



**WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE  
ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2023**

Feminist Network Promoting Human Rights of Women and Children

## WAVE ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2023


The outlined activities and achievements were made possible through generous funding by the:

- Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme of the European Commission
- Oak Foundation
- Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection Austria
- Municipality of Vienna, the Department for Women's Affairs (MA57) Austria
- Federal Chancellery, Minister for Women, Family, Integration and Media
- Council of Europe
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe OSCE



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the European Union

OAK  
FOUNDATION

 Federal Chancellery  
Republic of Austria

 Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria  
Social Affairs, Health, Care  
and Consumer Protection

 Stadt  
Wien | Frauenservice Wien

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Publisher: WAVE – Women Against Violence Europe

Editors: Beverly Mtui and Léa Dudouet with the support of the WAVE team

Graphic design: Monika Medvey

Place and year of publication: Vienna, February 2024

Views and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union, the European Commission or other funders. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



## **WAVE – WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2023**

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# I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The women's movement across Europe is currently experiencing an ever-intensifying backlash against women's rights, resulting in increasing discrimination and oppression of women and the shrinking of public space for women's civil society. Furthermore, increasingly gender-neutral policy making is leading to a gradual negation of violence against women as 'gendered', no longer recognising the term as the disproportionate impact of male violence against women. This is currently leading

to a reversing of many gains the women's movement has made over decades, in particular to fundamental rights and protections of women. Against this background, WAVE remains resolute in our commitment to protect and advance women's human rights to live a life free from violence. In the face of adversity, our network stands united and advocates with clarity for the key role of women's specialist services in preventing and addressing violence against women and girls.

2023 was a pivotal year in our advocacy efforts, as we focused our energies on strengthening key legal instruments such as the draft EU Directive on Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, the revision of the Victims' Rights Directive, and the EU accession to the Istanbul Convention. WAVE actively contributed to numerous international and European advocacy meetings, building new alliances as well as fostering collaboration with political decision makers and CSO partners, whilst

## WAVE VOICES

"The WAVE Youth Ambassadors initiative is pivotal in our fight for women's and girls' rights, as it empowers young people to gain skills and develop a strong sense of their ability to effect change. Early involvement in such initiatives significantly enhances the likelihood of their continued participation in the fight for women's and girls' rights. Furthermore, the initiative fosters reciprocal learning between adults and youth, facilitating a dynamic exchange of perspectives that drives progress toward gender equality."

Branislava Aradjan, WAVE Project & Youth Ambassador Coordinator

"Being part of the first regional meeting was a pleasure. WAVE's deep dives into diverse topics and contexts, each with unique nuances yet many shared similarities, provided valuable perspectives and a conducive environment for discussing critical issues!"

Turkish WAVE member

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you. Of all the networks we know of, the WAVE Network has immediately moved on to support Ukrainian activists. This is extremely valuable and such help saved not only the health, but also the lives of some of our sister activists."

Ukrainian WAVE member

"Our network firmly believes that specialised support services are indispensable in addressing the unique needs of victims of violence against women, domestic violence, and their children. Generic, non-specialist services cannot replace the vital role played by women's specialist services, which have accumulated over 40 years of feminist practice and expertise."

Susana Pavlou, WAVE Vice-President

demonstrating resilience in the face of a challenging political climate. Furthermore, WAVE strengthened its collaboration with international political stakeholders such as EU parliamentarians, as well as Council of Europe and United Nations representatives, and feminist civil society partners such as The Advocates for Human Rights and the EL\*C (Euro-Centralasian Lesbian Community), and allies such as PICUM, IPPF, ILGA Europe, End FGM, LaStrada International, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

An instrumental development this year was the growth of the WAVE regranting programme which now encompasses two different funding schemes for members. This capacity building initiative is dedicated towards strengthening women's specialist services that are particularly underfunded, as they are heavily impacted by the current backlash against women's rights and/or other crisis related challenges. Additionally, WAVE distributed 20 microgrants for national advocacy and campaigning efforts, underscoring our commitment to sustaining feminist civil society engagement also on national level. Furthermore, the WAVE Youth Ambassadors initiative continued to play a crucial role in engaging young people in advocacy and awareness-raising activities, and empowering youth to contribute to the prevention of violence against women and girls, particularly in the digital sphere.

This year brought several key changes, from the introduction of the WAVE Regional Meetings to the composition of a newly elected WAVE Board. We extend sincere appreciation to outgoing Board members welcoming the new Board. As the network grows, so

“As WAVE members continue to work in solidarity with women survivors of violence, it is imperative to reaffirm the indispensability of women's specialist services in effectively preventing and tackling violence against women. Upholding the gender-specific nature and feminist principles of these services is not merely about prioritising women; it is about acknowledging and rectifying hundreds of years of systemic inequalities and power imbalances which perpetuate gender-based violence against women and girls today. WAVE's commitment to advocating for the preservation and elevation of women's specialist services remains unwavering.”

Stephanie Futter-Orel (WAVE Executive Director) and Marcella Pirrone (WAVE President)

does the WAVE office, and we were delighted to welcome two new office staff-members in 2023, including Event Coordinator Amina Reiss and Accounting Assistant Rüya Langenberger. We are particularly grateful to our now 174 members, without whom the network would be incomplete.

In 2023, WAVE continued to advance European data collection and research on violence against women, creating significant publications emphasising women's and children's rights in child custody proceedings through the [WAVE toolkit for victim-friendly judicial practice in child custody](#), contact and visitation matters, strengthening women's specialist services impacted by [conflict and war](#), and the importance of primary prevention. The [WAVE Country Report 2023](#) was published, highlighting the status and value of women's specialist services and countries' national fulfilment of Istanbul Convention standards. Furthermore, the publicly accessible

WAVE database of women's specialist services, a cornerstone for supporting women survivors of gender-based violence, represents an additional aspect of our ongoing commitment to providing vital resources. All of WAVE's dissemination and communication efforts contributed to increasing knowledge, fostering awareness, and offering support to CSO practitioners, key decision-makers and women and girls experiencing GBV.

These accomplishments reflect our personal and collective dedication to advancing gender equality, preventing and addressing violence against women and girls, and strengthening the capacities of our network and members. As we look ahead, WAVE is eager to continue these efforts in the pursuit of a world where women and girls, in all their diversity, can enjoy their human rights.

Stephanie Futter-Orel,  
WAVE Executive Manager



# II. WAVE MILESTONES IN 2023

## JANUARY

As we enter the new year, we commence with our **WAVE office planning meeting** dedicated to outlining our strategic priorities and determining the most effective ways to seamlessly integrate them into our annual activities. The **first advocacy meetings** of the year are taking place in Brussels, paving the way for this year's advocacy efforts rooted in strengthening collaboration to showcase the effectiveness of feminist civil society organisations and women's specialist services.

## FEBRUARY

The online **training sessions** organised by medica mondiale together with Medica Zenica and Medica Gjakova on the topic of "**Feminist solidarity in practice – How to strengthen ourselves to support others in challenging times**" start in February and are running until May.

The first two sessions are conducted on 2 February and 2 March within the frame of the **Multidisciplinary Training 2023** and focus on "Feminist self- and collective care and context analysis". We also hold our first **WAVE Solidarity Meeting** of the year, open to all members who are directly or indirectly impacted by conflict and crisis situations.

## MARCH

The WAVE Youth Ambassadors develop their Europe-wide "**I Am a Woman/Girl in Cyberspace**" **campaign** aimed at preventing and addressing cyber violence and advocating for the importance of women's and girls' digital rights and their protection in the digital sphere. Our **International Women's Day** initiatives focus on advocating for robust feminist legislation within the EU, particularly emphasising the draft EU Directive on Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence. At the end of the month, our annual **Discussion Forum** takes place facilitating exchange between members and encouraging open and informal discussions on country developments and burning issues.

## APRIL

Our inaugural online pilot meeting of the **WAVE Regional Meetings** is organised with the aim of strengthening WAVE's regional cooperation and consolidating advocacy efforts. The activities of the EU-funded **WAVE Regranting** initiative begin of which seven proposals from Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Hungary, Malta and Spain have been selected.

## MAY

The **Spring Advisory Board meeting** welcomes 40 WAVE members representing 32 countries. The meeting focuses on network development activities at WAVE, capacity building efforts across the network, advocacy updates in line with WAVE's strategic priorities, and the upcoming WAVE Country Report 2023. Our **training sessions** conducted by medica mondiale, Medica Zenica and Medica Gjakova conclude, and we are exploring additional collaboration options for the new year. Meanwhile, a **charity event** is organised within the WAVE Youth Ambassadors initiative in Vienna, Austria, focusing on young people's involvement in preventing sexual harassment in public spaces and nightclub settings.

## JUNE

We host a **webinar** on "Violence against women and children in custody cases and visitation rights" within the WAVE project "Safeguarding and empowering children" welcoming 77 participants from WAVE member organisations to discuss cooperation among different stakeholders and mechanisms on women's and children's rights in custody proceedings. Within the WAVE Youth Ambassadors initiative, the first ever **WAVE Rave** is hosted in Vienna, Austria, with more than 300 attendants aimed at tackling period inequality. We also partner with the **2 A Billion campaign** by Bon Iver, which aims to raise support, awareness, and person-to-person connections in an effort to end gender inequality, domestic violence, and sexual abuse.



## JULY

Under the topic “resisting against antifeminism”, the annual **WAVE Youth Ambassadors Conference** takes place in Vienna, Austria, offering our young feminist activists specific skills and knowledge on how to react in antifeminist situations, and providing them with effective communication tools. In Tirana, Albania, the first WAVE Youth Ambassadors **intergenerational talk** is held aimed at promoting safety and protection in digital spaces. Our partners of the WAVE/OSCE project “**Preventing and responding to gender-based violence during the war and in post-war settings**” also join us in Vienna to discuss the continuation of the project and the upcoming training manuals on the implementation of the toolkit’s strategies.

## AUGUST

This month is dedicated to preparing for the approaching conference and capacity building events. We intensify advocacy efforts ahead of the upcoming negotiations to agree on a common text for the proposed EU Directive on Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, emphasising the demands of women’s specialist services. Additionally, we conduct a **social media campaign** on the revised Victim’s Rights Directive to ensure that the voices of women and their children, and those of women’s specialist services continue to be adequately represented in the text of the directive.

## SEPTEMBER

15 participants are trained in our annual **WAVE Training Institute**, this year focusing on effectively monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. Furthermore, the training centred around the key role of feminist civil society organisations and women’s specialist services in the monitoring process and how to best channel their efforts. On the **International Safe Abortion Day**, we emphasise the urgent need to strengthen global efforts to ensure universal access to high-quality healthcare services, including safe, affordable, and legal abortion.

## OCTOBER

Our **25<sup>th</sup> annual WAVE Conference** on “Institutional violence and its impact on women’s human rights across Europe” is held in Madrid, Spain, organised in collaboration with our Spanish member Aspacia. The conference encompasses eight in-person workshops. The **Fall Advisory Board meeting** brings together 37 WAVE members to discuss network representation and development. Our new Board members, which were elected during the **WAVE General Assembly** happening at the start of the month, are officially introduced to the network during the Advisory Board Meeting.

## NOVEMBER

The 2023 **Fempower Magazine** dedicated to the importance of preventing and tackling institutional violence on women and girls is officially published. Through webinars, podcasts, articles, videos, and in-person as well as online workshops we showcase together with WAVE members, WAVE Youth Ambassadors and dedicated partners within the feminist movement the myriad ways activism can advance women’s human rights and foster gender equality through legislative change, powerful advocacy, responsible media reporting, access to vital information, and realm of activism in the scope of the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**.

## DECEMBER

As we wrap up the year, WAVE proudly presents two significant outputs from ongoing projects and working groups. One addresses the critical issues surrounding women’s and children’s rights in custody proceedings in the form of a toolkit, while the other emphasises the importance of primary prevention exclusively addressing WAVE members. Additionally, the much-anticipated **WAVE Country Report 2023**, shedding light on the status and value of women’s specialist services in preventing and addressing gender-based violence against women in Europe, is finally published.

# III. OUR WORK

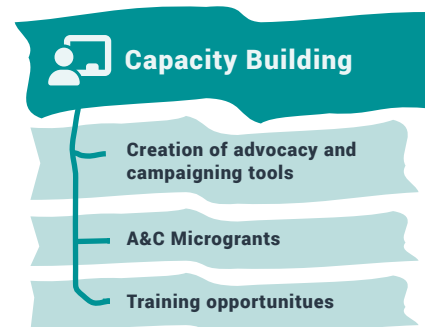
## 1. Advocacy and campaigning

- ✓ Actively engaged in over **90 consultations and events** with relevant stakeholders from national governments and permanent representations, EU institutions, the Council of Europe, and civil society organisations to discuss and promote the recognition and support of women's specialist services.
- ✓ Played a pivotal role in the **legislative process** by proposing comprehensive amendments to the draft EU Directive on Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, and the revision of the Victims' Rights Directive, emphasising the need for primary prevention measures, women's specialised victim support, and the integration of intersectionality.
- ✓ Forged **alliances** to advocate for robust Directives, engaging in collaborative forums and joint online campaigns, particularly emphasising the EU's accession to the Istanbul Convention amid a prevailing backlash against women's rights.
  - ✓ Distributed **20 microgrants** during the 16 Days of Activism to support national advocacy and campaigning initiatives, fostering diverse activism and unique partnerships.

The main aim of WAVE's Advocacy & Campaigning (A&C) area is to drive systemic change that empowers women and girls to live free from violence while promoting the vital role of women's specialist services in preventing and addressing violence against women and girls. By strategically advocating for the recognition and support of women's specialist services, we aim to influence political decision-makers to prioritise and implement strong legislation aimed at preventing and addressing VAWG across Europe. Building upon the groundwork established between 2021–2022, 2023 has played a vital role in nurturing and refining the strategies within the A&C pillar of work. During this period, we focused on reinforcing the established foundation, fostering deeper

connections with our partners, and promoting stronger engagement among our members. These efforts have been pivotal in increasing the visibility of WAVE amongst policy-makers across Europe, as well as an increased awareness of the key role served by women's specialist services in preventing and holistically addressing gender-based violence against women and girls.

In 2023, WAVE actively engaged in consultations with civil society organisations and stakeholders, did advocacy visits to Brussels, Strasbourg, France, New York, and other locations, and had influential discussions with diverse decision-makers, emphasising the vital contributions of women's specialist services, thus elevating our collective influence by adopting a proactive approach.





We engaged with key stakeholders at the European Commission, Permanent Representations of EU Member States, Members of the European Parliament, and feminist civil society organisations.

In terms of advancing feminist legislation, advocating for the inclusion of women's specialist services in EU Directives was a cornerstone of our efforts this year. As such, we actively discussed and proposed comprehensive amendments to the draft EU Directive on Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, the revision of the Victims' Rights Directive, the Recommendation on Harmful Practices, and campaigned for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention. Likewise, WAVE contributed to drafting the Council of Europe's Gender Equality Strategy 2024–2029 and participated in its formal presentation in Strasbourg. We advocated for a balanced approach of acknowledging the disproportionate impact women face concerning equality issues, particularly gender-based violence and the significance of involving men and boys in fostering healthy masculinities. These initiatives aimed at strengthening legislative frameworks to protect women's rights across Europe, and our role was to underscore the necessity of prioritising specialist support for women survivors and allocating resources proportionate to the significant impact borne by women. Simultaneously, WAVE played an active role in the EU Gender Equality Week, emphasising the indispensable role of women's specialist services and highlighting the potential repercussions of gender-neutral policies and programs on the advancement of feminist policies and women's rights. The advocacy efforts concerning the draft EU Directive on Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence and the revision of the Victims' Rights Directive also included the submission of detailed

amendments to members of the European Parliament across various sections of both Directives. WAVE's primary advocacy points on the EU Directive on Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence emphasised the need for active inclusion of primary prevention measures, enhancement of women's specialised victim support, protection of children affected by intimate partner violence, integration of intersectionality in all proposed chapters with a focus on migrant women, and promotion of the involvement of feminist civil society organisations as implementation partners. WAVE submitted a total of nine comprehensive position papers containing detailed amendments, recommendations, and evidence related to the raised points.

In conjunction with our ongoing efforts, our advocacy efforts for the Victims' Rights Directive concentrated on two key areas. Firstly, we aimed to clarify and promote stakeholders' understanding of the critical role played by women's specialist services. These services address the unique needs for protection and support required by victims of GBV against women. Secondly, we emphasised the importance of complementary protection levels outlined in EU legislation. This recognition underscores the necessity for specialised support in addition to general support services, emphasising that the latter cannot replace the former.

2023 also marked a year of actively forging alliances to bolster its advocacy efforts. We participated in a coalition of civil society organisations dedicated to advocating for robust Directives, engaging in a collaborative forum that fostered ongoing dialogue and mutual support throughout the legislative process. Concurrently, we collaborated in joint online campaigns and initiatives with our partners. By cooperating

closely with other feminist networks, we expanded our outreach and amplified our collective voice in championing women's rights, notably in advocating for the EU's accession to the Istanbul Convention. In this area, despite facing a prevailing backlash against women's rights, WAVE remained steadfast in its commitment to advancing the effective implementation of the Istanbul Convention across member countries and advocating for the EU's accession to it. Our advocacy efforts extended across various platforms, including social media campaigns and public statements to raise awareness about its critical importance.

Continuing with strategic campaigning, WAVE solidified its narrative and visual identity for its flagship campaigns, International Women's Day and the 16 Days of Activism. The International Women's Day initiatives concentrated on advocating for robust feminist legislation within the EU. To commemorate the 16 Days of Activism we curated a [calendar of events](#) under the theme "The Power of Diverse Feminist Activism: Shaping Equality and Women's Human Rights". This campaign celebrated the diverse spectrum of feminist activism, recognising that these distinct perspectives are not mutually exclusive but rather mutually enriching. Embracing this diversity empowers our members to leverage the full potential of activism to drive societal change, foster a more equitable world, and ensure every voice is heard. Alongside a selected number of in-person and online events, we also produced two video series, one highlighting the voices of young activists, and the other one emphasising the role of collaboration among networks.

Equally vital is the capacity-building aspect of the A&C pillar, particularly the initiatives developed with WAVE members. During the 16 Days of Activism, aligning with national

contexts, WAVE distributed 20 microgrants to support national advocacy and campaigning initiatives. These microgrants aligned with the overarching theme of the 16 Days, showcasing diverse activism. Among our members, unique partnerships emerged, such as collaboration with a male football team in Georgia, highlighting inclusivity. In Armenia, an impactful art exhibition coupled with a roundtable discussion addressed gaps in the domestic violence response system. Furthermore, one Austrian member crafted a pocket-sized online leaflet titled “What to do in case of domestic violence? Detecting violence and taking action”. This user-friendly resource, resembling a map, offers clear guidance for recognising signs of domestic violence and is designed for easy distribution by counselling services assisting women and girls. These activities represent the breadth of initiatives undertaken by our members as part of this crucial campaign, highlighting the significance of microgrants as a form of capacity building and support.

In summary, 2023 was a landmark year for WAVE's Advocacy & Campaigning initiatives, characterised by strategic engagements, active legislative participation, and steadfast advocacy for the visibility of women's specialist services. Through consultations, advocacy visits, and influential discussions with decision-makers, we elevated our collective influence by adopting a proactive approach, emphasising the indispensable contributions of women's specialist services across diverse platforms and locations, and remaining at the forefront of European policy dialogue. Moreover, our capacity-building initiatives with WAVE members underscored our commitment to empowering advocates and empowering women, thus exemplifying WAVE's dedication to driving systemic change.



## YOUTH INCLUSION

WAVE sees the inclusion and engagement of youth as a crucial pillar of strengthening feminist movements across Europe. Since October 2018, the WAVE Youth Ambassadors initiative aims to provide a platform for youth activists in order to facilitate youth participation, youth campaigning and youth inclusion within the context of preventing and eliminating violence and discrimination against women and girls. At the end of 2022, the third generation of WAVE Youth Ambassadors started its two-year term towards raising and amplifying youth voices across Europe:

- Ilvana Dedja, Albania
- Doga Gunduz, Cyprus
- Raphaëlle Jouannic, France
- Lena Östlund, France/Sweden
- Aliz Bineth, Hungary
- Milena Rusu, Moldova
- Lina Al-Hassany, Netherlands
- Teodora Mileska, North Macedonia
- Ines Consonni, Portugal/Italy
- Selin Özunaldim, Türkiye

At the beginning of the year, WAVE Youth Ambassadors Lena Östlund, Raphaëlle Jouannic and Ilvana Dedja developed the European “**I Am a Woman/Girl in Cyberspace**” campaign, which is set to run until the end of their mandate. The goal is to raise awareness of the importance of women and girls' digital rights and advocate for their protection in cyberspace through policy development, community education, women's involvement in cybersecurity, changing mindsets as well as multi-stakeholder cooperation with young people in Europe.

The campaign started on **International Women's Day**, by releasing video “A woman in Cyberspace: Building a Better Digital Future for Women and Girls”, created by WAVE Youth Ambassadors, Lena Östlund and Ilvana Dedja, who met with Lella Violet Halloum, Digital Changemaker and Power of Youth Champion, to discuss the challenges of digital safety for women and girls. In line with this, the two ambassadors created one podcast episode for the WAVE podcast “**No More Violence Against Women**” in March, highlighting the need to end cyberviolence. In the episode, they discuss cyberviolence against women and girls as a deepening challenge to gender equality and democracy with Dr. Eleonora Esposito, a Seconded National Expert at the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), and look into the lack of data and clear definitions; various forms of online violence such as harassment, stalking & doxing, intersectionality, as well as policies and recommendations. The second podcast episode, published in July and produced within the youth initiative, was by WAVE Youth Ambassador Ines Consonni who talked to Farah Abou Harb, a Political Science graduate working as a women, peace and security program analyst in the field of peace process support, about the state of women's rights, gender (in)equality and violence against women and girls in the MENA region, particularly in Lebanon.

On 19 May, the Austrian association About Later organised a charity event in the frame of a club party to collect donations for WAVE. The event was opened with a panel discussion where WAVE Project & Youth Ambassador Coordinator Branislava Aradjan and WAVE Youth Ambassador Aliz Bineth presented the work and efforts of WAVE including the successful WAVE Youth Ambassadors initiative. This led to a fruitful exchange on youth's and young people's involvement in preventing



violence against women and girls around sexual harassment in public spaces and nightclub settings and additionally gave room to exploring new ways of collaboration.

On 11 June, WAVE Youth Ambassador Aliz Bineth organised the **WAVE Rave** in Vienna, Austria, made possible through the civic engagement project funding from the Open Society University Network she received as a Central European University student. The open-air event welcomed more than 300 people and was aimed at tackling period inequality and lifting the taboo about menstruation through feminist DJ performances, period workshops and quizzes, as well as discussions with experts and activists. Aliz Bineth also started a petition for menstrual products to be made available free of charge at all educational institutions managed by the City of Vienna, which received 216 signatures during the event.

As part of the “I Am a Woman/Girl in Cyberspace” campaign, the WAVE Youth Ambassadors also aim to conduct a series of **intergenerational talks** in selected European countries to raise awareness and advocate for better protection of girls’ and women’s rights in the digital sphere. These intergenerational talks centre around creating a hub for girls and women, experts and policymakers to share their experiences and insights on how to effectively promote safe digital spaces. Furthermore, girls and women are enabled to enhance empowering skills to navigate online interactions more safely. The intergenerational talks introduce innovative perspectives on the importance of safeguarding the rights of women and girls in the digital realm. The first talk was initiated by ambassador Ilvana Dedja and hosted in Tirana, Albania on 6 July in collaboration with the Young Professional Network, a cooperation platform composed of young professionals and youth organisations. The talk included a

panel comprised of Megi Llubani, Research Analyst at MDRC Nadia Guni, Human Rights Lawyer at the Center for Civic Legal Initiatives and Arjola Hoxha, Cybersecurity Expert at BKT. The next intergenerational talk is set for February 2024.

From 8–9 July, the current generation of WAVE Youth Ambassadors gathered in Vienna, Austria, to attend the annual **WAVE Youth Ambassadors Conference**. This year’s conference highlighted the importance of “resisting against antifeminism”. Our group of young feminist activists from across Europe had the opportunity to gain specific skills and knowledge on how to react in antifeminist situations, were provided with effective communication tools, and delved into critical conversations on the crucial role of self-care for activists. The conference was facilitated and led by Irene Zeilinger of the WAVE member organisation Garance ASBL, based on the organisation’s brochure [“Let’s shut down antifeminism! - The verbal self-defence guide for feminists”](#).

The next opportunity for ambassadors to meet in-person presented itself in October. Three WAVE Youth Ambassadors had the opportunity to attend the 25<sup>th</sup> WAVE Conference on “Institutional violence and its impact on women’s human rights across Europe” in Madrid, Spain from 16–17 October 2023. By attending the conference, the ambassadors had the opportunity to engage in fruitful discussions and exchange with WAVE members on the need to advocate for issues affecting young people in the context of preventing and addressing violence against women and girls. Additionally, we produced video content with the ambassadors on the importance of youth inclusion in feminist activism, which was later shared during the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence 2023** in our **Activist Spotlight Series** [social media campaign](#).

Effectively, the WAVE Youth Ambassadors participated in WAVE’s 16 Days of Activism campaign under the theme **“The Power of Diverse Feminist Activism: Shaping Equality and Women’s Human Rights”**. Together with WAVE, WAVE Youth Ambassador Aliz Bineth supported two in-person events: On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, a dynamic fundraising art exhibition curated by Rifka Fehr, a student at the Central European University, in collaboration the university took place in Vienna, Austria, donating 80% of the proceeds from the event to WAVE. On 30 November, the “Empowering Civil Courage Workshop: Responding to Gender-Based Violence within the Framework of Austrian Laws and Women Specialist Services” was organised in collaboration with the Central European University and Austrian WAVE member AÖF - Association of Autonomous Austrian Women’s Shelters with the aim to equip students with knowledge and skills to respond effectively when someone is experiencing gender-based violence, and to offer insights into how to react in accordance with Austrian laws and the available women’s specialist services.

This year, the WAVE Youth Ambassadors initiative did not only grow on the digital sphere through their independent **“WAVE Network Youth”** social media accounts ([Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)), but effectively surpassed digital boundaries, extending its impact through proactive outreach and engaging interactions with youth across Europe. Our ambassadors played a pivotal role in mobilising youth, fostering intergenerational connections, and reaching diverse audiences to enable meaningful discussions and create sustainable positive change.



## 2. Capacity building and network development

- ✓ **443 professionals** of women's specialist services participated in **16 trainings and capacity building events** encompassing
  - **Four** Webinars
  - **One** annual WAVE Conference
  - **Eight** Workshops
  - **One** Multidisciplinary Training
  - **One** WAVE Training Institute
  - **One** Youth Ambassadors Conference
- ✓ Distributed grants in total of 105,000 € to 12 WAVE members
  - ✓ **90 %** of surveyed participants found our trainings useful
  - ✓ **91 %** of surveyed participants said that their knowledge increased as a result of the trainings



### CAPACITY BUILDING

WAVE strengthens the capacity of its members to carry out and continue their invaluable work through trainings, knowledge exchange, partner projects, conferences, and webinars. These activities include two key trainings per year, namely the Multidisciplinary Training and the WAVE Training Institute. Additionally, WAVE hosts several webinars throughout the year and facilitates capacity building during the annual WAVE Conference as well as the Youth Ambassadors Conference.

### WAVE REGRANTING INITIATIVES

Through the WAVE Regranting Initiative 2023, WAVE was able to strengthen the capacity of members through financial support, distributing seven grants in total amounting to 50,000 € to members in Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Hungary,

Malta, and Spain. The aim of the regranting scheme was to support WAVE members to develop local, context-specific actions to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and girls, thus contributing to the promotion and implementation of international standards at EU level and advance EU values within the framework of the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020–2025. The projects supported in 2023 ranged from a cooking and self-care project where mental health assistance was provided to asylum seeking women who were exposed to sexual and gender-based violence, to national advocacy projects for the protection of women from violence, awareness raising projects to counter the violation of women's rights in the context of sexual and digital violence and prevention projects targeting girls and young women.

WAVE also secured another 3-year core-grant from a philanthropic foundation which enabled us to enhance

our regranting programme and reach members outside the EU, namely in Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia. In addition, we included two more countries specifically affected by the ongoing backlash against women's rights and democracy, which are Armenia and Serbia, based on a members' assessment.

In total, WAVE disbursed 105,000 € to 12 members in 11 countries with 57,5 % of WAVE members being eligible to at least one regranting scheme.

### WEBINARS

On 19 June, we held the webinar "**Violence against women and children in custody cases and visitation rights**" within the WAVE project "Safeguarding and empowering children" for WAVE members. The goal of the webinar was to bring together experts on women's and children's rights in custody proceedings, to give an

overview of burning issues in child custody proceedings, but also to discuss strengthening cooperation among different stakeholders and mechanisms on women's and children's rights in custody proceedings, and among WAVE members. Furthermore, the webinar addressed the main findings from GREVIO reports around children's rights in custody proceedings, relevant policies across Europe, promising practices to combat the concept of "parental alienation" and related or similar harmful practices, and different contexts and opportunities for cooperation among WAVE members on the topic. 77 participants followed the webinar in which Dr. Marceline Naudi, individual WAVE member, Senior Lecturer Gender Studies (University of Malta), and Andrea Czak, FEM.A – Association of Feminist Single Mothers (WAVE member organisation, Austria) presented.

On 10 October, the WAVE webinar on **"The Istanbul Convention: the effects of the European Union's accession for EU and non-EU countries"** led by Sara de Vido, Associate Professor of International and EU Law (Ca'Foscari University of Venice, Italy), invited WAVE members to delve into the EU accession to the Istanbul Convention including its implications to EU and non-EU members, advocacy for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, and the role of the Commission as the coordinating body which will ensure the Convention's implementation. Additionally, the webinar addressed how the Istanbul Convention can inspire new legislation at the domestic and/or regional level, even broadening its scope to include information and communications technology (ICT) facilitated violence. The discussion also included the ongoing process for the proposed EU Directive on Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence. 35 participants attended this webinar.

During the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**, we hosted three webinars. The first was held on 28 November and was open to the public. The webinar focused on **"Responsible Reporting on VAWG and Femicide – A Media and Activist Perspective"** as a follow-up to last year's 16 Days webinar on challenging the media towards ethical reporting of violence against women. The webinar brought together journalists, media professionals, and activists to explore the critical role of the media and responsible, ethical, and feminist-oriented reporting in addressing femicide and advancing gender equality. The aim was to highlight principles that should guide responsible reporting, emphasising respect for victims, their consent, and the avoidance of victim-blaming. Additionally, the importance of steering clear of sensationalism in media coverage, ensuring that reporting remains focused on the issues at hand, was at the forefront. A key aspect was to hold perpetrators and authorities accountable for femicide, underscoring the media's responsibility in uncovering systemic failures and advocating for change through investigative journalism. The presenters during the webinar were Teresa Parker, Head of Media, Brand & Relationships, from WAVE member organisation Women's Aid Federation of England (UK), Philine Dressler, Campaigns Director, and Flora Bachmann, Campaigner of the civil society campaign organisation #aufstehn (Austria), and Hristina Cvetinčanin Knežević, member of the group "Journalist against violence against women" and co-author of "Guidelines for Media Reporting on Violence against Women" (Serbia). The webinar welcomed 13 participants.

The second webinar, held on 4 December, was entitled **"Empowering Equality: Navigating the EU VAW and DV Directive"**

enabled the public to dive deep into the draft EU Directive on Combating Violence Against Women (VAW) and Domestic Violence (DV) to explore the nuances of this directive and the importance of partnership-building for joint advocacy among feminist organisations. The webinar emphasised the power of language and the significant impact of including women in legal texts, exploring why it constitutes a pivotal step towards achieving true gender equality. Additionally, the webinar shed light on the challenges faced in advocating for the criminalisation of rape within EU member states, addressing the reasons behind hesitations and reluctance in embracing this legislation. The webinar was hosted by WAVE Senior Advocacy Advisor Eliana Jimeno, Ilaria Todde, Advocacy Director at EuroCentralAsian Lesbian\* Community, and Katharina Choe, Communication and Media Relations, unsichtbar – an intermedia, interdisciplinary initiative against sexualised violence. 14 participants attended this webinar.

The third webinar during the 16 Days and the last webinar of 2023 was held on 7 December dedicated to **"Feminist approaches to counter gender-based violence during and after conflict"**. Based on the toolkit "Responding and preventing gender-based violence during the war and in post-war setting" (WAVE in partnership with the OSCE Gender Issues Programme/WIN Project), the webinar explained how certain strategies could be used in conflict settings to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. Furthermore, the webinar highlighted, based on the experiences of feminist organisations from Georgia, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine, the different approaches to fight gender-based violence during and after conflict which are implemented in their respective countries. The speakers during the webinar were

Inessa Adilkhanyan, Sexual Assault Crisis Center (Armenia), Ekaterine Gamakharia, Women Fund Sukhumi (Georgia) and Gorica Ivić, Foundation "United Women" Banja Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina). The webinar welcomed 25 participants.

“Wellbeing and self-care are critical for us to do our work – anything we can add to the tools we have to support this is essential.”  
Participant of the Multidisciplinary Training 2023

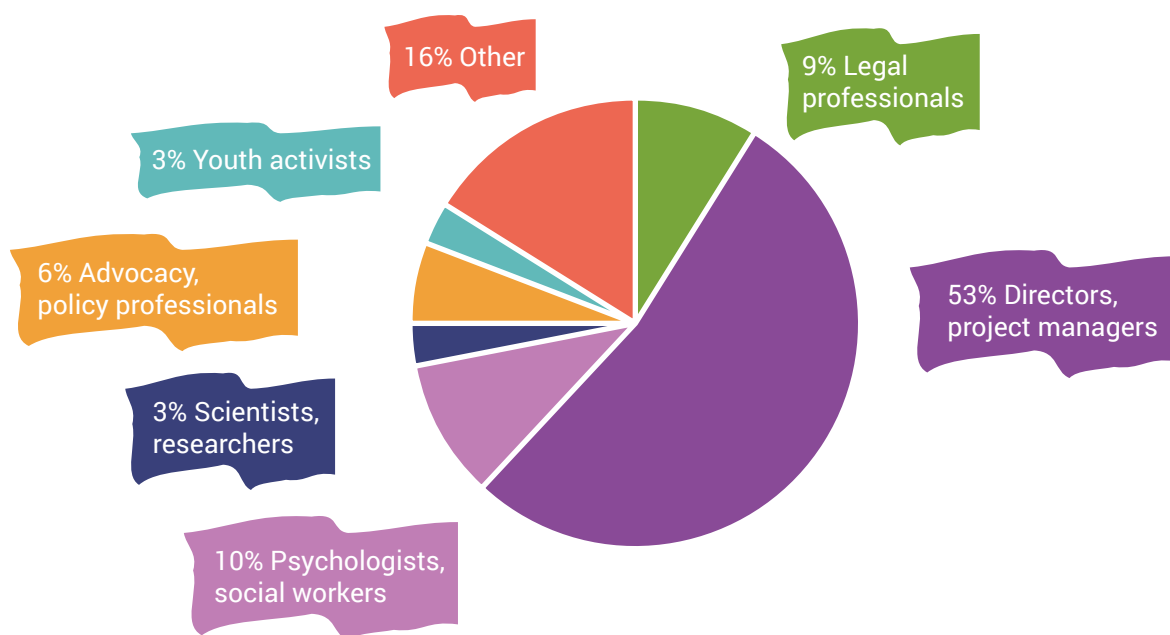
## KEY TRAININGS

In 2023, **four online training sessions** were organised by medica mondiale together with Medica Zenica and Medica Gjakova from February to May 2023 on the topic of **“Feminist solidarity in practice – How to strengthen ourselves to support others in challenging times”**. The first two sessions were held on 2 February and 2 March within the frame of the **Multidisciplinary Training 2023** and focused on “Feminist self- and collective care and context analysis”. The aim was to support WAVE members in practicing feminist self-care at an individual as well as organisational level. Participants were enabled to effectively care for themselves under the challenging circumstances of conflict, and increase their understanding of the

effects of conflict dynamics on oneself, on teams and/or organisations with regard to feminist perspectives and to wellbeing, among other. The training sessions were attended by 20 participants from 13 countries, mainly Eastern European countries and those directly and indirectly impacted by the war in Ukraine. Pia Frohwein, sociologist, certified trauma counsellor, peacebuilder and feminist (medica mondiale), Dr Sabiha Husić, psychotherapist, interreligious peacebuilder, and the director of the NGO Medica Zenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Leonita Gojani, human rights activist and psychosocial counsellor at Medica Gjakova, and Shpresa Frrokaj, clinical psychologist and certified trauma counsellor, provided their expertise and knowledge as trainers during the Multidisciplinary Training.

The **WAVE Training Institute 2023** was held in-person from 21–22 September in Vienna, Austria, entitled **“Monitoring the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention: Empowering Feminist Civil Society for Effective Contribution”**. This training aimed to equip WAVE members with the requisite skills to monitor the Istanbul Convention’s implementation in ratified countries. With 15 active participants, the training provided a comprehensive understanding of the monitoring phases, enhancing members’ advocacy capacity for women’s specialist services and the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. Biljana Brankovic, independent researcher - consultant, member of GREVIO, Council of Europe (2015–2023), and Marcella Pirrone, independent lawyer-consultant, WAVE president and co-founder of DiRe facilitated the two-day event. The training drew keen interest from the WAVE membership and sparked ideas for future interventions and projects on this topic.

## Participants in WAVE Events & Trainings 2023 per Profession



“I will be dedicating more of my focus to advocacy. I believe that my knowledge gained over these two days regarding GREVIO and how to create an effective report will greatly benefit our organisation.”

Participant of the WAVE Training Institute 2022

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WAVE CONFERENCE

The WAVE Conference is an important forum for building and strengthening relationships within the membership as well as relevant stakeholders, and for raising awareness on the issue of violence against women and girls. In 2023, the central theme of the conference

was **“Institutional violence and its impact on women’s human rights across Europe”**, focusing on the pervasive impact of institutional violence on women and girls, the different forms in which it manifests, and the key role women’s specialist services have in denouncing and undoing this type of violence. By looking at violence against women and girls through a multidisciplinary lens, the conference centered around the link between institutional violence and state accountability.

The conference was held in Madrid, Spain, from 16–17 October, in collaboration with our Spanish member Fundacion para la Convivencia Aspacia. The first day of the conference was open to the general public and WAVE members, while the second one was only open to WAVE members. Participants were offered a platform to share knowledge, experiences, and promising practice examples. The conference encouraged discussion on progress and challenges from a feminist perspective to address institutional violence, and its impact on diverse groups of women and their children,

exploring institutional violence from the political context, the institutional practice and the personal sphere. The public day of the WAVE Conference welcomed 186 participants in Madrid, Spain.

## WORKSHOPS

During the annual **WAVE Conference 2023** “Institutional violence and its impact on women’s human rights across Europe”, eight in-person workshops were held on the second day of the conference. Topics covered included feminist strategies against the perpetuation of institutional violence, institutional violence in the context of migration, child custody proceedings and violence against older women, and institutional violence in the absence of rule of law, among other. 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 addressing institutional violence. In total, 131 professionals attended these workshops.



Participants during the first day of the 25<sup>th</sup> WAVE Conference on “Institutional violence and its impact on women’s human rights across Europe” in Madrid, Spain

**292 professionals** working at WAVE engaged in network development activities across

- ✓ **Two** Advisory Board Meetings
- ✓ **One** General Assembly
- ✓ **One** Discussion Forum
- ✓ **One** Regional Meeting
- ✓ **Eleven** Board meetings
- ✓ **Two** Working Groups
- ✓ **Three** Solidarity meetings

## NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

Network development activities are a crucial part of WAVE's internal capacity building. 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 for sustainable growth. These activities include giving space to members for networking and discussions during Advisory Board Meetings, our General Assembly, and other forums and meetings. Strengthening the overall network capacity also entails continuous work of the WAVE team in managing the membership, corresponding with members and ensuring effective communication and information-sharing, monitoring and evaluation, fundraising, as well as strategic planning.

## 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. The **WAVE Spring Advisory Board meeting** was held in Vienna, Austria, from 15–17 May 2023. 40 WAVE members comprising of both EU as well as non-EU countries and representing a total of 32 countries participated in the meeting. Topics included discussions on internal procedures at WAVE, regional meetings, advocacy & strategic issues, updates on the WAVE Thematic Working Groups, the preparation for the WAVE Country Report 2023, and an overview of current WAVE projects, among other.

The **WAVE General Assembly** was held online on 3 October 2023. It provides an essential platform for all WAVE members to engage in important decision-making and monitoring activities including annual activities, financial budget, and the biannual election of the new WAVE Board. During this year's General Assembly, the WAVE Board Elections took place, warmly welcoming newly elected members Tatevik

Aghabekyan (Armenia), Gorica Ivić (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Sara Kirkpatrick (Wales) to the WAVE Board and gratefully discharging outgoing Board members Dušana Karlovská (Slovakia), Branislava Marvánová Vargová (Czech Republic) and Baljit Banga (UK) after years of dedication. The General Assembly welcomed 41 participants from 26 countries in total.

The **Fall Advisory Board meeting** was organised in Madrid, Spain, on 18 October 2023, and was held in-person. Discussion topics were dedicated to internal processes, intersectional approaches within WAVE, WAVE's strategic plan and priority topics. In total, 37 WAVE members participated in this meeting representing 23 countries.

## DISCUSSION FORUM

The WAVE Discussion Forum aims to fortify efforts to facilitate exchange between members and to encourage open and informal discussions on country developments and burning issues. This year's Discussion Forum took place online on 23 March 2023 and enabled dialogue on building alliance and solidarity amongst women's organisations, addressing the implementation of international legislation such as the Istanbul Convention, and tackling high-priority topics such as child custody proceedings in the context of violence against women, among other. In total, 20 WAVE members participated representing 13 countries.

## REGIONAL MEETINGS

In 2023, WAVE began organising regional meetings with members with the aim of enabling us to hear from members directly and connect those members who are in the same region and may be facing similar political and other issues to



strengthen WAVE's regional cooperation and consolidate advocacy efforts. Based on discussions during the Spring Advisory Board meeting 2023, the following regional division was defined:

1. North Europe encompassing 18 members in 8 countries;
2. East-Central Europe encompassing 21 members in 7 countries;
3. South-East Europe encompassing 34 members in 9 countries;
4. West-Central Europe encompassing 46 members in 9 countries;
5. South Europe encompassing 33 members in 8 countries; and
6. Eurasia encompassing 22 members in 5 countries.

The first online pilot meeting for South Europe took place on 26 April 2023. Starting in 2024, we will plan two in-person regional meetings per year over a period of three years, so that all six regions within WAVE will have a chance to take part in an in-person meeting.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

Throughout the year, **11 Board meetings** took place, two of which were in person; one in Vienna, Austria, and one in Madrid, Spain. During these meetings the eight Board members are joined by the

Executive Director and Operations Coordinator. They discuss key strategic issues, guide network activities and work on the priorities of the current and upcoming year. This year's strategic planning sessions were particularly to the planning of the newly established regional meetings and the WAVE Conference in Madrid as well as the overall restructuring of procedures within the WAVE Network.

## WORKING GROUPS

The WAVE team coordinates two Thematic Working Group, consisting of team members and around ten professionals from WAVE member organisations and operating since 2022. The working groups meet regularly online to discuss recent developments, create synergies and develop tools for mutual exchange of knowledge.

The **WAVE Thematic Working Group on primary prevention** focuses on the importance and need for primary prevention work and how it can complement and inform the work of women's specialist services in combatting violence against women and girls. It is dedicated to identifying obstacles and existing solutions and tools to advocate

effectively for primary prevention across Europe. The working group also explores existing efforts regarding primary prevention within the WAVE member organisations to exchange promising practices. In 2023, the working group developed a publication on primary prevention which was made available to all WAVE members, on the members-only section of the WAVE website.

The **WAVE Thematic Working Group on supporting migrant and refugee women** aims to share promising practices on how women's specialist services can effectively support migrant and refugee women. We also aim to outline the needs of our members regarding service provision to migrant and refugee women and identify areas for improvement to ensure intersectional approaches and inclusivity. Additionally, our focus extends to contributing insights that can inform advocacy and lobbying for migrant and refugee women at both national and European levels, addressing their unique needs for support.

## SOLIDARITY MEETINGS

The WAVE office is committed to supporting WAVE members who are experiencing conflict and crisis or emergency situations (i.e., earthquakes, floods, epidemics, and unprecedented political unrest), to enable them to continue their invaluable work. Therefore, we have extended the solidarity meetings, which started as a response to the war in Ukraine, to all members navigating humanitarian, political, social, economic, and environmental challenges obstructing their efforts in preventing and addressing violence against women and girls. The WAVE Solidarity Meetings were held in February, May, and September 2023, and welcomed members from Ukraine, Armenia, and other countries directly or indirectly impacted by crises.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

This year, we are happy to welcome **13 NEW MEMBERS** to the WAVE Network:

- Armenia:** Impact Innovations Institute's Initiatives Foundation  
Women's Rights House
- Austria:** FEM.A – Association of Feminist Single Mothers
- Denmark:** Center for the Analysis of Power Relations; The Joan-Sisters
- France:** Association Protéger L'Enfant
- Georgia:** Association Merkuri  
Women's NGOs Cooperation Network of Latvia
- Kosovo:** Kosovo Women's Network
- Poland:** Juniper
- Russia:** Nasiliu.Net
- Spain:** Asociación Por Ti Mujer; Unitary platform against gender violence  
**Rosa Logar** (Honorary Membership)



# 3. Communications and research

- ✓ **6 %** social media **increase**
- ✓ **1.65 Mio** people reached
- ✓ **1,932 visits** to our Database to find help nearby
- ✓ **149** information and support request processed
- ✓ **Four** publications:
  - Fempower Magazine,
  - WAVE toolkit “Safety as the best interest of the child”,
  - WAVE Thematic Working Group output “A life free from violence – Primary prevention as the key to eliminating violence against women and girls”(internal), and
    - WAVE Country Report 2023.

WAVE advances data collection, research, and knowledge on violence against women and girls. This includes the publication of resources like the biennial Country Report, toolkits, handbooks, and training manuals, as well as the dissemination of our outputs on the digital sphere. Our communication efforts are directed towards raising awareness about the prevalence of violence against women and girls, emphasising the experiences and initiatives of WAVE members, women’s specialist services and feminist civil society organisations throughout Europe. The objective is to provide information on political, advocacy, and policy-related developments, and civil society-based progress in the field of women’s rights, particularly in regard to violence prevention and protection at national and European level. Our communication channels, including various social media accounts, are strategically designed to reach diverse target groups, highlighting the pivotal role of women’s specialist services in

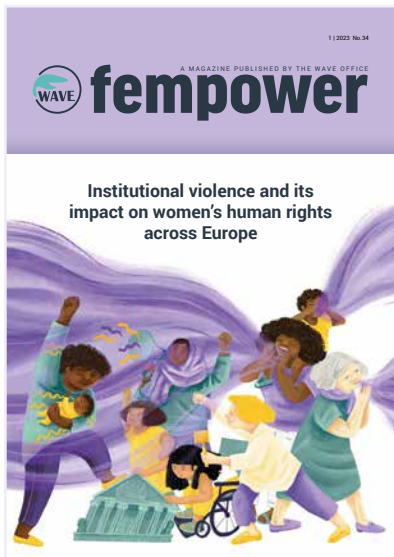
addressing violence against women and empowering survivors across different demographics.

For instance, our newsletter, which as of 2023 is disseminated monthly, was sent to around 1,300 subscribers on the mailing list (made up of both WAVE members and interested individuals outside of WAVE), providing information on upcoming WAVE events, news from our network, and international news, such as political developments and updates from our members.

Within our online magazine, we feature impactful content encompassing engaging articles, inspirational interviews, and insightful commentary. These contributions spotlight the endeavors and accomplishments of women’s specialist services, feminist women’s human rights defenders, and youth activists throughout Europe. The focus is on addressing and preventing violence against women in its various forms and dimensions.



The **WAVE** podcast “**No More Violence Against Women**” is dedicated to amplifying WAVE voices and to give insight on topics pertaining to violence against women including violence prevention and protection, different forms of feminist activism, youth engagement, advocacy and campaigning, and important legislation and policies. In 2023, WAVE published four podcast episodes, tackling cyber violence, perspectives from women’s human rights defenders outside of Europe, inclusive feminist activism and art used as a tool against violence



against women. For the third year, we collaborate with Radio Orange 94.0, the largest community radio in the German-speaking region with broadcasts in 25 different languages, during the year, particularly in the frame of the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence** campaign to effectively promote the podcast and increase its visibility. All podcast episodes can be listened to on the [Cultural Broadcasting Archive](#) and [Spotify](#).

## KEY PUBLICATIONS

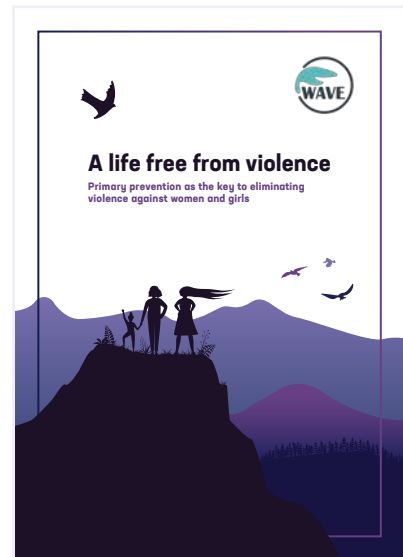
Several key publications were delivered in 2023. In November, the [WAVE Fempower magazine](#) was published, focusing on the impact of institutional violence on women and girls as a follow-up to the topic of the 25<sup>th</sup> WAVE Conference. A total of nine articles were submitted, each of these shedding light from different angles on this form of oppression and abuse of power that limit women & girls' access to rights while at the same time highlighting the experiences, efforts, and engagement of women's specialist services to protect and support survivors affected by institutional violence.

Furthermore, we published three translations (Croatian, German and Hungarian) of the Guidelines



for safeguarding and empowering children within women's specialist services, and developed the **WAVE toolkit** for victim-friendly judicial practice in child custody, contact and visitation matters entitled "[Safety as the best interest of the child](#)" on women's and children's rights in custody proceedings. The findings of the toolkit were presented to WAVE members in the workshop "Tackling institutional violence performed by the justice system in child custody proceedings" during the WAVE Conference 2023.

In the scope of the WAVE Thematic Working Group on primary prevention, the working group developed an internal publication entitled "[A life free from violence – Primary prevention as the key to eliminating violence against women and girls](#)" highlighting the importance of primary prevention in the context of violence against women and girls and showcasing the work that is already being done around this topic in the network. The goal of this publication is to shed light on how the network can advocate for primary prevention while continuing to support survivors who have experienced violence, and to pave the way to strengthening our work on prevention in general and on primary prevention in particular.



The year concluded with the publication of the [WAVE Country Report 2023](#), which aims to depict the situation of women's specialist services in Europe from a feminist civil society perspective and as a reminder of why women's specialist services are best placed to provide support for women, their children and girls who are experiencing gender-based violence. The WAVE Country Report is a unique tool and the only report of this kind available in Europe. This year's report highlights the status and value of women's specialist services in not only tackling gender-based violence against women, but for the first time also in preventing gender-based violence against women.





## ONLINE TOOLS

The **Members Only section** serves as a space only accessible to WAVE members where internal documents, trainings, webinars, and materials are shared. Furthermore, it is meant to foster and facilitate exchange and dialogue within the membership, and improve communication and information sharing. The Members Only section is an integrated part of the WAVE website and was continuously updated throughout the year.

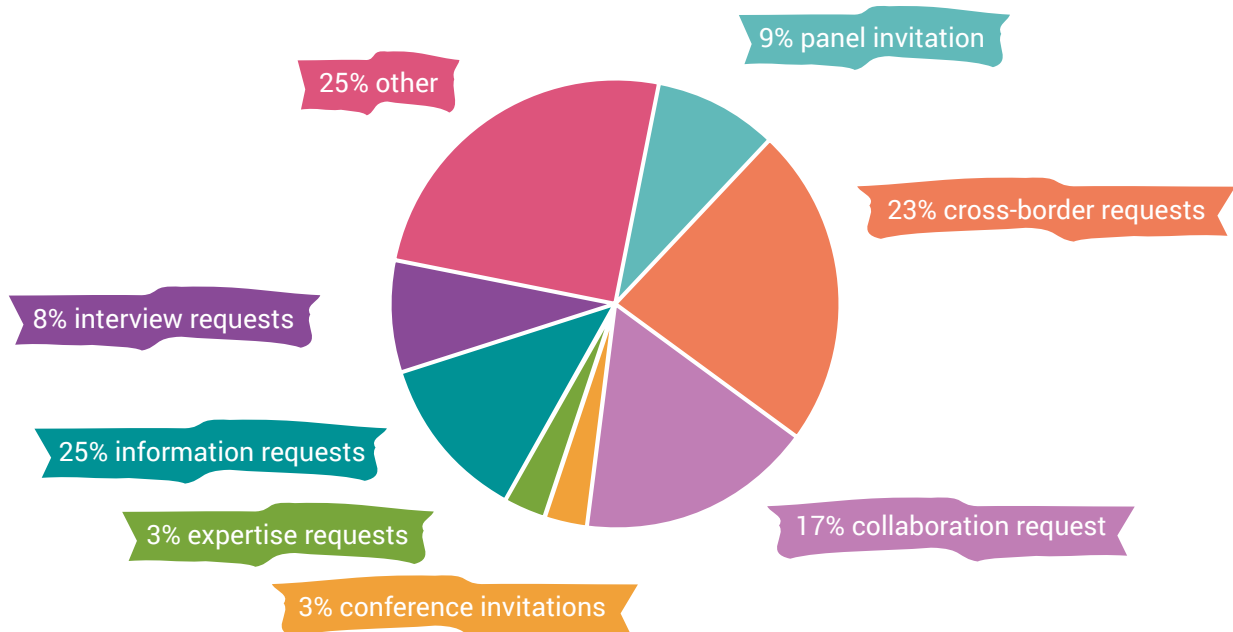
Another important feature on the website is the "Find Help" Database.

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. 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 2023, this important resource was accessed 1,932 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/statements on current developments, invitations to speaking events, project partnership requests or other specific expert knowledge, such as the legislation in a specific country or where to find information on promising 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 women's specialist services 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 2023, the WAVE team processed **149 information requests**, out of which **34 were cross-border requests**.

## WAVE Information Centre 2022

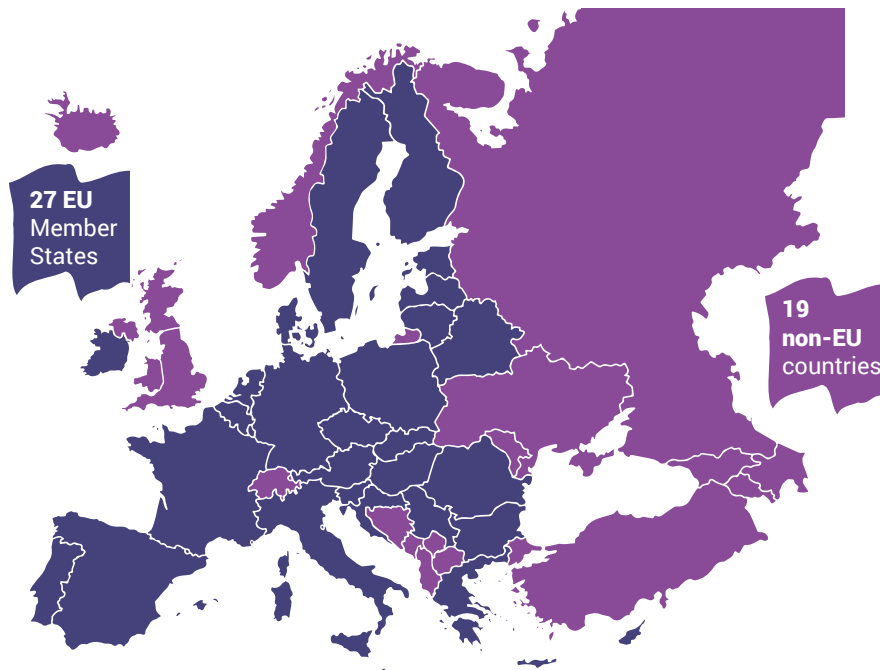


# WAVE COUNTRY REPORT 2023

## The status and value of women's specialist services in preventing and tackling gender-based violence against women

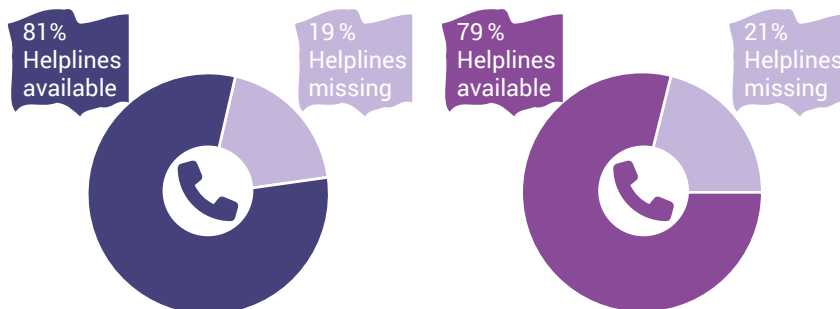
The WAVE Country Report 2023 provides an overview of statistics related to women's specialist services in 46 European countries, namely national women's helplines, women's shelters, women's centres, specialist services for survivors of sexualised violence, and primary prevention services. The report seeks to highlight which European countries, within and outside the EU, meet the minimum standards of the Istanbul Convention in terms of service provision. It also includes a section on femicide. Moreover, the report provides individual country profiles for the 46 countries included in the research.

Some of the WAVE Country Report 2023 **key findings** include:



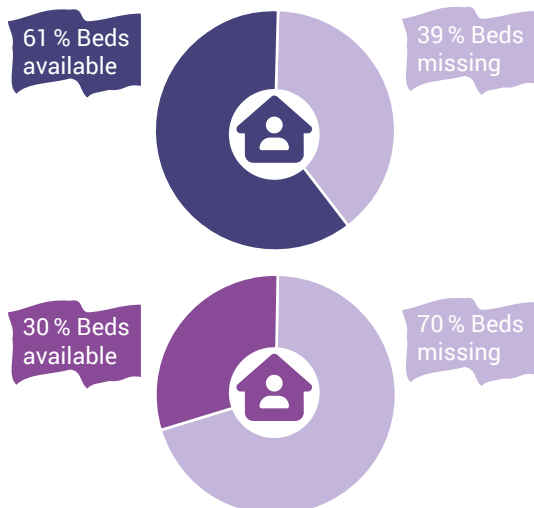
### Women's helplines

Percentage of countries with at least one national women's helpline; EU and non-EU



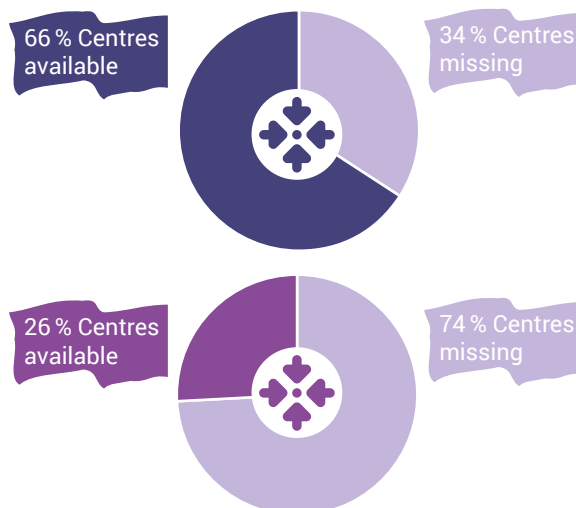
### Women's shelters

Percentage of beds available and missing in EU Member States/ in the European countries outside the EU



### Women's centres

Percentage of women's centres missing EU Member States/in the European countries outside the EU



# 4. Project work

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

## PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE DURING THE WAR AND IN POST-WAR SETTINGS

In 2022, WAVE in partnership with the OSCE Gender Issues Programme/WIN Project started a new project to address capacity building and exchange of promising practices between women’s specialist services on **how to meaningfully support survivors of violence and civil society organisations in conflict and post-conflict areas**. The WAVE members involved in the project are the Sexual Assault Crisis Center (Yerevan, Armenia), Women Fund Sukhumi (Kutaisi, Georgia), Foundation United Women Banja Luka (Banja Luka, Bosnia & Herzegovina), and Centre “Women’s Perspectives” (Lviv, Ukraine).

In 2022, a toolkit was developed not only to present the harm and challenges posed by conflicts but also to document promising first-hand practices with concrete examples from the four WAVE members including their initiatives and recommendations as women’s organisations who experience and have experienced war. The toolkit was launched in November 2022 in Tbilisi, Georgia, during a conference addressing civil society activists, representatives of governments, and international organisations from the South Caucasus, South-Eastern and Eastern Europe.

The Toolkit “Preventing and responding to gender-based violence during the war and in post-war settings – Experiences and recommendations of women’s NGOs” is available in five languages: English, Bosnian, Georgian, Armenian and Ukrainian.

Following the toolkit and the great interest received from national and international stakeholders, in 2023, the project partners developed

a training manual to reach more women’s organisations and other actors involved in supporting survivors of gender-based violence. Through this training programme, the participants can learn about new strategies, share their experiences, and improve collaboration with other stakeholders, for instance through advocacy activities. This training manual addresses facilitators who intend to deliver interactive training on conflict-related gender-based violence and the existing best practices/strategies employed by women’s organisations. It consists of two parts: the first part contains guidance on how to successfully facilitate the training, e.g., through feminist pedagogy principles and trauma-informed training delivery. The core part contains four training modules and related instructions for facilitators. Each module includes learning objectives, facilitator notes, module overview, and a detailed plan for the training session.

The training manual is available in five languages: English, Bosnian, Georgian, Armenian and Ukrainian.





# SAFEGUARDING AND EMPOWERING CHILDREN

The project "Safeguarding and Empowering Children" was launched in 2022, as a response to the need to tackle the institutional capacity of different actors regarding child safeguarding policies.

WAVE members involved in the project are Autonomous Women's House Zagreb (Croatia), NANE Women's Rights Association (Hungary), ZIF – Central Information Office of Autonomous Women's Shelters (Germany), and the Women's Rights Foundation (Malta).

Within the project, a comprehensive child safeguarding framework for women's specialist services, the Guidelines for safeguarding and empowering children, which can be adapted to different national contexts, was developed in 2022. The guidelines delve into the legislative context by addressing key international norms for the rights, protection and safeguarding of children, explain the foundations and purpose of the child safeguarding

guidelines, and highlight safeguarding areas, factors and procedures for protection. The comprehensive child safeguarding framework is available in four languages: English, Croatian, German and Hungarian.

In 2023, the project aimed to strengthen international movement-building for more child-friendly custody proceedings in courts, by developing a toolkit with the focus on safety as the best interest of the child in custody proceedings. The Toolkit for victim-friendly judicial practice in child custody, contact and visitation matters provides insights on promising practice/recommendations for more child-friendly custody proceedings across Europe. This document can be used interdisciplinarily and serves to help to improve the institutional/judicial practice taking place before courts, administrative authorities, and all other bodies that have responsibility in custody and visitation procedures. The aim is to address the linkage between protection against domestic violence and decisions on custody and visitation rights. Therefore, with this toolkit, the protection and best interests of children are brought into focus.

The project goal is to ensure that children are safe and can thrive

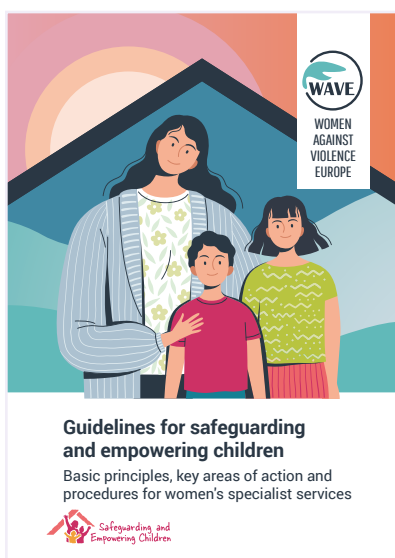
whilst their mothers get supported by women's specialist services and once they are ready, to move on to a new life. Moreover, the aim is to raise awareness of a wide range of stakeholders from relevant sectors of activity (protection and social services, judiciary, and police among others) of children's safeguarding and its effective implementation.



## TAVAM - TOGETHER AGAINST VIOLENCE IN AUSTRIA AND MOLDOVA

At the end of 2022, WAVE launched a new project in cooperation with the Moldovan umbrella organisation for violence protection "National Coalition Life Without Violence" titled TAVAM (Together Against Violence in Austria and Moldova). This project aims to **strengthen the capacity of Moldovan women's specialist services and to advance the transfer of knowledge between Austrian and Moldovan organisations**. For this purpose, four trainings were organised from March-December 2023 involving experts in the field of violence against women from Austria as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina and Moldova, and were attended by women's specialist services from the National Coalition, followed by a conference in Chisinau, where the importance of multiagency collaboration for feminist networks were highlighted.

The project has been extended to June 2024 and is funded by the Austrian Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection.



# IV. ABOUT WAVE

Women's specialist services support survivors by facilitating informed choices and ensuring the highest quality of support tailored to their particular context and needs, placing the women and their active consent and participation at the centre of every intervention.



“Very useful to have an overall impression of the feminist work across Europe. We are so happy to be part of a strong network.”

WAVE member during the WAVE Conference 2023

## 1. Our members

The WAVE Network is comprised of 174 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 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 VAW 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 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>2</sup>

The WAVE Network is comprised of

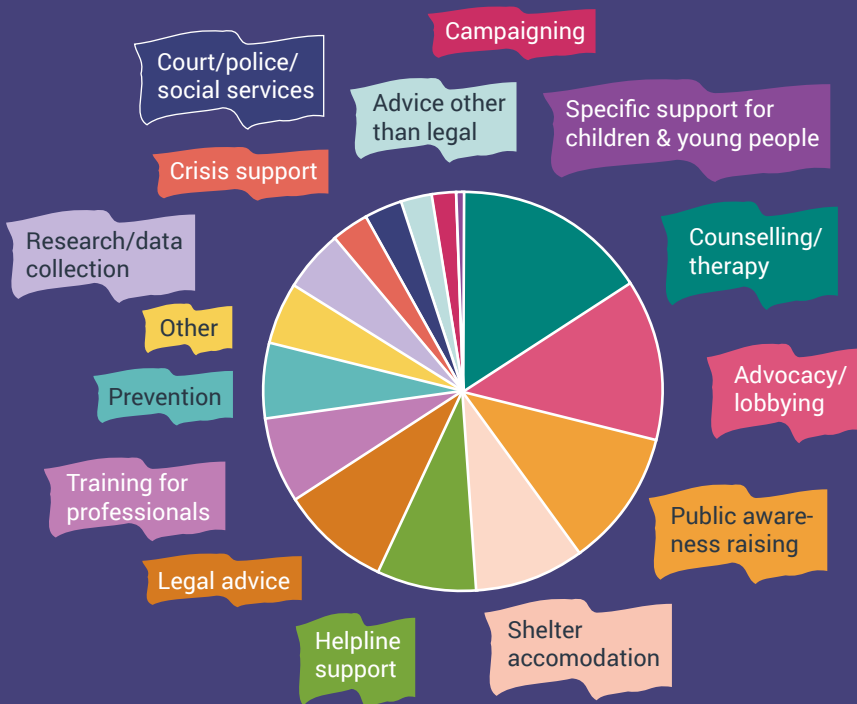


In the WAVE Network, there are 33 national networks, 128 individual organisations, and 13 individual members. Of these, 91 are located within the EU and 83 operate in a European country outside the EU. Taking into account the organisations in the networks that are part of WAVE, it is estimated that over 1600 women's organisations make up the WAVE Network.

<sup>2</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.

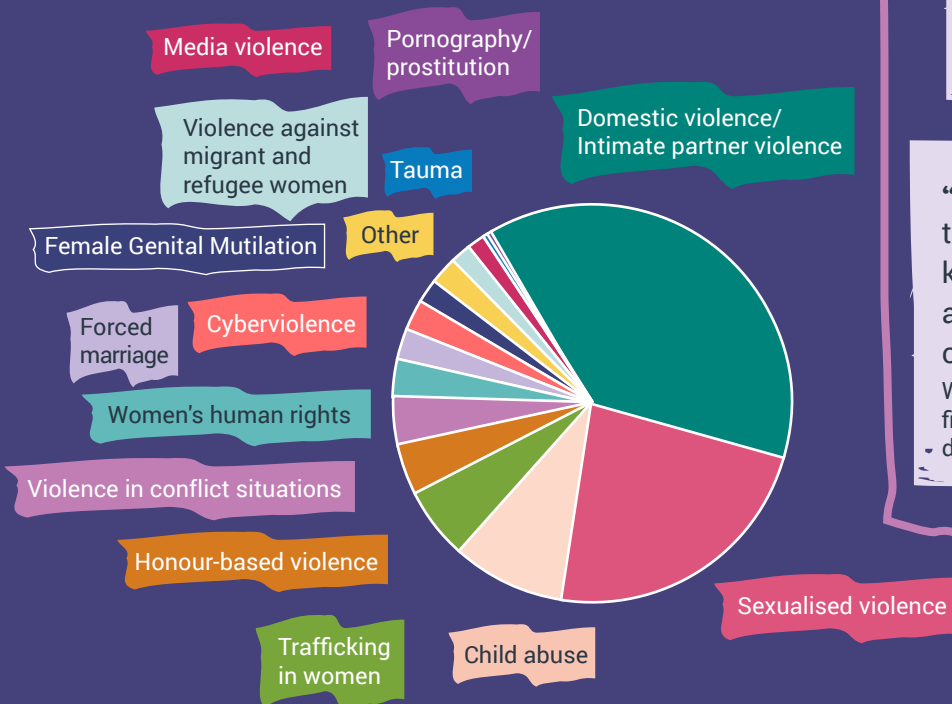


# MAIN SERVICES OF WAVE MEMBERS



Our members provide a number of essential services to survivors of violence against women. The most common services are counselling and therapy, advocacy & lobbying, as well as public awareness raising. Other services include shelter accommodation, helpline support, legal advice, training for professionals, and prevention work. In terms of forms of violence addressed, the majority of our members work on domestic violence, followed by sexualised violence and child abuse. Other forms of violence include trafficking in women, honour-based violence, violence in conflict situations, forced marriage, cyberviolence, and female genital mutilation (FGM).

# MAIN FIELDS OF WORK OF WAVE MEMBERS



WAVE members throughout the year share what makes it worthwhile to be a WAVE member:

“WAVE gives me a feeling of togetherness, solidarity, community and optimism.”  
WAVE member during the WAVE Spring Advisory Board meeting

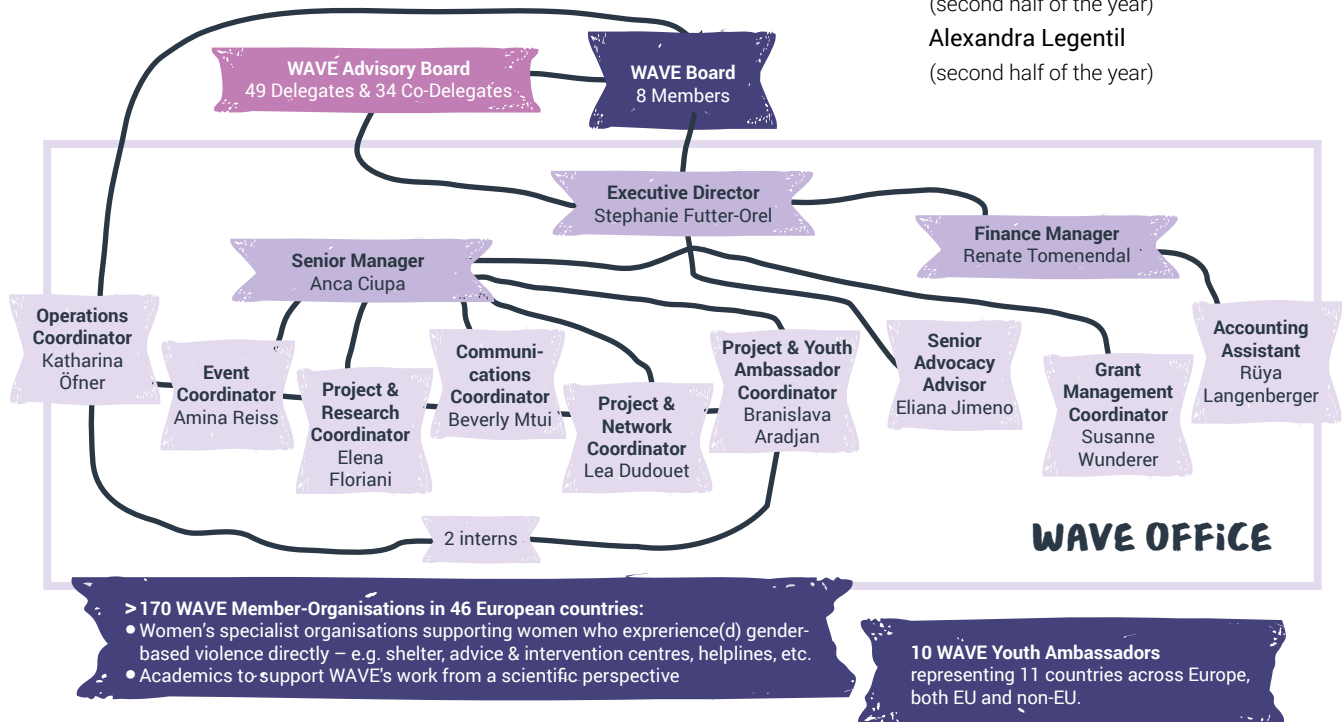
“We are given the opportunity to not only get to know each other better, but also each other’s work and contexts.”  
WAVE member during the first WAVE Regional meeting discussion

## 2. Our team and network structure

The WAVE team consists of 12 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, four interns supported the WAVE team dedicating their knowledge, skills, and time to our cause. A big thank you for the incredible work and valuable contributions you all made to the network in 2023: Olga Ogula (first half of the year) Lerato Selekisho (first half of the year) Yasmine Aburaya (second half of the year) Alexandra Legentil (second half of the year)



### 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.

**Tatevik Aghabekyan** is the President of the Sexual Assault Crisis Center in Armenia, and a staunch advocate for women's rights and gender equality. She was involved in establishing the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Women in 2010,

and pioneered educational initiatives fostering crucial conversations on sexualised violence and the need for sex education in Armenia.

**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 Türkiye. She holds a PhD in communications and works as a university lecturer.

**Gorica Ivić** is the Executive Director of the United Women's Foundation from Banja Luka. She is a social worker by profession, previously engaged in health institutions and the Commune for women with substance abuse issues. She is also an author, co-author, and editor of different research and manuals in the area of gender-based violence.

**Sara Kirkpatrick** is the CEO of Welsh Women's Aid, supporting specialist services all across Wales. She is an Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) specialist having

worked in criminal justice and community settings for over 30 years. She is also a Trustee with Youth Realities, and a visiting Lecturer at Winchester University in the social work department.

**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.

**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 on Belgium's implementation 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 support women’s specialist services, networks, and feminist civil society organisations from Europe to come together and tackle, prevent and ultimately end violence against women through lobbying, cooperation, and knowledge sharing. In light of the increasing pushback against women’s human rights and backlash against the work done by feminist organisations, joining forces is crucial and allows us to put our strengths together, amplify our message and make our voices louder than ever before.

Are you interested in being part of our WAVE of change and support tackling violence against women

and girls? There are various 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 different WAVE **trainings and webinars**, as well as the whole annual WAVE Conference (the second day is reserved for WAVE members), enabling exchange with other specialists within the same field in Europe. Additionally, our members have access to the **WAVE Members**

**Only section** on our website which includes key publications, documents, and recordings of past webinars and trainings. We also support our members with **promoting critical women’s rights issues**, including the Istanbul Convention lobbying, EU Directive integration, recognition of women’s specialist 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 or 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 of from violence. You can find more information on how to donate [here](#).



The WAVE team in October 2023



## 4. List of helplines in 46 countries

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. The following is a table of the national women’s helplines available in 46 European countries. If there is no national

helpline for survivors of violence against women, a regional or general helpline is listed (these countries are marked with a \*). 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 the relevant country. If you are calling within the country with a national SIM card, it is not necessary to add the prefix (e.g., +43) when calling the available helpline(s).

COUNTRY	NAME	PHONE NUMBER
Albania	National Counselling Line for Women and Girls (Linja Kombetare e Keshillimit per gra e vajza)	+355 116/117 + 0 800 40 20
Armenia*	Ministry of Social Affairs' Helpline	+374 114/119
	Spitak Human rights	+374 93252017
	Women's Rights House	+374 77570870
	Arevamanouk	+374 77159470
	Women's Community (Martuni)	+374 94876502
	Gavar	+374 94876505
	Sose	+374 98848453
	Women's Empowerment Resource Center NGO	+374 77380053
	You Are Not Alone	+374 98886077
	Young Tavush	+374 099788770
	Young Avanguard	+374 93574657
	Talin-Huys	+374 91482035
	Women's Rights Center	+374 91416249
	Women's Support Center	+374 99887808
Austria	Women's Helpline Against Violence (Frauenhelpline gegen Gewalt)	+43 800222555
Azerbaijan*	A helpline run by the Ministry of Internal Affairs	+994 12151
	"Clean World" Social Union ("Təmiz Dünya" Qadınlara Yardım İctimai Birliyi)	+99 4124085669 +994 125111151
	+994 125111151	0800 333 883
Belarus*	Hotline for victims of domestic violence (Горячая линия для пострадавших от домашнего насилия)	+375 173173232
Belgium*	Domestic violence helpline (Écoute violences conjugales)	+32 80003030
	Helpline of the Collective against Family Violence and Exclusion (Ligne d'écoute du CVFE – Collectif contre les Violences familiales et l'Exclusion)	+32 42234567
	SOS Rape (SOS Viol)	+32 80098100
	Centres for General Welfare Work and Child Abuse Trust Centres helpline (Centra voor Algemeen Welzijnswerk en Vertrouwenscentra kindermishandeling)	+32 1712
Bosnia and Herzegovina	SOS helpline for survivors of domestic violence (SOS telefon za žrtve nasilja)	+387 1265
	SOS line for domestic violence (SOS telefon za žrtve nasilja)	+387 1264
	Unique telephone line for support and help to survivors of war rape and sexual violence and their family members (Jedinstvena telefonska linija za pomoć i podršku preživjelim ratno silovanje i seksualno nasilje i članovima njihovih porodica)	+387 80022334

COUNTRY	NAME	PHONE NUMBER
	Unique telephone line for support and help to survivors of war rape and sexual violence and their family members (Jedinstvena telefonska linija za pomoć i podršku preživjelim ratno silovanje i seksualno nasilje i članovima njihovih porodica)	+387 80022334
Bulgaria	Alliance for Protection against Gender-Based Violence (Алианс за защита от насилие, основано на пола)	+359 80011977
	National Helpline for Survivors of Violence (Национална гореща телефонна линия за пострадали от насилие)	+359 80018676
	Association Demetra (Асоциация Деметра)	+359 56815 618
Croatia	Autonomous Women's House Zagreb (Autonomna ženska kuća Zagreb)	+385 800 5544
	Women's Help Now – SOS Telephone for Women and Children Victims of Violence (Ženska pomoć sada – SOS telefon za žene i djecu žrtve nasilja)	+385 800655222
Republic of Cyprus	Helpline 1440 (1440)	+357 1140
Czech Republic	ROSALIN	+420 800 60 50 80
	White Circle of Safety - Victims Helpline (Bílý kruh bezpečí - Linka Pomoci Obetem)	+420 116006
Denmark	Live Without Violence's National Hotline (Lev Uden Volds nationale hotline)	+45 1888
Estonia	Victim's Crisis Helpline (Ohvriabi Kriisitelefon)	+372 116006
Finland	Zeroline against domestic violence and violence against women (Nollalinja)	+358 80005005
France	Women Violence Info (Violence Femmes Info)	+33 3919
Georgia	Agency for the State Care and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking (სახელმწიფო ზრუნვისა და ტრეფიკინგის მსხვერპლთა დაზარალებულთა დახმარების სააგენტო)	+995 322395111
Germany	Violence Against Women Helpline (Hilfetelefon Gewalt gegen Frauen)	+49 80001160116
Greece	SOS Helpline (Γραμμή SOS)	+30 15900
	Helpline against domestic violence (Γραμμή Ελπίδας)	+30 8011116000
Hungary	NANE Helpline (NANE Segélyvonal)	+36 80505101
Iceland	The Women's Shelters Helpline (Neyðarsími Kvænnaathvarfsins)	+354 5611205
Ireland	Women's Aid 24hr National Freephone Helpline	+353 1800341900
	National Rape Crisis 24 Hour Helpline	+353 1800 77 8888
Italy	National helpline against violence and stalking (1522 - Numero nazionale anti violenza e stalking)	+39 1552
Kosovo	Helpline Number (Numri i Linjës Ndhimëse)	+383 80011112
Latvia*	Crisis and Counselling Centre "Skalbes" (Križu un Konsultāciju Centrs "Skalbes")	+371 116123 +371 67222922 +371 27722292
	NGO Association "MARTA Centre" (Biedrība "Centrs MARTA")	+371 67378539
Liechtenstein	Women's Shelter Liechtenstein (Frauenhaus Liechtenstein)	+423 3800203
Lithuania	Helpline for Women (Pagalbos moterims linija)	+370 880066366
Luxembourg*	Domestic Violence Helpline (Helpline-Violence domestique)	+352 621612774
Malta*	APPOGG Agency within the Foundation for Social Welfare Services	+356 179
	Victim Support Malta	+356 2122 8333
The Republic of Moldova	Trust Line for Women and Girls (Telefonul de Încredere pentru Femei și Fete)	+373 80088008
Montenegro	National SOS Hotline for Domestic Violence (Nacionalna SOS linija za porodično nasilje)	+382 80111111
Netherlands*	Safe At Home (Veilig Thuis)	+31 8002000
	Fier	+31 882080000

COUNTRY	NAME	PHONE NUMBER
	Sterk Huis	+31 8008013
	Stay Group (Blijf Groep)	+31 882342450
	Moviera	+31 883744744
North Macedonia	SOS Mobile National Line (Национална СОС мобилна линија за жртви на семејно насилство)	+389 70/75/77 141700
	National SOS Line – Telephone for Trust (Национална СОС линија - Телефон на доверба)	+389 15315
	National SOS Line 15 700 (Национална СОС линија 15 700)	+389 15700
Norway	National Domestic Violence Helpline (Vold- og overgrepslinjen)	+47 116006
Poland	Emergency Helpline for Women Victims of Violence (Telefon Interwencyjny)	+48 600070717
Portugal	Information Service for Domestic Violence Victims (Serviço de Informação a Vítima de Violência Doméstica – SIVVD)	+351 800202148
	Victim Support Portugal's helpline (Apoio a Vítima – APAV)	+351 116006
	Association of Women against Violence's helpline (Associação de Mulheres contra a Violência – AMCV)	+351 213802160
	Women's Alternative and Response Union's helpline (União de Mulheres Alternativa e Resposta)	+351 218873005
Romania	National Helpline for Victims of Domestic Violence (Număr unic național de urgență pentru victimele violenței domestice)	+40 800500333
Russia	National helpline for women suffering from domestic violence (Всероссийский телефон для женщин, пострадавших от домашнего насилия)	+7 88007000600
Serbia	SOS Helpline for women with experience of violence (СОС Телефон за жене са искуством насиља)	+381 800222003
Slovakia	National Helpline for Women Experiencing Violence (Národná linka pre ženy zažívajúce násilie)	+421 800212212
Slovenia	SOS Helpline for Women and Children - Victims of Violence (Društvo SOS telefon za ženske in otroke - žrtve nasilja)	+386 801155
Spain	Telephone service for information, legal advice and immediate psychological attention by specialised personnel for all forms of violence against women (Servicio telefónico de información, de asesoramiento jurídico y de atención psicosocial inmediata por personal especializado a todas las formas de violencia contra las mujeres)	+34 016
Sweden	Sweden's National Women's Helpline (Kvinnofridslinjen)	+46 20505050
Switzerland*	Rape and sexual assault helpline (Association Viol-Secours)	+41 223452020
	General crisis helpline (Dargebotene Hand)	+41 143
Türkiye	Emergency Domestic Violence Hotline (Aile içi Şiddet Acil Yardım Hattı)	+90 2126569696
Ukraine	National hotline on prevention of domestic violence, trafficking and gender discrimination (Національна "гаряча" лінія з попередження домашнього насильства, торгівлі людьми та гендерної дискримінації)	+380 800500335 or +380 116123
	State Call Center on the prevention of human trafficking, domestic violence, gender-based violence, and violence against children (Урядова "гаряча лінія" для осіб, постраждалих від торгівлі людьми, домашнього насильства, насильства за ознакою статі, насильства стосовно дітей, або про загрозу вчинення такого насильства)	+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 (Llinell Gymorth Byw Heb Ofn)	+44 8088010800

## 5. List of WAVE members

NAME OF ORGANISATION (ENGLISH)	NAME OF ORGANISATION (NATIONAL LANGUAGE)	COUNTRY
1. Albanian Women Empowerment Network (AWEN)	Rrjeti i Fuqizimit të Grave Shqiptare	Albania
2. Counselling Line for Women and Girls	Linja e Këshillimit për Gra dhe Vajza	Albania
3. Gender Alliance for Development Center (GADC)	Qendra Aleanca Gjinore për Zhvillim	Albania
4. Human Rights in Democracy Center (HRDC)	Qendra "Të Drejtat e Njeriut në Demokraci" (QDNJD)	Albania
5. Women's Association "Refleksione"		Albania
6. Women's Forum Elbasan	Forumi i Gruas Elbasan	Albania
7. Woman to Woman	Gruaja tek Gruaja	Albania
8. Center for Legal Civic Initiatives	Quendra per Nisma Ligjore Qytetare	Albania
9. Psycho-Social Centre "Vatra"	Quendra Psiko-Sociale "Vatra"	Albania
10. Women Center "Light Steps"	Qendra-Sociale "Hapa te Lehte"	Albania
11. Women's Support Center (WSC)	Կանանց աջակցման կենտրոնը (ԿԱԿ)	Armenia
12. Women's Rights Center (WRC)	Կանանց իրավունքների կենտրոնը (ԿԻԿ)	Armenia
13. Sexual Assault Crisis Center (SACC)	Սեռական բռնության ճգնաժամային կենտրոն	Armenia
14. Women's Resource Center NGO	Կանանց ռեսուրսային կենտրոն ՀԿ	Armenia
15. Impact Innovations Institute's Initiatives Foundation (IMINI)	Իմփակտ Ինովացիաների Ինստիտուտի Նախաձեռնություններ Հիմնադրամ	Armenia
16. Women's Rights House NGO	Կանանց իրավունքների տուն ԿՀ (ԿԻՏ)	Armenia
17. Association of Austrian Autonomous Women's Shelters (AÖF)	Autonome Österreichische Frauenhäuser (AÖF)	Austria
18. Gewaltschutzzentrum Wien		Austria
19. Network of Austrian Counselling Centres for Women and Girls	Netzwerk österreichischer Frauen- und Mädchenberatungsstellen	Austria
20. Ninil – Empowerment and Counselling for Women with Disabilities	Empowerment und Beratung für Frauen mit Behinderung	Austria
21. FEM.A – Association of Feminist Single Mothers	Verein Feministische Alleinerzieherinnen	Austria
22. Renate Egger (Individual Member)		Austria
23. Rosa Logar (Honorary Member)		Austria
24. Clean World AID to WOMEN Social Union		Azerbaijan
25. International Public Association "Gender Perspectives"	Международное общественное объединение «Гендерные перспективы»	Belarus
26. Legal Initiative – Commission on Women's Rights	Правая ініцытыва	Belarus
27. Collective Against Family Violence and Exclusion (CVFE)	Collectif contre les Violences Familiales et l'Exclusion (CVFE)	Belgium
28. Garance ASBL		Belgium
29. Foundation "United Women" Banja Luka	"Udružene žene" Banja Luka	Bosnia and Herzegovina
30. "Medica" Zenica Association	Udruženje "Medica" Zenica	Bosnia and Herzegovina
31. Alliance for Protection against Gender-Based Violence	Алианс за защита от насилие, основано на пола	Bulgaria
32. Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation	Български център за джендър изследвания	Bulgaria
33. DA Foundation – united against violence	Фондация „Джендър алтернативи“	Bulgaria
34. Autonomous Women's House Zagreb	Autonomna Ženska Kuća Zagreb	Croatia
35. B.a.B.e. Be active. Be emancipated	Budi aktivna. Budi emancipiran.	Croatia
36. Centre for Women War Victims – ROSA	Centar za Žene Žrtve Rata (CŽŽR) – ROSA	Croatia
37. Women's Room	Ženska Soba	Croatia
38. domine – Organization for the Promotion of Women's Rights	Udruga domine – Organizacija za promicanje ženskih prava	Croatia
39. Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS)		Cyprus
40. Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family (SPAVO)	Συνδέσμος για την Πρόληψη και Αντιμετώπιση της Βίας στην Οικογένεια (ΣΠΑΒΟ)	Cyprus
41. Association of Women to Support Living (KAYAD)	Kadından Yaşama Destek Derneği (KAYAD)	Northern Cyprus

	NAME OF ORGANISATION (ENGLISH)	NAME OF ORGANISATION (NATIONAL LANGUAGE)	COUNTRY
42.	ProFem – Center for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence	Centrum pro Oběti Domácího a Sexuálního Násilí	Czech Republic
43.	ROSA Centre for Women	ROSA Centrum pro Ženy	Czech Republic
44.	L.O.K.K – National Organization of Women’s Shelters in Denmark	Landsorganisation af Kvindekrisecentre	Denmark
45.	Danner		Denmark
46.	Center for the Analysis of Power Relations	Center for Magtanalyse (CMA)	Denmark
47.	The Joan-Sisters	Joan-Søstre	Denmark
48.	Women’s Support and Information Centre	Naiste Tugi- ja Teabekeskus	Estonia
49.	Pärnu Women’s Support Centre	Pärnu Naiste Tugikeskus	Estonia
50.	Women’s Line Finland	Naisten Linja – Kvinnolinjen	Finland
51.	Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters	Ensi-ja Turvakotien Liitto	Finland
52.	National Federation of Women Solidarity	Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes (FNSF)	France
53.	Women for Women France		France
54.	The Maison des Femmes of Saint-Denis	La Maison des Femmes de Saint-Denis	France
55.	Association Protect Children	Protéger l’enfant	France
56.	Anti-Violence Network of Georgia (AVNG)	ძალადობისგან დაცვის ეროვნული ქსელი	Georgia
57.	Women Fund Sukhumi (WFS)	ქალთა ფონდი “სოხუმი”	Georgia
58.	Sakhli Advice Center for Women	ქალთა საკონსულტაციო ცენტრი “სახლი”	Georgia
59.	Democrat Women’s Organization of Samtskhe-Javakheti		Georgia
60.	Sapari	საფარი	Georgia
61.	Association Merkuri	ასოციაცია „მერკური“	Georgia
62.	BIG e.V. – Berlin Initiative against Violence against Women	Berliner Initiative gegen Gewalt an Frauen	Germany
63.	Association of Women’s Shelters	Frauenhauskoordination e.V.	Germany
64.	bff – Federal Association of Rape Crisis Centres and Women’s Counselling Centres	Bundesverband Frauenberatungsstellen und Frauennotrufe – Frauen gegen Gewalt e.V.	Germany
65.	GESINE Network “Gesundheit.EN”	GESINE Netzwerk Gesundheit.EN	Germany
66.	kofra – Communication Center for Women’s Life and Work Situation	Kommunikationszentrum für Frauen zur Arbeits- und Lebenssituation	Germany
67.	papatya – Crisis Facility for Young Migrant Women	Kriseneinrichtung für junge Migrantinnen	Germany
68.	ZIF – Central Information Center for Autonomous Women’s Shelters	Zentrale Informationsstelle Autonomer Frauenhäuser	Germany
69.	Prof. Carol Hagemann-White (Honorary Member)		Germany
70.	Karin Heisecke (Individual Member)		Germany
71.	European Anti-Violence Network (EAVN)	Ευρωπαϊκό Δίκτυο κατά της Βίας (Ε.Δ.κ.Β.)	Greece
72.	Union of Women Associations of Heraklion Prefecture	Σύνδεσμος Μελών Γυναικείων Σωματείων Ηρακλείου	Greece
73.	NANE – Women’s Rights Association	Nők a Nőkért Együtt az Erőszak Ellen	Hungary
74.	PATENT Association	PATENT Egyesület	Hungary
75.	Stígamót – Counselling and Information Centre on Sexual Violence		Iceland
76.	Women’s Shelter Association	Samtaka um Kvænnaathvarf	Iceland
77.	Sexual Violence Centre Cork		Ireland
78.	Rape Crisis Network Ireland		Ireland
79.	Safe Ireland		Ireland
80.	Women’s Aid Ireland		Ireland
81.	D.i.Re – National Women’s Network against Violence	Donne in Rete contro la Violenza	Italy
82.	National Association of Volunteers of the Telefono Rosa Onlus	Associazione Nazionale Volontarie Telefono Rosa Onlus	Italy
83.	Differenza Donna – Women and Girls against Violence		Italy
84.	BeFree Social Cooperative against trafficking, violence, and discrimination	BeFree Cooperativa Sociale contro tratta, violenza e discriminazioni	Italy
85.	Paola Degani (Individual Member)		Italy
86.	Dr. Cristina Gamberi (Individual Member)		Italy



	NAME OF ORGANISATION (ENGLISH)	NAME OF ORGANISATION (NATIONAL LANGUAGE)	COUNTRY
87.	Silvia Menecali (Individual Member)		Italy
88.	Women's Wellness Centre (WWC)	Qendra për Mirëqenien e Gruas (QMG)	Kosovo
89.	Kosovar Gender Studies Center	Qendra Kosovare për Studime Gjinore	Kosovo
90.	Kosovo Women's Network	Rrjeti i Grave të Kosovës	Kosovo
91.	Crisis and Counselling Centre "Skalbes"	Križu un Konsultāciju Centrs "Skalbes"	Latvia
92.	Women's NGO Cooperation Network of Latvia	Latvijas Sieviešu nevalstisko organizāciju sadarbības tīkls	Latvia
93.	Association "MARTA Centre"	Biedrība "Centrs MARTA"	Latvia
94.	Women's Shelter Liechtenstein	Frauenhaus Liechtenstein	Liechtenstein
95.	Women in Distress ASBL	Femmes en Détresse A.S.B.L	Luxembourg
96.	Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence		Malta
97.	Network Forum Malta		Malta
98.	Migrant Women Association Malta		Malta
99.	Dr. Marceline Naudi (Individual Member)		Malta
100.	Association against Violence "Casa Marioarei"	Asociația Împotriva Violentei în Familie „Casa Mărioarei”	Moldova
101.	Center for Support and Development of Civic Initiatives "Resonance"	Центр развития и поддержки гражданских инициатив «РЕЗОНАНС»	Moldova
102.	Women's Law Centre	Centrul de Drept al Femeilor	Moldova
103.	National Coalition "Life without Violence in the Family"	Coaliția Națională "Viața fără Violență în Familie"	Moldova
104.	SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Nikšić	SOS Telefon za Žene i Djecu Žrtve Nasilja Nikšić	Montenegro
105.	Women's Safe House	Sigurna Ženska Kuća	Montenegro
106.	Association "Valente"	Vereniging "Valente"	Netherlands
107.	Femmes for Freedom		Netherlands
108.	National Council for Gender Equality (NCGE)	Национален совет за родова рамноправност (СОЖМ)	North Macedonia
109.	National Network to End Violence against Women and Domestic Violence – Voice against Violence	Националната мрежа против насилство врз жени и семејно насилство	North Macedonia
110.	Women's Rights Centre	Centrum Praw Kobiet	Poland
111.	Autonomy Foundation	Fundacja Autonomia	Poland
112.	Juniper Foundation	Fundacja Juniper	Poland
113.	AMCV – Association of Women against Violence	Associação de Mulheres contra a Violência	Portugal
114.	A.L.E.G Association for Liberty and Equality of Gender	Asociația pentru libertate și egalitate de gen	Romania
115.	Anais Association	Asociația Anais	Romania
116.	Necuvinte Association	Asociația Necuvinte	Romania
117.	Filia Center	Centrul Filia	Romania
118.	Sensiblu Foundation	Fundația Sensiblu	Romania
119.	ANNA – National Center for Prevention of Violence	Центр "АННА"	Russia
120.	Crisis Center "Ekaterina"	Кризисный центр "Екатерина"	Russia
121.	Nizhny Novgorod Women's Crisis Center	Нижегородского Женского Кризисного Центра	Russia
122.	Interregional Non-Governmental Organization for the Support of Family, Motherhood, and Childhood "Doctors to Children"	"Врачи детям"	Russia
123.	Crisis Center for Women – Institute of Non-Discriminative Gender Interrelations (INGI)	Кризисный центр для женщин – Институт недискриминационных гендерных ирреляций	Russia
124.	We Believe You	Tebe Poveryat «Тебе поверят»	Russia
125.	Nasiliu.Net	Центр по работе с проблемой насилия «НАСИЛИЮ.НЕТ»	Russia
126.	Autonomous Women's Center (AWC)	Autonomi Zenski Centar Beograd	Serbia
127.	Association FenomenA	Udruženje Fenomena	Serbia
128.	Oasis of Safety	Oaza Sigurnosti Kragujevac	Serbia
129.	The Association of Women Sandglass	Pescanik Udruzenje Zena	Serbia
130.	Daje - Roma Center for Women and Children	Romski Centar za Žene i Decu	Serbia
131.	Human Rights Committee Vranje	Odbor za Ljudska Prava Vranje	Serbia

NAME OF ORGANISATION (ENGLISH)	NAME OF ORGANISATION (NATIONAL LANGUAGE)	COUNTRY
132. ...IZ KRUGA - VOJVODINA, organization for the support of women with disabilities	IZ KRUGA – VOJVODINA organizacija za podršku ženama s invaliditetom	Serbia
133. Alliance of Women in Slovakia	Aliancia Zien Slovenska	Slovakia
134. Fenestra		Slovakia
135. Association SOS Helpline for Women and Children – Victims of Violence	Drustvo SOS	Slovenia
136. Association for Nonviolent Communication	Društva Za Nenasilno Komunikacijo	Slovenia
137. Association Another Time	Asociación Otro Tiempo	Spain
138. Aspacia Foundation	Fundacion para la Convivencia Aspacia	Spain
139. HELIA – Women Association	Associació de suport a les Dones que pateixen Violència de Gènere	Spain
140. Federation of Women's Associations Arena and Laurisilva	Federacion de Asociaciones de Mujeres Arena y Laurisilva	Spain
141. Association of Feminist Psychotherapy and Psychology	Asociación de Psicología y Psicoterapia Feminista	Spain
142. For You Woman Association	Asociación Por Ti Mujer	Spain
143. Unitary platform against gender violence	Plataforma unitària contra les violències de gènere	Spain
144. Roks – National Organisation for Women's and Young Women's Shelters in Sweden	Riksorganisationen för kvinnojourer och tjejjourer i Sverige	Sweden
145. Unizon		Sweden
146. Uppsala Women's Shelter	Uppsala Kvinnojour	Sweden
147. Women's Shelter Jämtland county	Kvinnojouren Jämtlands län	Sweden
148. Women's Solidarity Organization of Switzerland and Liechtenstein	Dachorganisation der Frauenhäuser der Schweiz und Liechtenstein	Switzerland
149. Violence What to do?	Violence que Faire	Switzerland
150. Brava – Together against Violence Against Women	Brava – Gemeinsam gegen Gewalt an Frauen	Switzerland
151. Foundation for Women's Solidarity	Kadın Dayanışma Vakfı	Türkiye
152. Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation	Mor Çatı Kadın Sığınağı Vakfı	Türkiye
153. Mor Salkım Women's Association	Mor Salkım Kadın Dayanışma Derneği	Türkiye
154. Kadriye Bakırcı (Individual Member)		Türkiye
155. Civil Society Organization "La Strada-Ukraine"	Ла Страда-Україна	Ukraine
156. Women's Information Consultative Center (WICC)	Інформаційно-консультативного жіночого центру (ІКЖЦ)	Ukraine
157. Women's Perspectives Center	Центр Жіночі Перспективи	Ukraine
158. Imkaan		United Kingdom
159. Latin American Women's Aid (LAWA)		United Kingdom
160. London Black Women's Project		United Kingdom
161. Refuge		United Kingdom
162. Scottish Women's Aid		United Kingdom
163. Welsh Women's Aid		United Kingdom
164. Women's Aid Federation of England		United Kingdom
165. Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland		United Kingdom
166. Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS)		United Kingdom
167. Standing Together against Domestic Abuse		United Kingdom
168. Rape Crisis Scotland		United Kingdom
169. Against Violence and Abuse - AVA		United Kingdom
170. Women's Support Project		United Kingdom
171. Greta Squire (Individual Member)		United Kingdom
172. Shazia Choudhry (Individual Member)		United Kingdom
173. Beverley Gilbert (Individual Member)		United Kingdom
174. Lily Greenan (Individual Member)		United Kingdom





Women Against Violence Europe Network (WAVE) is a European-wide network of 174 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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