

WAVE Newsletter September-October 2019

WAVE News

WAVE Conference



The 2019 WAVE conference "25 Years of Defending Women's Human Rights: Milestones and Visions for the Future", our annual celebration of the work the WAVE Network has done over the last quarter century, was a success this year! The [#25yearsWAVE](#) conference has been a whirlwind of events and interesting discoveries! One the first day, we had the honour to receive as guest speaker, the President of Estonia, Kersti Kaljulaid, as well as members of the European Commission, GREVIO, WAVE founding members and many other prominent specialists in the field of women's rights. The conference gathered over 150 guests and speakers from all over Europe in the lavish venue of the Hestia Hotel Europe in Tallinn. Our amazing conference moderator Dil Wickremasinghe kicked off Day 2 with a guided meditation! Two workshop sessions were then held covering topics such as protecting reproductive rights, gender neutral policies & women's support services, self-care, cyber VAWG, migrant women's rights, child custody, and survivor-focused health care. Directly after the end of Day 2 was the WAVE

Birthday party where we celebrated our 25th anniversary with lots of dancing and cake!

August - WAVE working group on gender neutrality visited Scottish Women's Aid to learn about best practices

At the end of August, the WAVE gender neutrality working group was hosted by Scottish Women's Aid in Edinburgh for their first study visit. The gender neutrality working group is working with the topic of protecting women's specialist services from gender neutral policy and practice. Scotland's approach to tackling violence against women and the benefits of a gendered approach to policymaking has been noted as a best practice example by the working group. Scottish Women's Aid organized 2 days of events which assisted the gender neutrality working group in planning the WAVE handbook, to be published in August 2020. Read more [here](#).

16 September - Expert Forum on the Prevention of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

GewaltFREI leben! ("Living FREE of Violence!"), the Expert Forum on the Prevention of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, was held in Vienna, Austria to discuss the role of politicians, the judicial system and the media in effectively preventing violence against women in Austria, as well as the country's responsibility in implementing the Istanbul Convention. The forum was organized by the alliance GewaltFREI Leben, in which victim support services, civil society organisations as well as WAVE Members domestic abuse intervention centre vienna and austrian women's shelter network are involved. An assessment of experts, including Rosa Logar and Ulrike Lunacek, was also on the agenda to highlight what is needed to prevent gender-based violence. Within ten workshops, the six-

hour event targeted violence against migrant women, sexual violence, children as victims and witnesses, prevention work, prosecution and more.

21 September - Austrian Women's Shelter Network celebrated the International Peace at the State Opera in Vienna



On 21 September, the Austrian women's shelter network (AÖF) celebrated the International Peace Day at the Vienna State Opera in cooperation with WAVE and the working group "Migrant Women and Violence". The event highlighted the importance of ensuring that women and children affected by violence live a peaceful life. The matinee included performances by mezzo-soprano singer Zoryana Kushpler and Argentine Tango dancers as well as performative reading

pieces of testimonies of survivors of violence. Around 50 guests attended the matinee, including Austria's Federal Minister for Women, Families and Youth Ines Stilling and Ulrike Lunacek, politician and former MEP from Austria. Maria Rösslhuber, AÖF executive manager, and Beverly Mtui, WAVE Youth Ambassador coordinator, both reiterated that political cooperation and civil society participation must facilitate the end of violence against women and children. [A video of the matinee can be accessed here online.](#)



27 September - Bosnia Herzegovina's proposal on the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence

The National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska on 27 September 2019, unanimously adopted a [Proposal for Amendments to the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence](#). The amendments followed the standards of the Istanbul Convention. The most significant changes are related to: Domestic violence only as criminal code; Inclusion a person of trust as support for victims of domestic violence; Risk Assessment; Mandatory informing victims about their rights; Punishment for everyone who does not report violence; and the Protocols of the subjects of protection on the local level. The Foundation United Women from Banja Luka in cooperation with partners organization from Bosnia and Herzegovina strongly stands for the rights of women victims of gender-based violence. In the lobbying process, they sent initiatives to the Ministry family, youth and sports - to include a person of trust in the Law and to include mandatory informing victims of violence about their rights. The initiative was successfully adopted. The Law is expected to enter into force in May 2020 and we are going to follow his implementation in the practice.

4 October - Kosovo Women's Network in cooperation with Women Wellness Center Exhibition on "Break the Silence: Ending Violence Behind Walls"

Citizens of Peja gathered at City Square to learn how to break the silence that allows domestic violence to continue. Hundreds of people visited the exhibition organized by Kosovo Women's Network (KWN) in partnership with Women Wellness Center Peje. "Break the Silence: Ending Violence Behind Walls",

was designed as a labyrinth showing walls of a home covered with first-hand stories of women and men who have experienced domestic violence. “Supporting victims (women and children) is our mission and primary obligation is to bring back the dignity and to improve the provided services”, said Ardita Ramizi Bala, representative of Women Wellness Center. The event was designed with the aim of raising awareness about different forms of domestic violence. It provides citizens with detailed information about local support institutions and how to contact them. The exhibition organizers sought to encourage people to break the silence that hides violence behind walls, and to seek support from institutions when violence occurs.

15-20 October – The Association for Liberty and Equality of Gender (A.L.E.G), [organized the Europe and Central Asia selection panel for the 2019 With and For Girls award](#)



In 15-20 October, five Romanian girls aged 15 to 19 took the lead in selecting the winners of the With and For Girls Award for Europe and Central Asia. After an intensive training programme, the girls' jury spent 4 days interviewing the 10 shortlisted candidates from various countries across the region, aiming to prioritise girl-led activism. Through this final phase of the selection process, the With and For Girls Collective put the decision in the hands of teenage girls, thus contributing to the objective of empowering them to be vital agents of change which was A.L.E.G. honour to

be part of.

17 October - Anti-harassment policies at the workplace

On October 17th, The Association for Liberty and Equality of Gender (A.L.E.G.) organized the conference [“Employers for respect – anti-harassment policies at the workplace”](#). The event brought together employers from both the private and public sectors to discuss good practices to ensure a healthy work environment, free of harassment and discrimination. In April this year, the Romanian Government adopted a new set of methodological norms to apply the legislative provisions regarding equality of opportunity and treatment between women and men at the workplace. In accordance with these new norms, through this conference, A.L.E.G. sought to help employers to develop internal politics to prevent, report and sanction and fight sexual harassment and sex-based discrimination at the workplace.

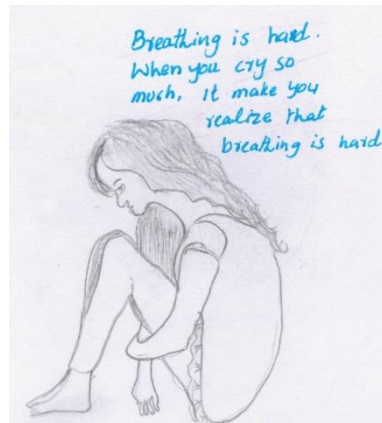


Just published: New handbook on counselling method for refugee women GBV victims

The project titled “Co-creating a Counselling Method for Refugee Women GBV Victims” has just released a handbook on counselling as well as recommendations for policy-makers. You can find both [here](#). The project involving 6 EU Member states took a **victim-centred approach** to better understand the problems and needs of refugee women GBV victims. The innovative aspect of the project was to use **co-creation to develop a specific counselling method for refugee women**, involving both end-users and service providers in the creation process. HEUNI was responsible for developing the methodology for collecting the user insights, analysing the data, as well as feeding the data into the co-creation process.

New Women's Aid report shows women in England are still having to sleep rough and sofa surf while waiting for a suitable refuge space

Women's Aid's most recent report [Nowhere to Turn 2019](#) is based on findings from the No Woman Turned Away (NWTa) project, which provides additional support to women who face barriers in accessing a refuge space. The report details the often traumatic and long-drawn-out journeys of survivors who encounter difficulties in securing a safe place to live. It draws on statistical data, as well as interviews and artwork provided by survivors of domestic abuse. You can access the full report [here](#).



Upcoming Events

4 November – 15 December - Register now for free Online Course on Recognizing Elder Abuse held by The Training to Identify and Support Older Victims of Abuse (TISOVA) project

We would like to invite you to take part in the first online training on how to identify and support older victims abuse, an online course created by the TISOVA project. This course provides knowledge on how to recognize older victims and how to empower them. Are you a professional working in senior or day care centres, a volunteer or a senior yourself? Then this course was made for you and is free! You can **sign up until November 3rd, 2019** and will receive a certificate from the University of Tartu upon successful completion. If you are a student, you can even receive 1 ECTS for completing the course! The course will last from November 4th to December 15th. Learn more about the structure of the course and register [here](#). If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact Anastasiia Turusinova at anastasiia.turusinova@ut.ee

International News



Olga Tokarczuk, new 2018 Nobel Prize laureate

[Olga Tokarczuk](#), the Polish novelist and activist, was awarded the 2018 Nobel Prize in literature (after delaying due scandal). She also won the Man Booker International award with her sixth novel, *Flights*, originally published in 2007.

[Northern Ireland abortion law ruled to breach human rights standards](#)



The High Court in Belfast has finally ruled that the "Northern Ireland's near-blanket abortion ban breaches the UK's human rights" violating the article 8 of the European convention on human rights!! This is an historical achievement, since in Northern Ireland the law admits abortion only when the pregnancy poses a direct threat to the mother's life. The decision has come after the case of Sarah Ewart, who 6 years ago was denied the abortion despite a scan showed the foetus she was carrying would have not survived the birth. In

her words: "It is a massive emotional relief. This has not been an easy journey. It is a massive victory. It has been a massive stress emotionally on the family but six years later, let's enjoy today."

Chanel Miller, Know My Name

In September, [Chanel Miller](#), formerly dubbed "Emily Doe", exposed her side of the story on Brock Turner's sexual assault in 2015. After an excruciating judicial process, the aggressor was forced to register as a sex offender. The case also led to significant changes in California law setting mandatory prison sentences for anyone convicted of assaulting a person who is unconscious or intoxicated and expanding the definition of rape to include non-consensual sexual penetration.



Miller was interviewed on 60 minutes and officially published her memoir, "Know My Name".

Iceland hosted its first #MeToo conference

[Iceland hosted its first international #MeToo conference](#) on September 17, 2019 in Reykjavik. The Icelandic prime minister, Katrín Jakobsdóttir, said that the 3-day conference was meant to create a platform for an international and in-depth conversation about the impact and future of the #MeToo movement. 80 panellists were scheduled to speak including Purna Sen, the UN's spokeswoman on addressing sexual harassment, the American political activist Angela Davis, Catherine Mayer, co-founder of the UK's Women's Equality party, the playwright Justina Kehinde and the positive masculinity campaigner Gary Barker.

[New European Union Commission, the most gender-diverse in EU history](#)

If approved, the new European Union Commission presided by Ursula Von Der Leyen will be the most diversified team in history with 13 women and 14 men. The EU Commission team is based in Brussels and is in charge of enforcing EU rules and treaties.

