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fempower



NO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

ARTWORK BY RICARDA STAHL

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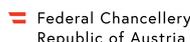
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Editorial

Elizabeth Spouse, WAVE

Since its establishment in 1994, WAVE is still the only European network focusing solely on the elimination of violence against women (VAW) and children, and currently consists of over 160 members (network organizations, single organizations and individual members) working on the national level in 46 European countries. In spite of the many disparaging stories that have come out of 2020, **we've taken this opportunity to focus on how we, as women, as organizations, and as a network, have been resilient** in the face of the unprecedented circumstances this year has thrown our way.

This year we continue to see a radical backlash from the far-right to the Istanbul Convention – the Council of Europe Convention on Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (hereafter the IC), causing more governments to withdraw from ratifying it. The Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) has stated that there is no legislation in place at the level of the EU that addresses VAW in a comprehensive manner and that the ratification of the IC by the EU could address this situation, for at present, it is the most comprehensive regional instrument addressing VAW.¹ Without the ratification of the IC, gender neutral policy and practice puts women's specialist support services (WSS) at further risk of closure, leaving women nowhere to go. **That is why it is imperative that we continue sharing best practices for counteracting this backlash.** We began doing so already in the publishing of the 2020 WAVE Handbook entitled **How Gender Neutral Policy and Practice Is Dismantling Women's Specialist Support Services and Ways to Counteract It**. We would like to continue to build on this; sharing more stories from more regions.

In addition, as the COVID-19 pandemic spreads, VAW increases. However, once the curve on the rate of coronavirus infection flattens, VAW will continue to rise and the post COVID-19 period will see a high demand for WSS as safety nets and public services rebuild from the crisis.² As organizations within WAVE's network engage in discussions about available social welfare programmes, lobby with local governments, and learn about the range of initiatives popping up, **we've asked**

our members to share what has worked in helping their organizations meet current needs and maintain hope for a sustainable future past this pandemic.

In the spirit of learning from each other and supporting the network, this year's issue of the WAVE Fempower magazine is meant to be used as a resource for sharing and reflecting on best practices discovered throughout 2020 in the fight to continue advancing women's rights to live a life free from violence.

The articles published in this year's issue of the Fempower magazine address feminist resilience best practices in fighting VAW in Europe during 2020, particularly in regard to political backlash, right-wing extremism, gender neutral policy, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing demands for support. A total of six articles were submitted, each of these reflecting on and exploring specific topics related to violence against women and the work undertaken by women's organisations to protect and support survivors of gender-based violence.

Last but not least, WAVE is grateful to all contributing authors, hoping that the stories they shared will inspire all network members, women's organisations across the world and other actors in society to continue fighting for women's rights and tackling gender-based violence and discrimination. ●



© Niko Havranek

Elizabeth Spouse is WAVE's Data Manager & Researcher. She has a BA in Communications and Political Science from the University of Washington in Seattle and is currently completing a MA in International Development at the University of Vienna with a focus on Gender Studies. She is respon-

sible for research and database administration, ensuring effective data collection for, as well as the management of the WAVE Country Report. In addition to Fempower, she manages the WAVE Newsletter, and is the co-organizer of the WAVE Gender Neutrality Working Group. Outside of her work at WAVE, she is passionate about supporting social projects within her community, volunteering at a non-profit cultural platform in Vienna called Improper Walls, where she brings her expertise on gender equality and human rights to the art world.

1 FRA – European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (2014). *Violence against women: An EU-wide survey. Main results*, Vienna: FRA.

2 Banga, B and S. Roy. 2020. *The Impact of the Two Pandemics – VAWG and COVID-19 on Black and Minoritised Women and Girls*. London. Imkaan.

Supporting survivors of domestic violence in Albania during the COVID-19 pandemic

Aurela Bozo, Center for Legal Civic Initiatives (CLCI)

The Center for Legal Civic Initiatives (CLCI) is providing support for survivors of domestic violence in Albania, which has been made possible by the urgent response grant for domestic violence service providers during the COVID-19 crisis thanks to the support of [Oak Foundation](#).

Within the framework of this project, survivors of domestic violence benefit from free legal aid and support in the form of food packages, hygienic packages, medication, as well as free and safe transport to the shelters for abused women and girls or institutions such as court, prosecutor's office, etc.

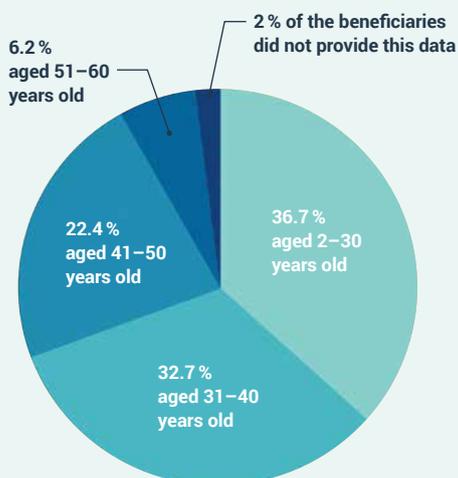
The CLCI is one of 12 civil society organisations (CSOs) authorized by the Ministry of Justice to provide primary legal aid based on law no.111/2017: "On the juridical aid guaranteed by the state".

Who was supported during the period of September to November 2020?

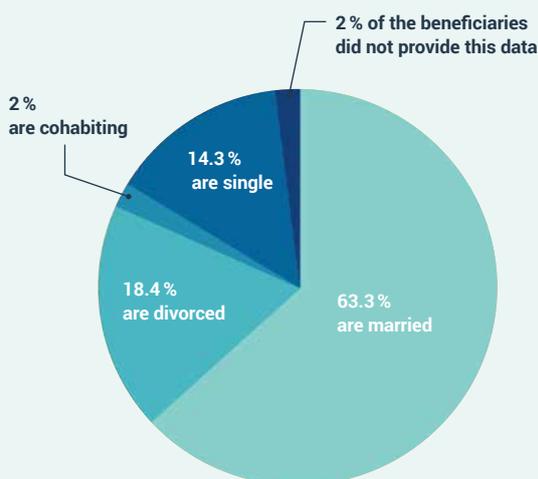
During the period of September to November 2020, CLCI supported 49 women and girls affected by violence with free legal aid and other support.

Below are some details about the demographics of those supported:

AGE RANGES:



CIVIL STATUS:



GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION WITHIN ALBANIA:

- › 22.5% are from Tirana (or Tiranë, is the capital and largest city by area and population, located in the center of Albania enclosed by mountains)
- › 20.5% are from Elbasan (the fourth largest city in Albania, centrally located)
- › 12.4% are from Durrës (or Durrësi, the second most populous city)
- › 10.2% are from Korca
- › 8.2% are from Gjirokastër (a city in southern Albania, 300 metres above sea level. Its old town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- › 6.2% are from Erseka
- › 2% are from Pustec
- › 2% are from Fier
- › 2% are from Devoll
- › 2% are from Kavaja
- › 2% are from Kruja
- › 2% are from Lezha
- › 2% are from Peqin
- › 2% are from Himara
- › 4% are accommodated in the shelter for abused women and girls or in the community center

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

- › 34.7 % have attended class 8–9
- › 24.5 % have attended high school
- › 4.1% have not completed class 8–9
- › 20.4 % have attended University
- › 4.1% have no education
- › 12.2 % provided no data on their educational background

8.1% of all beneficiaries are from the Egyptian community in Albania.

All are survivors of domestic violence and specific subjects based on law no.111/2017, “On the juridical aid guaranteed by the state”.

How were they supported?

Survivors supported by CLCI lawyers during the period September to November 2020 have benefited from:

- › Free legal aid regarding cases with object protection from domestic violence and the dissolution of the marriage and regulation of its consequences caused by domestic violence
- › Free legal information, free legal counseling and free preparation of legal acts for courts of different levels
- › Support from CLCI

Within the framework of this project, survivors benefited in the following ways:

- › 25 benefited from food and hygienic packages
- › 1 has benefited from free transport from the shelter for abused women and girls to the Judicial District Court of Lezha to attend the court hearing
- › 1 has benefited from medication

How have we reached survivors of domestic violence?

Since the beginning of the implementation of this project, the CLCI has informed all municipalities in the country about the project, free legal aid and other support CLCI is providing for survivors of domestic violence.

At first, we reached survivors through cooperation with coordinated referral mechanisms in the different municipalities in Albania.

- › 51 % of the survivors were referred to the CLCI by the Local Coordinator Against Domestic Violence near the coordinated referral mechanism of cases of domestic violence in Tirana, Durrresi, Korca, Kolonje, Erseka, Pustec, Lezha, Elbasani, Gjirokastra, Has and Himara
- › 2% were previous clients of the CLCI
- › 2% were referred by the shelter for abused women and girls in Tirana
- › 45 % of the beneficiaries have not provided data on how they learned about CLCI’s services and support

Social media has been another tool we have used to reach survivors of domestic violence.

Some survivors filled out the “[Questions to the lawyer](#)” form available on the CLCI website.

We strongly believe that prevention and protection of domestic violence is a must both during and after the COVID-19 situation.

We strongly thank Oak Foundation and the WAVE Network for this opportunity to support survivors of domestic violence in Albania during the pandemic created by COVID-19.

Thank you, Oak Foundation! Thank you, WAVE Network!

Aurela Bozo is one of three lawyers at the Center for Legal Civic Initiatives (CLCI) providing free legal aid under the frame of this urgent response grant for domestic violence service providers during the COVID-19 crisis.

Her long experience in working with the Coordinated Referral Mechanism (CRM) in different municipalities in Albania has been key in coordinating and providing free legal aid for the survivors of domestic violence throughout the entire country.

It is the first time that CLCI is not only providing free legal aid (online and/or face to face), but also other support such as food and hygienic packages, medication, and free transport; which was very important in supporting survivors and in making the CRM at the municipality level more effective. A great thank you to our supporters!

Building a counternarrative: Good practice examples to Istanbul Convention backlash

Léa Dudouet, WAVE

The Istanbul Convention (IC) has received strong support by a number of EU Member States in recent years. Notably, the Convention was ratified by Ireland on International Women's Day (March 8th) in 2019 with overwhelming support from the government and the Minister for Justice and Equality. Furthermore, the IC was signed by Armenia in 2018, and although it is yet to be ratified, the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched a joint program with the Council of Europe, and the Human Rights Defender of Armenia started an awareness-raising campaign on prevention of violence against women¹.

However, a growing number of religious and right-wing groups as well as conservative governments have been spreading false narratives, especially surrounding the concept of "gender" contained in the Convention. As the first international treaty containing a definition of gender as a social construct, the introduction of the Convention has sparked new waves of resistance in several parts of Europe to so-called "gender ideology". In Article 3(c), the Convention defines gender as "the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for women and men".² Opponents believe that the definition of gender as a social construct poses a threat to traditional conservative and religious values which will abolish the biological notion of sex, force the integration of a "third-gender", and promote homosexuality as well as "ideological" gender theories at all levels of state policy.³

Another misconception surrounding the IC includes the belief that it holds a "hidden agenda" which would seemingly "jeopardise" the social fabric and values of societies. As the shorthand title for the Convention, Istanbul Convention, is more widespread, this has led to false beliefs that it is in some ways tied to asylum

laws. The Hungarian Parliament passed a declaration in May 2020 refusing the ratification of the IC arguing, in part, that it attempted to intervene in migration policy and would "lead to an influx of illegal migrants seeking asylum on the basis of gender-based discrimination".⁴ This myth has been perpetuated by some anti-migrations and far-right groups who have used the title of the Convention as an argument against ratification.

Despite the fact that most European countries claim to have sufficient legislation in place aiming to protect women against violence and discrimination, it is often insufficiently enforced, services for victims remain scarce, inaccessible and underfunded, and sexist attitudes amongst the general population prevail. It is thus very concerning to notice that regressive forces around Europe promote false interpretations and misleading messages about the Istanbul Convention.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, economic and social stress coupled with restricted movement and social isolation measures have led to an exponential increase in VAW and femicide cases over the last months⁵. Many women have been forced to share their homes with their abusers around the clock, without any respite nor access to support services; many of which have been disrupted or made inaccessible. In these challenging times it is absolutely vital for governments to uphold the principles enshrined in the Istanbul Convention, and to focus on clear political commitments to end violence against women in Europe.

Developing a counternarrative

Since October 2020, WAVE has been developing an awareness raising vision as part of a project funded by the Council of Europe's Gender Equality Division to promote the values, aims and provisions of the Istanbul Convention and dispel myths and misinformation about it. The aim is to craft a detailed methodology

1 United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA): <https://armenia.unfpa.org/en/news/human-rights-defender-starts-awareness-raising-campaign-prevention-domestic-violence-and>

2 Council of Europe, Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, 11 May 2011, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/4ddb74f72.html> [accessed 19 November 2020]

3 Stopgenderconvention.org: <https://stopgenderconvention.org/en/>

4 About Hungary: <http://abouthungary.hu/blog/yes-to-protection-of-women-no-to-gender-ideology-and-illegal-migration/>

5 UN Secretary-General's policy brief: The impact of COVID-19 on women: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/04/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women>

and strategy for awareness raising campaigns to be run by civil society organisations and addressed to the general public and decision-makers in Council of Europe Member States where civil society organisations encounter a backlash against the Istanbul Convention. As part of this vision, WAVE created a Survey Monkey questionnaire which was sent to all WAVE Members to examine the perceptions and misconceptions of the Istanbul Convention on a wider European scale. We received 22 responses from a number of different European countries including Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, England, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Slovenia, Sweden and Ukraine. The responses provided a significant amount of valuable information on the issue at hand.

When asked whether the subject of violence against women (VAW) and domestic violence (DV) was discussed in their country, the vast majority of the 22 respondents (95%) said 'Yes'. However, many members felt that the topic of VAW had only entered public consciousness in the last few years, sometimes in relation to specific cases of femicide which were widely discussed in the media. A WAVE Member from Ireland noted that VAW and DV was declared as a priority by the government in its response to COVID-19, that the government is actively surveying this issue and that it has been made the subject of a five-year national awareness campaign. Other positive feedback included a respondent from Sweden noting that the government had adopted a 10-year National Strategy to prevent men's violence against women and that strong legislation on VAW and DV was in place.

When it came to the question of whether the general public in their country was aware of the Istanbul Convention and its provisions, over two-thirds of respondents (76%) stated 'No', including a member from Albania who explained that VAW and DV was mostly still considered a taboo and perceived as a private issue going on behind closed doors in their country. Similar observations were shared by a WAVE Member from Kosovo and another Member in Greece, who explained that the general public does not believe that domestic violence "is real" or is as widespread as it is.

Regarding whether respondents perceived that there was general support for the Istanbul Convention, over half of respondents (62%) answered "No". Misinformation and lack of education were noted as one of the primary reasons by members in Slovenia and Croatia, while a respondent from Kosovo explained that as the National Assembly adopted an amendment to the constitution that gives direct effect to the IC only a month ago, the general public was still uncertain about the implementation of the Convention as misinformation was widespread. Anti-gender rhetoric and a general fear of the so-called "gender ideology" were also brought up as key negative perceptions about the IC. A

respondent from Armenia explained that the IC came to public attention after protests against it were held by right-wing and religious groups in her country.

Lack of funding or interest from key stakeholders as well as a lack of cohesion and coordination between governmental bodies and competencies were described as the main challenges and obstacles towards implementing the IC by WAVE Members who responded to this survey. A Spanish WAVE Member explained that their new progressive government had announced the introduction of a comprehensive law on sexualised violence which would cover all other forms of VAW included in the IC. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has delayed this initiative. While a number of respondents felt that their government was aware of the different living conditions and experiences of women and men, only a minority stated that policies and public budgets respond equally to the needs of all citizens (women and men).

In addition to the survey, WAVE conducted four interviews with WAVE Members in countries which have faced particularly strong and recent backlash to the IC. These interviews with women's specialist support service providers offer an expert perspective from the frontline about national context-specific issues regarding the promotion of the Istanbul Convention. Speaking to individual members allowed WAVE to gain an insight into the challenges and opportunities with implementing the IC in these countries, as well as how this has impacted women's organisations working with victims of violence. Below we outline two good practice examples which were shared by two WAVE Members; one from ROSA – centrum pro ženy (Rosa – Centre for women) in Prague, Czech Republic and one from Mor Çatı Kadın Sığınağı Vakfı (Mor çati Women Shelter's Foundation) in Istanbul, Turkey.

Good practice example: Czech Republic

Despite the fact that the IC has not yet been ratified in the Czech Republic, the WAVE delegate from ROSA shared that in the past 2–3 years, she has seen many activities and campaigns supporting the ratification process which have been launched by nongovernmental and also governmental organizations and institutions. In addition to this, academic papers in favour of ratifying the IC in the Czech Republic have been published, even in English⁶, which has provided support from academic institutions.

The Czech Republic has, however, faced strong backlash to the IC, which has not been a focus of the current government's agenda. The WAVE Member highlighted →

6 https://www.academia.edu/40898887/FELLEGL_Why_the_Istanbul_Treaty_should_be_ratified_or_International_Human_Rights_Treaties_as_a_Czech_National_Interest

→ that VAW is not recognised by the general public in the Czech Republic, as cases are usually discussed from a criminal rather than a human right, gender-sensitive approach, and very few know what the IC actually stands for and what its aims are. Different Czech political parties do not have a clear position on the IC, some more or less support it, others are completely against it, but there are parties that do not have a clear and united position. Therefore, it is difficult to estimate the general consensus, especially in terms of the outcome of the upcoming parliamentary elections next year. The Czech Republic also takes a gender-neutral approach to DV and consequently, VAW is not addressed through a structural lens and is rather perceived as an issue of so called “social pathology”. In addition to this, there are more intervention centres than women’s specialist support services in the country. Intervention centres work from a gender-neutral approach meaning that they lack a gender-sensitive approach and are not favourable to the implementation of the IC.

Research by Amnesty International has shown that the topic of VAW, and specifically the issue of rape, remains burdened by a certain degree of prejudice and ignorance. Notably, there is a relatively strong belief that the perpetrator of rape is often unknown; the majority of the adult population still hold the view that, in certain cases, “a woman is at least partially co-responsible for her rape”⁷. There are many misinterpretations surrounding the IC such as the belief that it pushes the implementation of LGBTQ+ rights and the shorter version of the Convention title (Istanbul Convention) has been misused by anti-migrant and right-wing groups which has led to additional negative perceptions amongst the Czech population. On the other hand, the research showed that 7 out of 10 respondents thought that the current situation regarding VAW in the Czech Republic is a problem and 84% of all respondents call for greater focus on the prevention of VAW⁸.

Furthermore, the Czech Republic has a Committee on Violence Against Women and the Commissioner for Human Rights has focused on the topic of VAW, which has brought more awareness about the IC into the political sphere. The current government is open to ratifying the IC, however, it has not taken all the necessary steps to move the ratification process into Parliament.

The following activities and campaigns to support the ratification process have been launched by nongovernmental and governmental organizations and institutions:

7 This view sees individual social factors as the root cause of violence such as poverty, morals, and drug or alcohol abuse, etc.

8 <https://www.amnesty.cz/zprava/4354/proc-potrebuje-ceska-republika-istanbulskou-umluvu>

9 Ibid.

HLAS PROTI NÁSILÍ (VOICE AGAINST VIOLENCE)

Joint project of NGOs

The campaign “Hlas proti násilí (Voice against Violence)” was launched to engage the public in writing to politicians and MPs to encourage them to ratify the IC.

The following activities were accomplished:

- › Two meetings were held with the Prime Minister where different NGOs prepared a one-page report with the most important and relevant information on the IC.
- › Individual lobbying was conducted with different parties in Parliament.
- › A petition was started in support of ratifying the IC.
- › Members from ROSA attended the public petition hearing in Parliament where a petition against the IC, as well as their petition in support of its ratification, were presented.

More can be found on the website here: hlasprotinasili.cz

TO JE ROVNOST (THAT’S EQUALITY)

Activities of the Governmental Department of Equality for Women and Men, Governmental Committee for Prevention of DV and VAW, and Commissioner for Human Rights

The campaign “To je rovnost (That’s Equality)” was launched in support of the Istanbul Convention.

On the campaign’s webpage you can find:

- › A questions and answers section.
- › Video interviews with public figures who support the IC in the Czech Republic.
- › Information and links about media coverage of the issue.
- › Important publications related to the IC.
- › A brochure on the IC with myths and facts (produced by the Department of Equality).
- › A leaflet with myths and facts about the IC (later translated into Slovakian). Although the leaflet worked well, it did not reach a wide public audience.

More can be found on the website here:

tojerovnost.cz/en

Good practice example: Turkey

Turkey became the first signatory and the first country to ratify the Istanbul Convention. The WAVE Member Mor Çatı explained that the Justice and Development Party (AKP), which is currently in power, have repeatedly benefited from the Convention, using it to boost the Government's international prestige and have never shied away from presenting it as more evidence of their determination to tackle VAW. The Convention also served as a benchmark for Law No. 6284, the Law on the Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence Against Women, which was adopted in 2012.

Since the signing of the IC, the women's movement in Turkey has struggled to ensure the implementation of the Convention. A lack of political will as well as distancing from European Union integration have been the primary reasons behind the IC not being implemented properly. The family-oriented policies of AKP have always contradicted the notion of gender equality and thus strengthening the family has been chosen over gender equality. Most worrying, ongoing attacks on the vested rights of women are welcomed by government representatives and withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention became a public conversation in July 2020. The main arguments used are that the Convention aims to undermine Turkish traditional family values and promotes homosexuality.

A report on the public perception of the IC, which was conducted this summer, found that 35% of the public in Turkey knows what the Convention is about, 3% are misinformed, and 62% do not know about the Convention¹⁰. Only 7% of respondents were in favour of Turkey's withdrawal from the Convention and the majority did not have any specific opinion about the IC. The research also provides insights on changes in public opinion regarding VAW. The rate of those who say, "As a man, he can love or beat as he wishes" has dropped from 20 percent to 6 percent since 2015. The rate of those who think that unlawful acts can be committed for honour has dropped from 45 percent to 21 percent and the rate of those who say, "Women should be careful about what they wear to avoid harassment and violence" has dropped from 80 percent to 32 percent¹¹.

However, the Istanbul Convention has served as an important tool for activists from women's organizations. Mor Çatı uses the Convention as a reference to push the government to take appropriate actions against VAW and to empower women. Especially as the government drifts away from the notion of gender equality, it is instrumental for them to have an international document emphasizing equality as its core value.

Attacks on the Convention created the urgent need to campaign for it. Moreover, the WAVE Member from Turkey explained how women's organizations came together and held meetings to strategize against the backlash; they organized online campaigns via Twitter using hashtags to mobilize users¹², sent petitions to the government, wrote letters to all MPs explaining the Convention and gave interviews to nonmainstream media.

In addition to feminist and women's organizations, a large fraction of the public, including municipalities, civil society organizations, independent media, celebrities, and artists showed their objection to plans of withdrawing from the Convention. They produced and posted info on social media, shared statements, and showed their support. Notably, at least 10 municipalities, including big cities like Istanbul and Izmir, showed support for the IC by deciding to hand out the declaration of the Istanbul Convention together with marriage certificates to newlyweds during their marriage ceremony.¹³

Furthermore, the growing number of femicide cases in Turkey¹⁴ has sparked nationwide protests, following the brutal murder of a 27-year old student over the summer, which received widespread attention. At protests, activists held banners with slogans such as "We don't want to die", "Enough" and "The Istanbul Convention keeps you alive" which initiated a social media movement under the hashtag #istanbulconventionsaveslives. This even received international attention as many celebrities on social media adorned their profile pictures with these slogans, and tens of thousands joined the black-and-white selfie campaign #challengeaccepted to protest the surge in femicides in Turkey¹⁵. However, we would like to point out how imperative it is to be careful with online challenges because in many #challengeaccepted posts, the message was lost, and people were reposting images of themselves with no further explanation¹⁶. In any case, public outcry seems to have made an impression on the AKP, as a decision that was meant to be announced in early August has been postponed¹⁷. →

10 Bianet: <https://bianet.org/english/print/230104-only-7-percent-say-turkey-should-withdraw-from-istanbul-convention>

11 Ibid.

12 <https://twitter.com/kadinih/status/1292442519427481600>

13 <https://securitypraxis.eu/new-political-debate-in-turkey-istanbul-convention/>

14 Turkey has experienced a 200% increase in femicide cases since 2013: In 2019 474 women were killed compared with 237 women in 2013. In 2020 alone, 276 Turkish women have been murdered. More information here: <http://akdamdernegei.org/>

15 <https://news.trust.org/item/20200910085511-bj3u5/>

16 <https://www.kqed.org/arts/13883979/empowerment-selfies-are-burying-a-turkish-womens-rights-campaign>

17 <https://globalvoices.org/2020/09/23/in-turkey-women-rise-up-to-stop-withdrawal-from-the-istanbul-convention/>



This picture is from a widely shared YouTube video by the women's organisation Kadının İnsan Hakları Yeni Çözümler Derneği, depicting the story of three fictional women experiencing violence and how the IC provides them with support and protection. The full video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1Ci3X60Q8M>

→ Although many EU Member States have faced strong backlash to the IC, women's organisations can and do counter these narratives. WAVE's project with the Council of Europe's Gender Equality Division hopes to show how awareness raising serves as an important tool to reach a wider population and offer an alternative narrative about the Convention to the one propagated by far-right groups, in order to build public support. During the interviews we conducted with WAVE Members from women's specialist support services, we were struck by how these organisations managed to build far-reaching, interlinking initiatives which dismantle myths and misinformation about the IC and shed a positive light on it. As the example of Turkey highlights, ratifying the Convention does not automatically solve the issue of VAW, and continued effort from government officials, civil society organisations and the public is needed to ensure this remains on the agenda. In light of political backlash, right-wing extremism, gender neutral policy, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, women's organisations continue to show their support for the IC, fight against violence and, above all, show resilience. ●



Written by Léa Dudouet (WAVE Office Administrator and Project Officer). With contributions by WAVE Members from ROSA – centrum pro ženy (Rosa – Centre for women) in Prague, Czech Republic and Mor Çatı Kadın Sığınağı Vakfı (Mor çati Women Shelter's Foundation) in Istanbul, Turkey. This awareness raising vision is part of a project funded by the Council of Europe's Gender Equality Division.



Léa Dudouet has been the Office Administrator and Project Officer at WAVE since September 2020. She has previous experience working in the NGO and non-profit sector in Berlin on feminist issues and non-violent conflict resolution. She holds a Masters degree in the Sociology

of Reproduction from the University of Cambridge and a Bachelors in Sociology from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Increased cyberviolence against women and girls in times of COVID-19

The CYBERSAFE project by Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE)

Nicholas Spetsidis & Barbara Brečko

Due to the COVID-19 crisis and restrictive measures taken globally, violence against women and girls has increased. Women's rights groups and victims support groups reported a rise in domestic violence and dramatic effects on sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls. Notably, the extremely stressful situation people faced during periods of lockdown, the widening care work gap between men and women, the restrictions making it more difficult for women to ask for help, and many other negative gender-related circumstances led to an increase in calls for help. Yet, there is another aspect of the crisis which is still under-reported and where official data is lacking: the effects of COVID-19 on cyber violence against girls and women.

According to Forbes magazine, lockdown and social distancing policies have increased the use of the internet between 50% to 70%, and is primarily being used for work, school, university, and shopping. Usually, users with limited digital skills seem to be more at risk of cyber violence. Given the gender digital divide¹, women and girls are at a higher risk for these forms of violence. According to UN Women² female human rights activists, politicians, journalists, bloggers, members of ethnic minorities, indigenous women, LGBTIQ+ persons, and women with disabilities often experience online threats and harassment. The enforced lockdown created a "gender emergency" in several countries by increasing the exposure of women to gender-based violence, including online violence. Google reported a 75% increase in internet searches related to support for different forms of violence³. Reports by several EU countries reveal that the pandemic was used by perpetrators as a coercive control mechanism for the containment, fear mongering, threatening, and victimization of women in any form (physical or digital)⁴.

On the other hand, safe, affordable, and inclusive digital tools can increase the participation of women and girls, as well as reduce both the digital gender divide and cyber violence. The CYBERSAFE Project, which Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) and partner organizations from eight EU countries are implementing, is one such project aiming to tackle cyber violence with the help of digital tools.

Cyber violence: Forms, impact, and perceptions

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) defines violence against women (VAW) as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life"⁵. In the last decade, the rise of technological advancements as a popular mode of socialization has extended gender-based violence to a new dimension. As a result, young women negotiate the digital world both as a source of empowerment and as a source of sexual repression.

Cyber violence against women and girls is gender-based violence that is perpetrated through electronic communication and the internet. There are various forms, including, but not limited to, cyber stalking, non-consensual pornography (or 'revenge porn'), gender-based slurs, hate speech and harassment, 'slut-shaming', unsolicited pornography, 'sextortion', rape threats and death threats, and electronically facilitated trafficking. Although cyber violence can affect both women and men, women and girls experience it more often and in more traumatic forms. The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) notes that one in ten women older than 15 years of age experiences cyber violence⁶. A 2014 FRA⁷ study even showed that →

1 Gender digital divide is defined as gender biases coded into technology products, technology sector and digital skills education. It refers to digital skills as well as to access to ICT (<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000367416.pdf>)

2 <https://www.unwomen.org/en>

3 Poate, S. (2020). 75% increase in domestic violence searches since Coronavirus. NBN News. Retrieved on 7th April, 2020 from: <https://www.nbnnews.com.au/2020/03/31/dvsearches-coronavirus/>

4 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7264607/>; <https://unric.org/en/who-warns-of-surge-of-domestic-violence-as-covid-19-cases-decrease-in-europe/>

5 <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ViolenceAgainstWomen.aspx>

6 https://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/cyber_violence_against_women_and_girls.pdf

7 FRA (2014) Violence against women: an EU-wide survey, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2014/violence-against-women-eu-wide-survey-main-results-report>



→ between 5% and 18% of women in the EU have already experienced cyber violence; this proportion is even higher among adolescents.

Online sexual harassment can include a wide range of behaviours and includes digital content (images, videos, posts, messages, pages) on a variety of different online platforms (private or public). Victims and perpetrators may be numerous – one perpetrator could have numerous victims and one victim could have numerous perpetrators. As research shows, victims usually know their perpetrator(s). Online sexual harassment happens around schools and local communities and often occurs in front of an active audience, which may add to the level of distress caused. Bystanders can also be affected by witnessing online sexual harassment regardless of whether they engage with it or not.

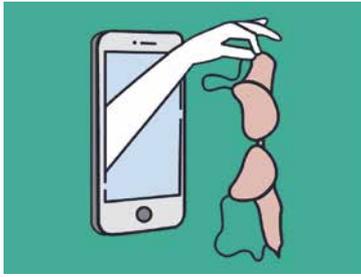
One major challenge is that cyber violence is not always recognized by the victim nor by the perpetrator. Furthermore, it seems to be tolerated, especially by boys, who may see cyber violence as something fun and not as harmful behaviour. Recent research by the CYBERVAW Project⁸ conducted in Slovenia in 2018 has revealed several reasons for the occurrence of cyber violence. The most persistent reasons for cyber violence mentioned were the following:



Additionally, there is a strong sense of victim-blaming attitudes among teenagers. Gender stereotypes among teenagers, which seem to be deeply rooted in society, contribute to cyber violence. For instance, the study showed that 54% of boys and 42% of girls in schools in Slovenia agree that girls who post their photos on the internet are to blame for being harassed⁹.

8 <http://odklikni.enakostspolov.si/o-projektu/>; http://odklikni.enakostspolov.si/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Odklikni_POROCILO_A4_12_2020web.pdf

9 http://odklikni.enakostspolov.si/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Odklikni_POROCILO_A4_12_2020web.pdf



The CYBERSAFE Project

The CYBERSAFE Project¹⁰ aims to address cyber violence among youths in eight European countries, and is led by the Union of Women Associations of Heraklion (Greece). As part of this project, several focus group discussions in four countries (Italy, Greece, UK, and Estonia) were conducted.

The following problematic behaviours were identified:

- › A high tolerance of cyber violence among youths
- › Lack of recognition of cyber violence
- › Blaming of victims
- › Not perceiving the perpetrator(s) as being responsible
- › Hesitancy to seek support
- › The silence of bystanders
- › Rooted gender stereotypes

The research findings have also revealed that cyber violence is rising among youths; however, these preliminary findings remain to be validated through further studies. The need to organise a “safety plan” towards cyber violence within school communities appears urgent. In order to support students and teachers, an innovative educational ICT tool (CYBERSAFE Toolkit) facilitating behavioural change among teenagers related to cyber violence will be developed.



The CYBERSAFE Toolkit¹¹ will tackle four forms of cyber violence against girls:

1. Non-consensual sharing of sexual images (and videos)
2. Sexualised bullying
3. Unwanted sexualisation
4. Exploitation, coercion and threats.

Using this tool allows students to develop the capacity to:

- › Recognise (signs of) online violence against girls
- › Understand the emotional impact and other possible consequences of cyber violence
- › Know how to prevent online violence against girls
- › Know how to act in an adequate, supportive and positive way if they themselves or someone else experiences online violence.

The phenomenon of violence among youths on the internet is an increasing and constantly changing phenomenon. During the COVID-19 pandemic we have seen a rise of incidents involving cyber violence all over Europe. The provision of online tools to raise awareness, as well as the need to publicly discuss and report incidents, is a prevailing priority. ●



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Barbara Brečko is a Teaching Assistant at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. She has more than fifteen years of experience in research with children and schools, particularly related to digital competence and cyber violence.

¹⁰ CYBERSAFE Project <https://www.wave-network.org/2020/02/03/cybersafe-project-report-cyber-violence-against-women-and-girls/>

¹¹ CYBERSAFE Toolkit (<https://www.stoponlineviolence.eu/cybersafe-toolkit/online-tool/>)

Fixed It Ireland: challenging misogynistic media reporting

Ellie Mahony, Sexual Violence Centre Cork

When reporting on sexual and domestic violence, the media often perpetuates dangerous myths and stereotypes that contribute to victim blaming and misinformation. To combat this, Sexual Violence Centre Cork Ireland set up a campaign to re-write headlines and challenge the media; inspired by the work started by journalist and feminist Jane Gilmore. The campaign is run on Twitter (@FixedItI), where we take inappropriate and incorrect headlines and 'fix' them, tagging the respective news source to ensure that they see the new headline.

In Ireland, our media has a history of misogynistic and problematic reporting and in recent years, Irish feminists have begun calling this out. The issue came to national attention in 2016 following the murder of Clodagh Hawe and her three children by her husband, Alan Hawe, who subsequently died by suicide. The media depicted her murderer as 'the perfect husband', with headlines about his sporting career and respected standing as a 'pillar of the community'. Clodagh was made invisible. A campaign began, using the hashtag #HerNameWasClodagh, which brought attention to the dangerous and misogynistic nature of the reporting. Fixed It Ireland was set up in response to #HerNameWasClodagh and the general media landscape here in Ireland.

Fixed It Ireland has been as busy as ever since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, as sexual and domestic violence cases are now frequently reported on by our media. We have also noticed a number of trends emerge throughout our campaign. Victim blaming, use of incorrect terms and language, and minimising sexual violence are all major problems in media reporting on sexual violence.

Victim blaming is when the victim is somehow blamed for what happened to them, either explicitly or through the choice of language and sentence structure. One recent example involved a 15-year-old girl who was raped and exploited by older men. The media reporting on the case victim-blamed the minor by referring to her intoxication and also incorrectly stated that she 'had sex' with older men. Under Irish law, this is not possible as the age of consent is 17. She was raped.





Another issue we frequently encounter is the use of incorrect terms and language. This can lead to victim blaming and it can minimise the seriousness of the offence. We have seen the media skirt around the word rape, using phrases such as ‘had sex with’, ‘non-consensual penetration’ and even ‘rape-like’, instead of using the correct terminology. This is dangerous, as it further perpetuates myths around rape and allows rapists and rape apologists to justify their behaviour

Other examples of incorrect terms and language

We also see the media attempting to sympathise with the rapist. A recent example of this happened following a case in our own city, Cork, where a man was convicted of raping a teenage girl as she slept. The headline accompanying the story read ‘Cork man sobs as he is found guilty of raping teen as she slept’. There was an immediate outcry by our followers to fix the headline, as it completely undermined the seriousness of the offence. We fixed the headline and following this, so did the newspaper.

Our campaign has been making a difference. Newspapers, like the example given above, do listen. We have seen articles retracted and updated on a number of occasions. We have noticed several media outlets being more conscious about their headlines since we started the campaign. Our following is growing daily, and our followers are engaged; they send us headlines to fix and fix their own headlines too. We want to make this a European-wide campaign and encourage others to set up similar campaigns which call out misogynistic media headlines in their own countries. Together, we believe we can put a stop to misogyny in the media. ●



#FixedIt - Ireland
@FixedItI
Follow us on Twitter to keep up to date with the campaign: @FixedItI



Ellie Mahony studied Law in University College Cork and went on to complete a masters degree in Public Relations in Technological University Dublin. She now works with the Sexual Violence Centre Cork. Ellie is passionate about feminism and utilising online communication to create social change.

Turning challenge into opportunity: Surviving the pandemic and lockdown in Saint Petersburg, Russia

Anastasia Chuvaeva & Oleksandra Nazarova, INGI/Crisis Center for Women

The overall sociopolitical situation in Russia in recent years may be characterized as quite unfavorable for NGOs working within the field of women's rights defense. It is difficult (or often impossible) for abused women to obtain justice, especially in light of a law decriminalizing domestic battery, which was implemented in 2017.

Currently, shelters for women exposed to gender-based violence (GBV) are mostly municipal. They therefore have quite strict policies that are limiting and have lower accessibility; the provision of specific documents required for entering the shelter being one of them. Shelters opened under the supervision of the Russian Orthodox church are another option that provide support to women and are generally more accessible than municipal ones. However, they have quite specific rules for clients and the values being communicated there often do not match the views of professionals working in the field of violence [against women] prevention and protection, and ways to counteract it.

Over the last years, our crisis center has experienced growth in the number of applications. During this time, our hotline was working at peak capacity and we were actively developing different online channels of communication with clients (via email, live chat, Facebook, VKontakte, Instagram) to reach a broader audience.

In spring 2020, we faced an increase in the number of client applications, in particular, in the number of requests for online support (correspondence requests). Here is a statistical summary of the last two years:

The number of visits to our information and legal services has increased eightfold compared to the same period last year.

We also calculated traffic data for our organization's legal platform for the first half of May in 2019 and 2020, respectively. In 2019, the number of unique users from 1–14 May was 68, and for the same period in 2020 it was 2316. For a period of 4.5 months in 2019 the number of unique users was 1380, and in 2020 it was 9624 for the same period.

When the pandemic broke out and the subsequent lockdown started in March 2020, the already dire situation of domestic violence worsened significantly, as women were forced to be in enclosed spaces with their abusive partners. Existing shelters closed because of the quarantine, most services became unavailable, and online counselling services in Russia were generally not developed or absent entirely.

We assume that women who are self-isolating and are exposed to domestic violence tend to ask for help in ways that they consider to be safe and which will attract the least amount of attention from the perpetrator living in the same household — that is, they prefer online correspondence to a conversation with a specialist by phone or video. The circumstances not only affect the survivors themselves, but also how and by what means of communication help is being requested. Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have witnessed a clear increase in the demand for online service provision due to their perceived higher efficiency.

Services:	2019				2020		
	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April	Jan.	Feb.	March.
Hot line (phone)	111	147	114	129	128	144	172
	501				608		
Individual psychological consultations	27	22	16	11	19	23	15
	76				82		
Individual legal consultations	0	0	0	0	14	35	46
	-				150		
Online support	101	123	342	287	321	454	562
	853				1945		
Total:	1430				2785		
Traffic on the online legal aid platform: crisiscenter.ru/for-survivors (number of original users)	1312				7308		

At the time of lockdown in spring 2020, our organization was the only one in the entire city providing online services for women exposed to intimate partner violence. Due to the rise in applications via our online resources, all of our helpline channels became utterly overloaded.

At the same time, we received a request from the general methodology expert of Saint-Petersburg to teach all of their state social services staff to work in online services. They had received urgent instructions from the authorities to start working online because of COVID-19 restrictions, however, their relevant online services had not been set up.

We were surprised to find out that among all of the governmental social services in Saint-Petersburg, not one provided specific online services or worked with specialists who held both skills in online counseling and were able to face complicated multidisciplinary crisis cases; only our service (NGO) did so. In order to fill this gap in specialists competent in online crisis counseling, we ran a series of trainings for governmental social service specialists and provided them with specific tools for online crisis counseling.

In mid-April 2020 specialists of INGI/Crisis Center for Women made an open call for hotels and hostels in St-Petersburg to provide accommodation for women exposed to domestic violence during the time of the lockdown. Over the following month, our Crisis center established partnerships with four hotel networks in the city, providing a total of more than 20 "emergency beds" for women who faced intimate partner violence and had nowhere to go. For safety reasons, and according to the agreements signed with the management of each of these hotels, our Crisis center does not disclose the names of any survivors in open sources.

In addition, we have signed an agreement with the "New Holland" project, which implemented the charity program "Help your neighbors" to provide food for women affected by domestic violence and their children. In so doing, an alternative to social housing, which had reported suspension of reception, was developed. This was implemented by our Crisis center in the form of a collaboration with city representatives of the hotel business and passenger transport services, who demonstrated a high social responsibility.

In some especially positive news, one of the hotel chains continued this collaboration even after lockdown was over. In the words of the owners, they had not imagined that the problem of violence against women was so prevalent and were deeply affected by seeing the scale of it. This experience made hotel management realize the need for safe spaces for women with children exposed to domestic violence and decided to make their own contribution to support them on a regular basis.

Our initiative was also supported by the taxi service Yandex.Taxi for the delivery of meals from "New Holland" to clients who settled in hotels during self-isolation and the lockdown period. This initiative is being implemented by us on a voluntary basis. Our new partners from four hotels, "New Holland" and Yandex.Taxi have also offered their services pro bono.

The lockdown has certainly given our NGO an impetus to start important cooperation with local businesses. We found it to be a very appropriate moment in time to reach out to hotel business owners, as their drop-in customers allowed them to be open to hearing about the issue of VAW and be a part of the solution during the lockdown period.

The lockdown made it clear for all agencies involved that there is a need for online service provision for survivors of VAW and this realization helped boost the development of versatile channels of online support. As a result, both our organization and municipal city services took this opportunity and expanded available services as well as increased organizational sustainability. ●



Anastasia Chuvaeva, Project manager at the Saint-Petersburg Institute of Non-discriminatory Gender interrelations (INGI) Crisis Center for Women (NGO). Education: Saint-Petersburg State University, Sociological department, graduated in 2007. Additional education: Educational

program of Saint-Petersburg State University of Economics 2011–2013.

Areas of expertise:

- Fundraising activities
- Coordination of the project activities
- Building international links
- Running interdisciplinary collaborations with business, media and the authorities



Oleksandra Nazarova, Psychologist and Project Advisor at INGI/Crisis Center for Women Education: Kyiv State University, MA in Psychology, graduated 2004

Areas of expertise:

- Crisis psychological counselling
- Project management
- International cooperation

WAVE Training Institute

Fundraising and writing effective project proposals

Elena Floriani, WAVE

Every year, WAVE hosts a training that focuses on topics that can be useful for WAVE members, to help them improve their work and the support they provide to women and children survivors of violence.

This year the WAVE Training Institute (WTI) focused on fundraising and writing effective project proposals, to help women's organizations diversifying their funding methods and access a wider international range of funders. The 2020 WTI took place on November 10th and 11th and was held online for the first time.

During the first day of training, Emma Collins Consultancy, in association with the Women's Resource Centre, presented a training course on creating an effective case for support. Trainees explored what funders are looking for and pitfalls to avoid in order to make a proposal stand out and attract funders. This section focused on grants from trusts, foundations and government sources of funding.

On day two, Rosalyn Park from The Advocates for Human Rights conducted a training on fundraising and resource strategies. The goal was to increase the capacity of NGOs and advocates to expand the resources available to them in order to accomplish their missions through alternative fundraising and increasing in-kind contributions. This training focused on flexible, alternative resources to support core operations/general operations rather than foundation grants or government funding.

This article presents some of the key aspects of fundraising discussed during the training and provides useful strategies and recommendations for those who could not attend.

CASE FOR SUPPORT

An effective case for support is one of the most important tools for fundraising. It is a document that summarizes who you are, what you do and why your project matters. Once you have a strong case for support you can send it to several trusts and foundations and use it for most application forms.

What does a strong case for support look like? It's a 4-5pg document that includes very clear information about your project and its budget. It should also be visually appealing and, if possible, include pictures for

clarification and/or emphasis. No funders are interested in supporting a project that they do not understand.

A good case for support should include the following sections:

1. **Executive summary** → Introduce yourself and summarise your need and response
2. **Need** → What problem do you want to solve?
3. **How you will meet this need** → Name planned activities, resources and why you are the best organisation to do it...get specific!
4. **Impact** → Include outcomes (the difference you make) and outputs (the things you deliver)
5. **Budget and fundraising plan** → Be clear and include your ask. Your funders might be able to cover only part of your budget

Tip: write the executive summary last!

ALTERNATIVE FUNDRAISING

Besides traditional grants, many other forms of fundraising are available to NGOs. Alternative and flexible resources are important for the survival and success of an organization; they help to reduce the dependency on a single source and allow for continuity during difficult times if other funding options fall through.

How can you ensure funding diversity? You should have as many people in your organization as possible who coordinate raising money from as many sources as you can manage. It is important to look beyond grant funding, but this of course requires planning, time, and hard work. The good news is that it becomes easier and it evolves with time!

Outlined below are some different forms of alternative fundraising.

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

The purpose of fundraising is not to raise money, but to raise donors. People are willing to donate! In some countries up to 70-80% of the population donates money to charity. That's why taking care of relationships with donors ensures continuous donations rather than a one-time payment. Interestingly, people donate on average to 5-15 different causes – so don't be

afraid to ask someone, even if they're already supporting another cause.

Find here some tips to use when approaching individual donors:

- › Try to approach them directly, for example, at events, or by giving them a call or sending them an email... this is the most effective way to convince your (future) donor.
- › Build the donor relationship: Stay in touch, share your successes, say thank you and explain how their support is helping you.
- › Overcome the fear of asking for money: You are not asking for yourself, but for your cause, and you are giving the chance to make a difference. Writing down your fears and preparing beforehand can help you.
- › Remember, people can always say no, so you need to get used to this and learn to not take it personally!

IN-KIND GOODS

Sometimes people cannot give money, but they can support you with goods or services at a reduced price. Think about your needs (computers for your office, bikes for the women hosted in your shelter, games and books for their children, etc.) and get in touch with local businesses. You have to craft your request: explain the problem, your need and how their donation will meet that need. Do not forget to give them publicity! You could also publish an open wish list and categorize it into sections. This could help you in reaching more potential donors and to pull at people's heartstrings.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special events include many different opportunities to bring in new donors and recruiting new people, for example, during a performance, a protest, a social gathering or a poetry event. Organizing events is not necessarily a way to make money, but they are great occasions to raise awareness about your cause, to showcase the work of your NGO, to attract new donors and to educate. Here are some useful things to remember if you are planning to organize an event:

- › The money you spend on it needs to be an amount you are willing to lose if the event cannot be held.
- › The best events are those that become a tradition for the organization.

- › Find sponsors for the event.
- › The aim is to reach new faces, not only your co-workers and allies.
- › Start with smaller events and remember that it takes one or two years for an event to become successful – be patient!

Many women's support services in Europe are dealing with very limited funding, however, this was a massive problem even before the COVID-19 crisis began. Women's support services are now facing a double pandemic: the sanitary emergency and the increase in violence against women, a phenomenon that was always of pandemic proportions. Having a fundraising system in place can help when facing difficult times, such as the current one. Nevertheless, fundraising is a long-term endeavor; it takes persistence and a knowing that results do not come overnight. Try to make it a part of your organization's routine and dedicate a few hours each week to donors' searches, increasing funding diversity, updating your case for support and carrying out other fundraising tasks. Your requests may be rejected, but don't give up – you are working for a good cause and your work is valuable and necessary!

If you are looking for professional support, the WTI's trainer Emma Collins is available for consultancy and can be reached per email: emma@emmacollinsconsultancy.co.uk ●



Elena Floriani works as Communications & Research Officer for the WAVE Network. Elena has a background in International Relations and graduated with a thesis on the legal protection of women's rights in Africa, conducting a research on the recent developments of the

African Union's human rights system. After working for the domestic violence intervention centre of Vienna, she joined the WAVE Team in May 2019. She takes care of different European projects, of data collection and the WAVE Country Report, of communication strategies and she collaborates in the organization of WAVE's trainings and conferences.



The WAVE team with the new Step Up! Campaign bag in front of the WAVE office in Vienna

Behind the Cover Art

Open Call for Artists: From 1 May until 15 July 2020, the WAVE Step Up! Campaign (SUC) called upon female graphic artists who are passionate about creating socially engaging art while also trying to initiate a positive change in society. For the third year in a row, the WAVE SUC commissioned a special artistic motif to be printed on our tote bags. The WAVE SUC received more than 40 applications from all over Europe. On 8 September 2020, the SUC Jury chose Ricarda Stahl's artwork for the motif of the WAVE 2020 tote bag. The Jury consisted of campaign coordinators from Germany, Portugal, Romania, Wales, and the WAVE Office campaign coordinator.

Artist Biography: Ricarda Stahl, also known as Ricis-art, is a ceramist, silkscreen printer and artisan who aims to shift minds towards sustainability and material value with her art. During her studies, it became clear to her that she wanted to craft and create. After several life adjustments, she finally managed to realize her dream to have her own silkscreen printing and ceramics studio, located in the second district of Vienna. There you can find her working at the potter's wheel, the drawing or printing table, or in the darkroom. Ricarda has been a self-employed artist since July 2020 and has since been busy engaging in numerous working commitments.

WAVE Members

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

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

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



**WOMEN
AGAINST
VIOLENCE
EUROPE**

Values

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

Vision

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

Purpose

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

Mission

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

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

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