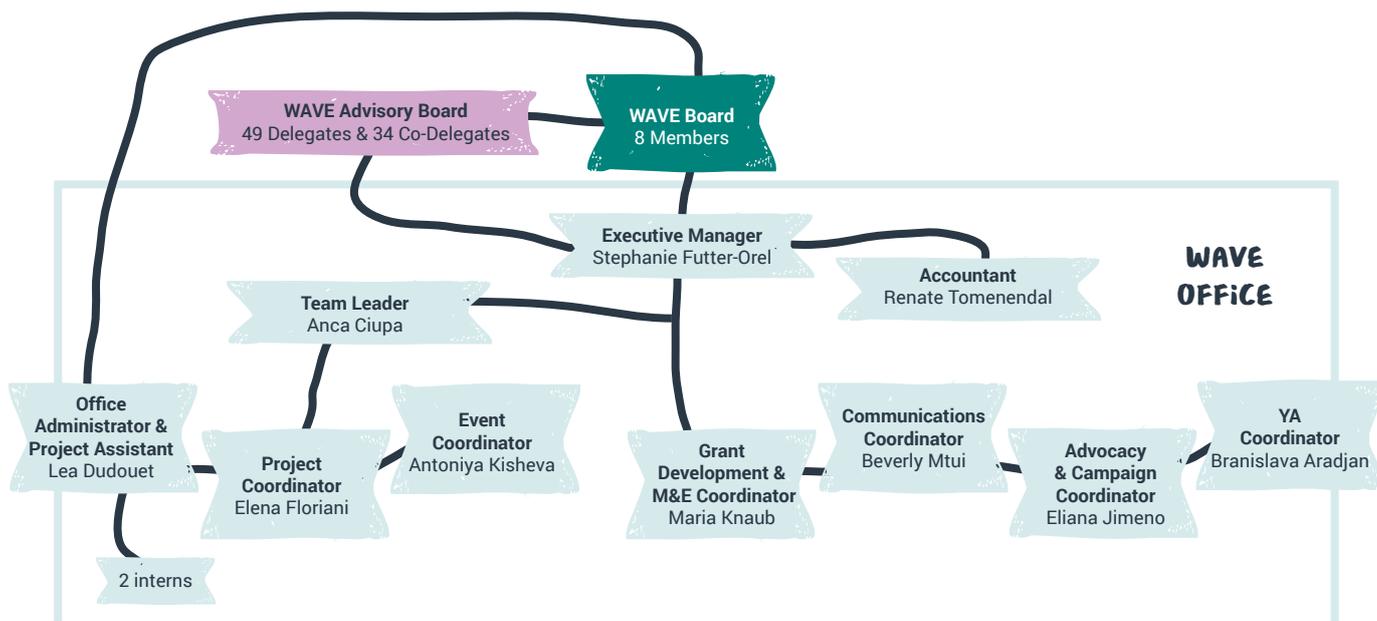
# MAIN FIELDS OF WORK OF WAVE MEMBERS



## 2. Our team and network structure

The WAVE team consists of ten employees responsible for the implementation of all the operational work. The WAVE Advisory Board supports the WAVE Board in the development, implementation and evaluation of policies and activities, in order to intensify the coordination and planning for the WAVE Network, and to ensure representation from all regions. It consists of one Delegate and one Co-delegate (substitute) from each country.

The WAVE Board is comprised of eight members from different countries and oversees the strategic development of the network. It is elected by the General Assembly that is comprised of all members. Throughout the year, two interns support the WAVE team for a duration of three to six months. **Homa Bazafkan, Diva Adelaide Edosini, Verena Henneberger, Raphaëlle Jouannic, Polina Lynova, India Stotesbury**: A big thank you for your amazing work and contribution to the network in 2021!



### WAVE BOARD

**Marcella Pirrone (President)** is a feminist lawyer with over thirty years of experience of promoting and advocating for the rights of women in Italy and at international level. She is also the co-founder and President of a women's shelter, co-founder and Board member of the Italian umbrella organisation D.i.Re and university law professor.

**Susana Pavlou (Vice-President)** is the Director of the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies. She has served as an expert on violence against women for European networks and organisations including EIGE, and the Council of Europe. In Cyprus, she is currently also President of the Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Combating of Violence in the Family.

**Baljit Banga** serves as Executive Director at Imkaan. Her professional life has been dedicated to policy research and practice, specifically gender policy and women's human 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.

**Selime Büyükgöze** is a volunteer at Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation, a feminist organisation working in the field of violence against women. She is mostly involved in communication activities, advocacy and monitoring activities on violence against women in Turkey. She holds a PhD in communications and works as a university lecturer.

**Dušana Karlovská** has been directly supporting survivors over 17 years, developing and carrying out trainings and advocacy activities. She is the Programme Director of Fenestra, one of Slovakia's first feminist organisations working with survivors. She is a member of the Gender Equality Committee, an advisory body under the Slovak Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family.

**Veronica Teleuca** is the coordinator of the National Coalition "Life without Violence", comprising 22 civil society

and service provider organisations. She holds a Masters degree in clinic psychology and is also a lawyer, women's human rights defender and justice sector expert, with relevant experience and understanding of working with women's organisations.

**Branislava Marvánová Vargová** is the head of the information and counselling centre ROSA that provides support and counselling for women survivors. She is a psychologist and psychotherapist with over 18 years of experience. Since 2016, she has been chairwoman of the Government Committee for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women.

**Irene Zeilinger** is a sociologist and the founder, former executive director and current international affairs officer at Garance. She holds over 25 years of experience in feminist self-defence and prevention and has participated in the writing of the shadow report of the Istanbul Convention and sits on the advisory board of the Belgian francophone action plan to combat violence against women.

# 3. Get involved

We help women support services, networks, and individual members from Europe to come together and fight violence against women through lobbying, cooperation, and knowledge sharing. In light of the current backlash against work done by feminist organisations, staying together is especially important and allows us to strengthen our message and make our voices louder than ever before.

Are you interested in being part of our WAVE of change and help tackle violence against women and girls? There are many different ways of getting involved in WAVE.

Women’s organisations but also individuals from all over Europe are encouraged to apply for membership of the network. Our members have the opportunity **to share their expertise on a variety of relevant topics**; facilitating knowledge sharing and networking. They also have exclusive access to WAVE **events and trainings** such as the annual WAVE Conference which takes place in different European countries, the WAVE Multidisciplinary Training and Training Institute as well as webinars and workshops, allowing members to learn more from specialists fighting

violence against women. We also support our members with **promoting critical women’s rights issues**, including the Istanbul Convention lobbying, EU Directive integration, recognition of women support services, and other matters that are proposed by the members. You can find more information on the application process [here](#).

Our [website](#) is also the place to find out about current vacancies and internships. Make sure to follow us on our social media channels to stay updated on current developments and support our initiatives.

We are grateful for any financial contribution that allows us to support women and children to live free from violence. You can find more information on how to donate [here](#).



The WAVE team in October 2021



## 4. List of helplines in 46 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 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
<b>Albania</b>	National Counselling Line for Women and Girls ( <i>Linja Kombetare e Keshillimit per gra e vajza</i> )	+355 116/117 + 0 800 40 20
<b>Armenia*</b>	Ministry of Social Affairs' Helpline	+374 114/119
	<i>Spitak</i> Human rights	+374 93252017
	Women's Rights House	+374 77570870
	<i>Arevamanouk</i>	+374 77159470
	Women's Community ( <i>Martuni</i> )	+374 94876502
	<i>Gavar</i>	+374 94876505
	<i>Sose</i>	+374 98848453
	Women's Empowerment Resource Center NGO	+374 77380053
	You Are Not Alone	+374 98886077
	<i>Young Tavush</i>	+374 099788770
	<i>Young Vanguard</i>	+374 93574657
	<i>Talin-Huys</i>	+374 91482035
	Women's Rights Center	+374 91416249
	Women's Support Center	+374 99887808
<b>Austria</b>	Women's Helpline Against Violence ( <i>Frauenhelpline gegen Gewalt</i> )	+43 800222555
<b>Azerbaijan*</b>	A helpline run by the Ministry of Internal Affairs	+994 12151
	"Clean World" Social Union ( <i>"Təmiz Dünya" Qadınlara Yardım İctimai Birliyi</i> )	+99 4124085669 +994 125111151
	+994 125111151	0800 333 883
<b>Belarus</b>	N/A – The National Hotline for Survivors of Domestic Violence was indefinitely suspended in July 2021 due to ongoing political unrest and attacks on human rights defenders. The civil society organisation Gender Perspectives that operated the hotline since 2012 was liquidated by authorities on the 28 <sup>th</sup> of September 2021.	
<b>Belgium*</b>	Domestic violence helpline ( <i>Écoute violences conjugales</i> )	+32 80003030
	My Marriage Belongs to Me ( <i>Mon Mariage M'appartient</i> )	+32 0800 90901
	SOS Rape ( <i>SOS Viol</i> )	+32 80098100
	Listening Ears ( <i>Luisterende Oren</i> )	+32 1712
	Centres for General Welfare Work and Child Abuse Trust Centres helpline ( <i>Centra voor Algemeen Welzijnswerk en Vertrouwenscentra kindermishandeling</i> )	+32 1712
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	SOS helpline for survivors of domestic violence ( <i>SOS telefon za žrtve nasilja</i> )	+387 1265
	SOS line for domestic violence ( <i>SOS telefon za žrtve nasilja</i> )	+387 1264
	Unique telephone line for support and help to survivors of war rape and sexual violence and their family members ( <i>Jedinstvena telefonska linija za pomoć i podršku preživjelim ratno silovanje i seksualno nasilje i članovima njihovih porodica</i> )	+387 80022334
	Unique telephone line for support and help to survivors of war rape and sexual violence and their family members ( <i>Jedinstvena telefonska linija za pomoć i podršku preživjelim ratno silovanje i seksualno nasilje i članovima njihovih porodica</i> )	+387 80022334

Country	Name	Phone number
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Alliance for Protection against Gender-Based Violence ( <i>Алианс за защита от насиллие, основано на пола</i> )	+359 80011977
	National Helpline for Survivors of Violence ( <i>Национална гореща телефонна линија за пострадали от насиллие</i> )	+359 80018676
	Association Demetra ( <i>Асоцијација Деметра</i> )	+359 56815 618
<b>Croatia</b>	National Call Centre for Victims of Crime ( <i>Nacionalni pozivni centar za žrtve kaznenih djela i prekršaja</i> )	+385 116006
	Women's Help Now ( <i>Ženska pomoć sada</i> )	+385 800655222
<b>Republic of Cyprus</b>	Helpline 1440 ( <i>1440</i> )	+357 1140
<b>Czech Republic*</b>	White Circle of Safety - Victims Helpline ( <i>Bílý kruh bezpečí - Linka Pomoci Obetem</i> )	+420 116006
	Support Centre for Child Sexual Abuse Women Survivors ( <i>Elektra – Centrum pomoci ženám sexuálně zneužitým v dětství</i> )	+420 603812361
<b>Denmark</b>	Live Without Violence's National Hotline ( <i>Lev Uden Volds nationale hotline</i> )	+45 1888
<b>Estonia</b>	Victim's Crisis Helpline ( <i>Ohvriabi kriisitelefoni</i> )	+372 116006
<b>Finland</b>	Zeroline against domestic violence and violence against women ( <i>Nollalinja</i> )	+358 80005005
<b>France</b>	Women Violence Info ( <i>Violence Femmes Info</i> )	+33 3919
<b>Georgia</b>	Agency for the State Care and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking ( <i>სახელმწიფო ზრუნვისა და ტრეფიკინგის მსხვერპლთა დაზარალებულთა დახმარების სააგენტო</i> )	+995 322395111
<b>Germany</b>	Violence Against Women Helpline ( <i>Hilfetelefon Gewalt gegen Frauen</i> )	+49 80001160116
<b>Greece</b>	SOS Helpline ( <i>Γραμμή SOS</i> )	+30 15900
	Helpline against domestic violence ( <i>Γραμμή Επίδας</i> )	+30 8011116000
<b>Hungary</b>	NANE Helpline ( <i>NANE Segélyvonal</i> )	+36 80505101
<b>Iceland</b>	The Women's Shelters Helpline ( <i>Neyðarsími Kvænnaathvarfsins</i> )	+353 1800341900
<b>Ireland</b>	Women's Aid 24hr National Freephone Helpline	+353 1800341900
<b>Italy</b>	National helpline against violence and stalking ( <i>1522 - Numero nazionale antiviolenza e stalking</i> )	+39 1552
<b>Kosovo</b>	Helpline Number ( <i>Numri i Linjës Ndihmëse</i> )	+383 80011112
<b>Latvia</b>	NGO Association "MARTA Centre" ( <i>Biedriba "Centrs MARTA"</i> )	+371 67378539
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	Women's Shelter Liechtenstein ( <i>Frauenhaus Liechtenstein</i> )	+423 3800203
<b>Lithuania</b>	Helpline for Women ( <i>Pagalbos moterims linija</i> )	+370 880066366
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Domestic Violence Helpline ( <i>Helpline-Violence domestique</i> )	+352 621612774
<b>Malta*</b>	APPOGG Agency within the Foundation for Social Welfare Services	+356 179
	Victim Support Malta	+356 2122 8333
<b>The Republic of Moldova</b>	Trust Line for Women and Girls ( <i>Telefonul de Încredere pentru Femei și Fete</i> )	+373 80088008
<b>Montenegro</b>	National SOS Hotline for Domestic Violence ( <i>Nacionalna SOS linija za porodično nasilje</i> )	+382 80111111
<b>Netherlands*</b>	Safe At Home ( <i>Veilig Thuis</i> )	+31 8002000
	Fier	+31 882080000
	Stay Group ( <i>Blijf Groep</i> )	+31 882342450
	Moviera	+31 883744744
	Centre for Sexual Violence	+31 8000188
	Against Your Will	+31 592347444
<b>North Macedonia</b>	SOS Mobile National Line ( <i>Национална СОС мобилна линија за жртви на семејно насилство</i> )	+389 70/75/77 141700
	National SOS Line – Telephone for Trust ( <i>Национална СОС линија - Телефон на доверба</i> )	+389 15315

Country	Name	Phone number
	National SOS Line 15 700 ( <i>Национална СОС линија 15 700</i> )	+389 15700
Norway	National Domestic Violence Helpline ( <i>Vold- og overgrepslinjen</i> )	+47 116006
Poland	Emergency Helpline for Women Victims of Violence ( <i>Telefon Interwencyjny</i> )	+48 600070717
Portugal	Information Service for Domestic Violence Victims ( <i>Serviço de Informação a Vítima de Violência Doméstica – SIVVD</i> )	+351 800202148
	Victim Support Portugal's helpline ( <i>Apoio a Vítima – APAV</i> )	+351 116006
	Association of Women against Violence's helpline ( <i>Associação de Mulheres contra a Violência – AMCV</i> )	+351 213802160
	Women's Alternative and Response Union's helpline ( <i>União de Mulheres Alternativa e Resposta</i> )	+351 218873005
Romania	National Helpline for Victims of Domestic Violence ( <i>Număr unic național de urgență pentru victimele violenței domestice</i> )	+40 800500333
Russia	National helpline for women suffering from domestic violence ( <i>Всероссийский телефон для женщин, пострадавших от домашнего насилия</i> )	+7 88007000600
Serbia	SOS Helpline for women with experience of violence ( <i>СОС Телефон за жене са искуством насиља</i> )	+381 800222003
Slovakia	National Helpline for Women Experiencing Violence ( <i>Národná linka pre ženy zažívajúce násilie</i> )	+421 800212212
Slovenia	SOS Helpline for Women and Children - Victims of Violence ( <i>Društvo SOS telefon za ženske in otroke - žrtve nasilja</i> )	+386 801155
Spain	Telephone service for information, legal advice and immediate psychological attention by specialised personnel for all forms of violence against women ( <i>Servicio telefónico de información, de asesoramiento jurídico y de atención psicosocial inmediata por personal especializado a todas las formas de violencia contra las mujeres</i> )	+34 016
Sweden	Sweden's National Women's Helpline ( <i>Kvinnofridslinjen</i> )	+46 20505050
Switzerland*	Rape and sexual assault helpline ( <i>Association Viol-Secours</i> )	+41 223452020
	General crisis helpline ( <i>Dargebotene Hand</i> )	+41 143
Turkey	Emergency Domestic Violence Hotline ( <i>Aile içi Şiddet Acil Yardım Hattı</i> )	+90 2126569696
Ukraine	National hotline on prevention of domestic violence, trafficking and gender discrimination ( <i>Національна "гаряча" лінія з попередження домашнього насильства, торгівлі людьми та гендерної дискримінації</i> )	+380 800500335 or +380 116123
	State Call Center on the prevention of human trafficking, domestic violence, gender-based violence, and violence against children ( <i>Урядова "гаряча лінія" для осіб, постраждалих від торгівлі людьми, домашнього насильства, насильства за ознакою статі, насильства стосовно дітей, або про загрозу вчинення такого насильства</i> )	+380 1547
United Kingdom	ENGLAND: Freephone 24hr National Domestic Violence Helpline	+44 8082000247
	NORTHERN IRELAND: 24hr Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline	+44 8088021414
	SCOTLAND: Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline	+44 8000271234
	WALES: Live Fear Free Helpline ( <i>Llinell Gymorth Byw Heb Ofn</i> )	+44 8088010800

## 5. List of WAVE members

	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	Women's 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 (WRC)	Armenia
12	Women's Support Center (WSC)	Armenia
13	Sexual Assault Crisis Center (SACC)	Armenia
14	Austrian Women's Shelter Network and 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 AID to WOMEN (Clean World Social Union)	Azerbaijan
19	International Public Association "Gender Perspectives"	Belarus
20	Law Initiative – Commission on Women's Rights	Belarus
21	Collective Against Family Violence and Exclusion (CVFE)	Belgium
22	Garance ASBL	Belgium
23	Foundation "United Women" Banja Luka	Bosnia and Herzegovina
24	"Medica" Zenica Information	Bosnia and Herzegovina
25	Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation	Bulgaria
26	Alliance for Protection against Gender-Based Violence	Bulgaria
27	Gender Alternatives Foundation (GAF)	Bulgaria
28	Autonomous Women's House Zagreb	Croatia
29	B.a.B.e. Be active. Be emancipated	Croatia
30	Women's Room – Center for Sexual Rights	Croatia
31	Centre for Women War Victims – ROSA	Croatia
32	Domine – Organization for the Promotion of Women's Rights	Croatia
33	Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS)	Cyprus
34	Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family (SPAVO)	Cyprus
35	Association of Women to Support Living (KAYAD)	Northern Cyprus
36	ProFem – Center for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence	Czech Republic
37	ROSA – Centre for Women	Czech Republic
38	L.O.K.K – National Organization of Women's Shelters in Denmark	Denmark

	NAME OF ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
39	Danner	Denmark
40	Women's Support and Information Centre	Estonia
41	Pärnu Women's Support Centre	Estonia
42	Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters	Finland
43	Women's Line Finland	Finland
44	National Federation of Women Solidarity (FNSF)	France
45	Women for Women France	France
46	Cultural Humanitarian Fund 'Sukhumi'	Georgia
47	Union Sakhli – Consultation Centre for Women	Georgia
48	Anti-Violence Network of Georgia (AVNG)	Georgia
49	Democrat Women's Organization of Samtskhe-Javakheti	Georgia
50	BIG e.V. – Berlin Initiative against Violence against Wom-en	Germany
51	Women's Refuge Coordination	Germany
52	bff – Federal Association of Rape Crisis Centres and Wom-en's Counselling Centres	Germany
53	GESINE Network "Gesundheit.EN"	Germany
54	Prof. Carol Hagemann-White (Honorary Member)	Germany
55	kofra – Communication Center for Women's Life and Work Situation	Germany
56	papatya – Crisis Facility for Young Migrant Women	Germany
57	ZIF – Central Information Center for Autonomous Wom-en's Shelters	Germany
58	Karin Heisecke (Individual Member)	Germany
59	Alina Kuhl (Individual Member)	Germany
60	European Anti-Violence Network (EAVN)	Greece
61	Union of Women Associations of Heraklion Prefecture	Greece
62	NANE – Women's Rights Association	Hungary
63	Stígamót – Counselling and Information Centre on Sexual Violence	Iceland
64	Women's Shelter Association	Iceland
65	Sexual Violence Centre Cork	Ireland
66	Rape Crisis Network Ireland	Ireland
67	Safe Ireland	Ireland
68	Women's Aid Ireland	Ireland
69	D.i.Re – National Women's Network against Violence	Italy
70	National Association of Volunteers of the Telefono Rosa Onlus	Italy
71	Differenza Donna – Women and Girls against Violence	Italy
72	BeFree Social Cooperative	Italy
73	Dr. Cristina Gamberi (Individual Member)	Italy
74	Silvia Menecali (Individual Member)	Italy
75	Paola Degani (Individual Member)	Italy
76	Women's Wellness Centre (WWC)	Kosovo
77	Kosovar Gender Studies Center (KGSC)	Kosovo
78	Crisis and Counselling Centre "Skalbes"	Latvia
79	Women's Shelter Liechtenstein	Liechtenstein

<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>
80 Vilnius Women's House	Lithuania
81 Women in Distress ASBL	Luxembourg
82 Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence	Malta
83 Network Forum Malta	Malta
84 Migrant Women Association Malta	Malta
85 Dr. Marceline Naudi (Individual Member)	Malta
86 Association against Violence "Casa Marioarei"	Moldova
87 Center for Support and Development of Civic Initiatives "Resonance"	Moldova
88 Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims "Memoria"	Moldova
89 Women's Law Centre	Moldova
90 National Coalition "Life without Violence in the Family"	Moldova
91 SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Niksic	Montenegro
92 Women's Safe House	Montenegro
93 Association "Valente"	Netherlands
94 National Network to End Violence against Women and Domestic Violence – Voice against Violence	North Macedonia
95 National Council for Gender Equality (NCGE)	North Macedonia
96 Secretariat of the Shelter Movement	Norway
97 Centrum Praw Kobiet	Poland
98 Autonomy Foundation	Poland
99 AMCV – Association of Women against Violence	Portugal
100 A.L.E.G Association for Liberty and Equality of Gender	Romania
101 Anais Association	Romania
102 Counselling Centre against Sexual Abuse Artemis	Romania
103 Necuvinte Association	Romania
104 Filia Center	Romania
105 Sensiblu Foundation	Romania
106 ANNA – National Center for Prevention of Violence	Russia
107 Crisis Center Ekaterina	Russia
108 Nizhny Novgorod Women Crisis Center	Russia
109 Interregional Non-Governmental Organization for the Support of Family, Motherhood, and Childhood "Doctors to Children"	Russia
110 Crisis Center for Women – Institute of Non-Discriminative Gender Interrelations	Russia
111 We Believe You – Tebe Poveryat	Russia
112 Autonomous Women's Center (AWC)	Serbia
113 Association Fenomena	Serbia
114 Oasis of Safety	Serbia
115 The Association of Women Sandglass	Serbia
116 Roma Center for Women and Children Daje	Serbia
117 Human Rights Committee Vranje	Serbia
118 ...IZ KRUGA - VOJVODINA, organization for the support of women with disabilities	Serbia
119 Alliance of Women in Slovakia	Slovakia

	<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>
120	Fenestra	Slovakia
121	Association SOS Helpline	Slovenia
122	Association for Nonviolent Communication	Slovenia
123	Aspacia Foundation	Spain
124	HELIA – Women Association	Spain
125	Association “Otro Tiempo”	Spain
126	Federation of Women’s Associations Arena and Laurisilva	Spain
127	Roks – National Organisation for Women’s and Girls’ Shel-ters in Sweden	Sweden
128	Unizon	Sweden
129	Women’s Solidarity Organization of Switzerland and Liech-tenstein	Switzerland
130	Violence que Faire (Violence What to do?)	Switzerland
131	Brava – Together against Violence Against Women	Switzerland
132	Foundation for Women’s Solidarity	Turkey
133	Mor Çatı Women’s Shelter Foundation	Turkey
134	Mor Salkım Women’s Association	Turkey
135	AKDAM – Adana Women’s Solidarity Center and Shelter Association	Turkey
136	Kadriye Bakırcı (Individual Member)	Turkey
137	International Women’s Rights Center La Strada	Ukraine
138	Women’s Information Consultative Center (WICC)	Ukraine
139	Women’s Perspectives Center	Ukraine
140	Imkaan	United Kingdom
141	Latin American Women’s Aid (LAWA)	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 (LAWRSS)	United Kingdom
148	Solace Women’s Aid	United Kingdom
149	Standing Together against Domestic Abuse (STADV)	United Kingdom
150	Greta Squire (Individual Member)	United Kingdom
151	London Black Women’s Project	United Kingdom
152	Shazia Choudhry (Individual Member)	United Kingdom
153	Beverley Gilbert (Individual Member)	United Kingdom
154	Lily Greenan (Individual Member)	United Kingdom



Women Against Violence Europe Network (WAVE) is a European-wide network of over 150 members (including women's NGOs, NGO networks and individual members) in 46 European countries, who are dedicated to addressing and preventing violence against women and girls. Since its foundation in 1994, WAVE has been working to promote and strengthen the human rights of women and children, and to enable women and their children to live free from violence, particularly through building and sustaining a strong European network of specialised support services, experts and survivors.

**WAVE Network and European Information Centre Against Violence**

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