



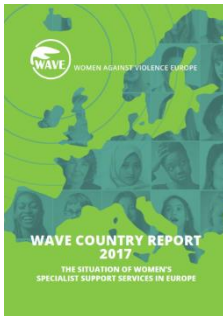
WAVE Newsletter March April 2018

WAVE Annual Conference 2018



The 20th WAVE Conference will take place in Valletta, Malta, from October 22nd to 24th. We are looking forward to welcoming all our participants to collaborate towards ending violence against women!

WAVE Country Report 2017 is out!



The [2017 WAVE Country Report](#) provides [statistics on women's specialist support services](#), collected from 46 countries represented within the WAVE Network, covering 28 EU member states and 18 countries outside of the EU. The purpose of the report is to give an overview of three key areas for service provision: women's shelters, national women's helplines and women's centres. The report includes data and figures from the year 2016 and offers recommendations to the aforementioned areas of service provision. Thanks to this extensive data collection, it has also been possible to identify current gaps and to give an overview of the number of women's shelters, centres and women's helplines available in the 46 countries. This research has been conducted in line with requirements of the Istanbul Convention (IC) enshrined in articles 22, 23, 24 and 25, highlighting which countries currently meet the standards from the IC regarding provision for women's specialist support services. In addition to collecting data on specialist women's support services, survivor stories shared by women's organisations from the WAVE network were also included, to highlight individual women's experiences and provide a practical context to the data.

WAVE participates in WWP EN Study Visit in Austria



From April 11th-13th, the European Network for Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence (WWP EN) held its 2018 study visit in Graz, Austria, in coordination with its member Association for Men's and Gender Issues. Lina Piskernik, Digital & Social Media Coordinator of WAVE, was able to attend the last two days of the study visit. The study visit entailed the visiting of several institutions including the probationary counselling centre, Neustart, where a presentation on their work with perpetrators and cooperation with victim support organisations was given. This presentation was followed by a quick walk to the Men's Counselling Centre Graz where a presentation on their work and concept was given. During the visit, participants were able to easily connect and network with each other as well as the Austrian professionals in the work with perpetrator field.



WAVE Blog premiers!

The [WAVE Blog](#) officially debuted on the first day of Spring, March 20th. This blog has been created to give a new platform for the articles of the annual WAVE Fempower magazine, where WAVE members contribute on various topics ranging from migrant women's rights to child custody issues. With the WAVE blog, we want to give those not so deeply involved in our organisation insight into the work that we do, as well as our personal opinions on feminist topics, which do not necessarily reflect the official policy or opinion/position of Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) as a whole. Make sure to follow WAVE on [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#) to stay up to date on our latest blog posts!



WAVE & Kadın Dayanışma Vakfı coordinate training on the Istanbul Convention and GREVIO Shadow Reports as tools of advocacy and lobbying in Ankara



From March 29th-30th, the training on the Istanbul Convention and GREVIO Shadow Reports as tools of advocacy and lobbying for CSOs was held in Ankara, Turkey. The training was organized by Turkish CSSP regional partner Kadın Dayanışma Vakfı – The Foundation for Women's Solidarity in cooperation with WAVE. The first day was opened by Yolanda Iriarte, Regional Programme Manager/Programme Specialist for UN Women Eastern Europe & Central Asia. This was followed by a presentation by Professor Kadriye Bakırcı of Hacettepe University about the monitoring of the Istanbul Convention. Professor Feride Acar, President of GREVIO and one of the original authors

of the Istanbul Convention, gave an engaging presentation on the monitoring of the Istanbul Convention and making more efficient use of the GREVIO recommendations as a lobbying tool. The use of the European Court of Human Rights decisions in advocacy work was then discussed by Feray Salman, General Coordinator of the Human Rights Joint Platform. Anca Ciupa, Lina Piskernik and Beverly Mtui of the WAVE office, spent the morning session giving presentations on using the CSSP case study as a learning tool, the CSSP social media strategy as well as legal tools used for implementing the Istanbul Convention, specifically the online Council of Europe HELP course on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. The training concluded on the afternoon of March 30th with two absorbing presentations. The first was given by Huriye Karabacak, from the Foundation for Women's Solidarity, about monitoring of CEDAW reports followed by a presentation by Figen Demir Çıra, of the same organization, about human trafficking from the perspective of the CEDAW. The two-day training gave the regional partners an excellent opportunity to come up with new and innovative ways to further network within and outside their regions, and better monitor the implementation of the Istanbul and CEDAW Conventions.

WAVE Advisory Board Meeting 2018



From 9-11 April 2018, a delegation of 44 WAVE Advisory Board members met in Vienna, Austria. Every year, delegates from each country within the WAVE Network meet to discuss important developments and strategize on how to improve the situation of specialist women's support services across Europe. This three-day meeting focused on structural and

governance issues of the Network, presentations of key Network activities for 2018, and planning the next WAVE Conference in Valletta, Malta from 22-24 October. There were also several discussions about policy and legislative developments within Europe, including the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW, and WAVE's future work in the field of data collection.

International Women's Day: Millions of women protested in Spain against sexual discrimination, domestic violence and the wage gap



On the 8 March 2018, hundreds of thousands of women went on a historical “feminist strike” in more than sixty cities across Spain. Women from all origins, ages, classes and occupations took to the streets to fight for their rights and call for an end to Spain's pervasive machista culture. They did not go to work that day to show that “if they stop, the world stops”. The strike was backed by 10 trade unions, as well as influential female politicians and well-known female TV and radio presenters and journalists who managed to bring to a standstill journalism in Spain for that day. The strike was organized by the [Feminist Network](#) via the 8 March Commission whose Manifesto calls for “a society free of sexist oppression, exploitation and violence”.

France – On-the-spot fines for sexual harassment in public space

As part of new legislation against sexual and gender-based violence, France is to introduce a bill with [on-the-spot fines for sexual harassment in public spaces](#) and a prolonged time-limit for filing rape complaints. The fines would go from 90 to 350 euros (and higher for repeat offenders or with aggravating circumstances) to punish any sexual or gender-based remark, pressure or behaviour which could harm the dignity of a person because of its degrading or humiliating character or because of the creation of an intimidating, hostile or abusive situation. The main purpose of this fine is to be able to cover the grey zone between flirting and sexual harassment. However, there is no specification on the concrete applicability of such a fine and how the police officers would be able to enforce it. The proposed bill however does not convince many feminist organisations. These believe that the legislative arsenal already existing is comprehensive enough and that the government's priority should be to enforce the existing laws more effectively. Feminist organisations also criticized the lack of incentives to educate professionals in this field and reminded that the majority of assaults do not occur in public spaces.

Slovenia – Fighting Violence against Women with the launch of HELP course

On the 22nd of March 2018, the Council of Europe, together with the Slovenian Judicial Training Centre launched the HELP course on Violence against Women (VAW) and Domestic Violence (DV) in Ljubljana. The HELP course is seen as a practical tool to tackle the topics of VAW and DV in Slovenia, as it covers in an interactive way the key concepts, the international and European legal framework and the European case law governing the prevention and protection of women and girls from violence and focuses in particular on the Istanbul Convention. The course was developed jointly between the Council of Europe's Equality Division and the HELP (Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals) Programme of the Council of Europe. More than 30 participants (of which around 20% are men) –

judges, prosecutors and criminal investigators from the police – are expected to follow the course, which will be available in Slovenian in August 2018.

Croatia – Parliament ratifies the Istanbul Convention



On Friday 13th of April 2018, the Croatian Parliament voted 110-30 in favour of ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. The Istanbul Convention was agreed in 2011 and has now been ratified by 29 countries, including 18 member states of the European Union. In Croatia, there has been a fierce opposition by the Catholic Church and

Right-wing parties who see the treaty as a threat to traditional roles and as a door to legalizing gay marriage, and protesters demonstrated on the day before the vote, requesting the Parliament not to ratify it. The government however said the ratification of the Convention will help strengthen the legal, institutional and financial framework to prevent and fight against violence towards women and domestic violence.

Italy adopted a law protecting orphans of domestic violence and femicide

For the first time in Europe, [a law protecting the orphans of victims of domestic violence and femicide](#) (Law No. 4 of January 2018) has been adopted and entered into force in Italy in February 2018. The law establishes legal aid for the victims, as well as psychological assistance, study grants and professional training. Additionally, the orphans can ask to have their surname changed, if it is the same with that of the perpetrator. The murderers' rights to inherit from the victims and to receive the victims' pensions are removed and access to their goods is blocked, to guarantee the children's right to compensation. Moreover, the state will cover all civil and criminal procedures for the orphans. After long debates and lobbying actions, the so-called "special orphans", which are estimated to be around 1600 in Italy only from 2000 to 2014, have finally a law to protect them and support their economic and psychological needs.

Cyprus: The Parliament decriminalises abortion

On the 30th of March 2018 the [Parliament of Cyprus passed with a large majority a law](#) providing broader legal grounds for abortion. The termination of unwanted pregnancies is now allowed up to 12 weeks of gestation and in case of rape up to 19 weeks, without having to prove a health risk, as previously required. It is estimated that every year about 9000 illegal abortions took place in Cyprus, and many women were obliged to pass the border with the Turkish north of the island for an abortion.

Iceland ratifies the Istanbul Convention



On the 24 of April, in Strasbourg, in the presence of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr Thorbjørn Jagland, Mr Ásmundur Einar DADASON, Minister of Social Affairs and Equality in Iceland, deposited the instrument of ratification in respect of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. The Convention will enter into force, as regards Iceland, on the 1st of August 2018. Iceland becomes the [30th State to ratify the Convention](#).

Commission on Domestic Violence in Malta goes strategic with the Media



Launch of the Media Guidelines – Valletta 28th of March, 2018. Women and men are being treated differently by the media, according to Joe Gerada, Commissioner on Domestic Violence in Malta. In fact, the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) 2015 found that, in Malta, the overall presence of women in the news was 16%. Research shows that the media tends not to reflect the prevalence and severity of family violence and can unintentionally perpetuate commonly held but untrue beliefs about domestic

violence. Yet statistics show that family violence is one of the most significant social issues in terms of number of people affected, long-term life effects and cost to the country. For this reason, the Commission on Domestic Violence in Malta developed guidelines for the media to follow in order to ensure that the reporting gives a true and realistic view of the issue. In a press conference presided over by the Maltese Minister for Equality and European Affairs, Dr. Helena Dalli, it was emphasized that new stories need to inform about the true nature of family violence. The guidelines are available by contacting the Commission on Domestic Violence in Malta by email: domesticviolence@gov.mt

Protests take place across Spain after 5 men are cleared of gang rape

Thousands of protesters flooded the streets in cities across Spain after [a court failed to convict](#) a group of men for the gang rape of an 18-year-old girl during the Running of the Bulls festival in 2016. The assault occurred during the famous Festival of San Fermín that includes the running of the bulls. In her testimony last year, [the victim said](#) the five men, whom she didn't know, led her through a doorway, gang-raped her, then stole her phone and fled. Instead of convicting the five men of rape on Thursday, a three-judge panel in Pamplona in northern Spain found the men guilty of the lesser crime of "continuous sexual abuse. Unlike a rape charge, sexual abuse charges indicate that violence or intimidation was not involved in the assault. [Amnesty International's Spanish chapter](#) said the judges' ruling makes women responsible for their rapists. Both the state prosecutors and the defendants' attorney said they would appeal the judges' ruling.

Ireland: A bill has been passed which criminalises psychological elements of domestic abuse



A [bill that criminalises psychological elements of domestic](#) abuse has been passed in the Dáil (the lower house and principal chamber of the Irish legislature). In his concluding remarks, Minister for Justice Charlie Flanagan said: "This is one of the most important pieces of legislation before the Oireachtas (the legislature of Ireland) this year. For too long domestic violence has been seen primarily as physical abuse. The new offence of coercive control sends a clear consistent message that non-violent control in an intimate relationship is criminal and will be treated as such," the minister added. Safe Ireland, the national social change agency working to end domestic violence, welcomed the passing of the bill which it says is "robust, visionary and cutting edge in its response to the needs of women and children needing protection and safety."



Local authorities involved in establishment of services for women victims of violence in Macedonia

Thanks to the advocacy efforts of [National Network to End Violence against Women and Domestic Violence](#), [local authorities are being mobilized for the establishment of services supporting women victims of violence on a regional level](#). In October 2017, mayors signed the *Public Commitment Act for the advancement of the protection of women and children victims of various forms of violence, including domestic violence*. This represented a significant move towards promoting the systemic protection of women and girls from all types of violence. A further step forward in this view are the regional meetings with mayors which took place in March 2018 with the purpose of taking practical measures for the establishment of these services. On April 20, a regional meeting took place in the City of Skopje with the mayors from the Skopje region and the Minister of Labour and Social Policy. After the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, national policies and laws need to be aligned with the provisions of the Convention, which envisages the involvement of local self-government in ensuring protection from all forms of gender-based violence.

First official report about the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Serbia is in progress

The Republic of Serbia ratified the Convention on 31st of October 2013 and is obliged to prepare the first report on its application. [The preparation of the national report](#) is based on the Questionnaire on Legislative and Other Measures that should show the extent of application the Convention, as is provided in Article 68, paragraph 1. On the basis of the prepared questionnaire, the signatory states are obliged to submit a report to [GREVIO](#) (Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence) through the Secretary of the Council of Europe. The report should contain all relevant information and data about the measures taken by the Republic of Serbia, respecting the principle of full commitment in the prevention, investigation, punishment and securing of reparations for all acts of violence covered by the Convention.

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