



WAVE Newsletter March-April 2019

WAVE News

New WAVE Webinar: StepUp4Youth - Youth Engagement and Campaigning within the WAVE StepUp! Campaign

On May 29th at 11 am Vienna-time, Beverly Mtui, WAVE Youth Engagement Consultant, and Katarina Višnar, WAVE Campaign Coordinator, will present their webinar on youth engagement and campaigning. 10 young and motivated young persons from 9 different EU as well as non-EU countries were chosen to become the WAVE Youth Ambassadors and support the Step Up! Campaign in raising awareness on the importance of fighting for gender equality and against gender-based violence. After 6 months of collaborative work and developing activities to encourage youth inclusion in promoting non-violence, we want to share with you our work, findings and current outcomes in youth campaigning as well as creating a strong platform for young people within the framework of the WAVE Network. Register & join via website [here](#) on any browser with Flash.

WAVE Webinar: Using CEDAW Committee, GREVIO and UPR as a tool for protection of women's right

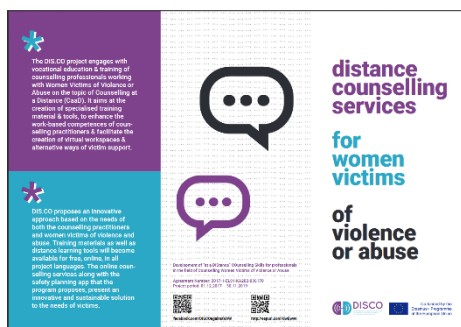
"The Center for Legal Civic Initiatives' webinar will be focused on using CEDAW Convention and CEDAW Committee concluding observations, Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and GREVIO's recommendations and the recommendations of UPR for Albania as living tools of change. The webinar will be held on May 22nd at 1 pm Vienna-time.

The experts of the Center for Legal Civic Initiatives (CLCI) will share with participants:

- the CLCI's practices in using these international standards in the judicial processes;
- the experience of preparation and presentation of shadow reports;
- using the recommendations of international bodies for lobbying and advocacy; "

Join via Website [here](#) on any browser with Flash.

New DIS.CO Brochures published in 5 languages!



DIS.CO is a two-year Erasmus+ project that aims at the development, piloting and dissemination of VET material regarding the enhancement of key competences of psycho-social Counselling practitioners in the field of Counselling women victims of violence through alternative digital means with the aim of providing alternative innovative services and building virtual workplaces. The project will promote innovative digital learning methods (e-learning) accompanied with work-related digital tools (online Safety Planning Application) as well as conventional practical guides. The brochures explaining the DIS.CO project along with the outputs which will be made available to the public, have been translated into all 5 project languages: English, Estonian, German, Greek and Spanish.

Read and download them [here](#).

CYBERSAFE Social Media has been launched!

CYBERSAFE is a 2-year project funded by the European Union. Nine project partners from various European countries aim to develop, promote and disseminate innovative experiential as well as playful educational ICT tools that facilitate behavioural change among teenagers (12-18) on cyber VAWG. The social media pages for the CYBERSAFE project have been launched. Make sure to give us a follow on the accounts below if you want to stay updated on the latest:

- ▶ Facebook
 - ▶ [CYBERSAFE Project](#) (official)
 - ▶ [CYBERSAFE Space](#) (target group 12-18)
- ▶ Twitter: [@CybersafeP](#)
- ▶ Instagram: [@cybersafe.project](#)
- ▶ Hashtags: #endCyberVAWG #CYBERSAFESpace



The first CYBERSAFE newsletter will be sent out at the beginning of May. Sign up for it [here](#).

CSSP Training on Monitoring and Reporting the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention held in Montenegro



The training titled 'Istanbul Convention – Monitoring and Reporting' was organized by SOS Niksic, of Montenegro, as part of the project: Support the establishment and strengthening of regional platforms of CSO (with a special focus on organizations representing women from minority and disadvantaged groups) to advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies and improve the accessibility of women's NGOs regional network for all women who experience gender-based violence in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention, under the Programme "Ending Violence against Women: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds". The training welcomed an overall of 20 participants from countries such as: Austria, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and USA. The three-day training took place from the 25 – 27th of March 2019, the first two days being open to the public, and the third day being dedicated only to CSSP partners. Read more about the meeting [here](#).

International News

European Commission Campaign on #DigitalRespect4Her campaign was launched this April



EU Commissioners Gabriel and Jourová launched the [#DigitalRespect4Her campaign](#) at the European Parliament in Strasbourg on the 16th of April, in an event organised by President Tajani. The campaign aims to raise awareness on the violence women face online every day, and to encourage women to exercise their right to be active online. **Please support the campaign by disseminating this information.** Everyone can share their story and support the campaign on social media by using **#DigitalRespect4Her**. The factsheet about the campaign was published in all 24 official languages and is available [here](#). You can follow the campaign via the Twitter accounts of Commissioner Gabriel and Commissioner Jourová, who will tweet testimonies on weekdays. These testimonies will also be published on the main website, and at [News item](#).

Sexual violence awareness month in Armenia

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month is a campaign seeking to raise public awareness on sexual violence and educate communities about how to prevent this in many countries. The Sexual Assault Crisis Center launched a campaign on awareness raising concerning this issue in Armenia. One of the activities planned is a museum exhibition on sexual violence. Staff working at the Sexual Assault Crisis Centre have collected personal stories and items from women which are related to their personal stories and they will present these during the three-day exhibition. Activities on social media have also been planned for the month. Further details are available [here](#).

Welsh Women's Aid *Forty Voices, Forty Years* Exhibition at the National Assembly of Wales



Welsh Women's Aid are delighted to announce that our *Forty Voices, Forty Years* exhibition has one final prestigious venue. *Forty Voices, Forty Years* is a national heritage project being led by Welsh Women's Aid in collaboration with the George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling at the University of South Wales. They recognise that women's memories, voices and lives are often written out of the national heritage of Wales. Because of this, they have recorded the fascinating stories of forty women, collected objects from individuals and organisations from the past forty years of the movement and showcased these in a touring exhibition across Wales. Due to the generous support of the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip,

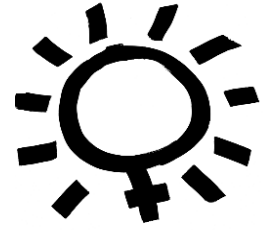
Jane Hutt AM who was also the first National Coordinator of Welsh Women's Aid back in 1978, they have now been invited to display their *Forty Voices, Forty Years* exhibition at the iconic Pierhead Building in Cardiff Bay during the month of April. The Pierhead building is a historic Grade One listed building under Wales's very own Big Ben, it is a "majestic building" which has stood proudly for over 113 years. If you would like to listen to the collection of women's stories collected by the project, please visit Welsh Women's Aid YouTube channel [here](#). If you would like to view the exhibition online please visit the People's Collection Wales website [here](#).



Girls Regional Forum held in Bucharest, Romania: Who Is Afraid of Gender Equality?



In many countries in Europe and Central Asia gender equality policies are blocked by initiatives that misunderstand gender equality and blame equal rights activism for the destruction of traditional family. For instance, in Romania, a recent petition signed by parents and religious organizations asks the Ministry of Education to ban all educational material on gender equality. Women's rights are a recent achievement, not yet fully implemented in many societies. Therefore, misleading schools and parents by emphasizing irrational fears regarding gender education can be very dangerous for women's rights.



©Dan Perjovschi

To better understand this phenomenon, A.L.E.G. and the Women's Resource Center Armenia are unfolding a joint project entitled "Who's Afraid of Gender Equality and What Does This Mean for Girls?" The research aims at collecting data from women and girls' NGOs in Europe and Central Asia about recent developments in terms of attitudes towards gender equality and women's rights activism. What is the concrete impact on the lives of girls who work with these organizations? The results of this study were presented during a **Regional Girls' Forum** which took place on April 23 in Romania. At this event, girls from countries in Europe and Central Asia networked and established joint strategies to defend their rights and to inform young people about the advantages of equality between women and men. Youth activities of WAVE Step Up campaign were one of the best practices presented at the Forum. More details about the event are available [here](#). The project is funded by Empower and supported by the *With and For Girls Award*. Artist Dan Perjovschi created the logo above specifically for this project as a gift.

The Italian [national association D.i.Re: Women Against Violence](#), announces with great sadness the passing of Professor Anna Costanza Baldry.



Anna was a woman who has devoted most of her life to women who have suffered violence. She was a meticulous and tireless researcher who understood the critical importance of preventing violence against women. Anna was an international scholar who worked with us both as an activist and volunteer. She created the SARA protocol, a risk assessment tool for assessing repeated male violence against women. Her research and operational protocols are now tools for many law enforcement workers, as well as for women who work in the anti-violence centres. She gave her projects women's names – SARA was joined by EVA and ISA. They have all become tools that have contributed to improving the ways we work with and welcome women to our services. Unfortunately, Anna, whom we loved and who showed us many important ways to make women safe, was not able to do the same for herself. Always busy on many fronts, she gave all her energy to others. One of her last pieces of work was supporting children of intimate partner femicide (where their mother has been killed and their father has either killed himself or is in jail), children that she called 'special orphans'. She contributed tenaciously to campaigning for and achieving a law that protects them after the serious loss they have suffered, a civil provision that provides them with a range of forms of state support. Anna has left us prematurely, and with the great emptiness that comes with the loss of such a brilliant and vibrant woman. Goodbye Anna, all the women in our anti-violence centres will continue to benefit from your work even now you have gone. We will continue to walk the path beside you, this time in silence, through your presence is unquestionable.

Albanian Network on gender-based violence submits recommendations to the Universal Periodic Review session in Geneva

The Monitoring Network Against Gender Based Violence in Albania, made of 48 organizations, submitted in October a report on the implementation of the Universal Periodic Review's ([UPR Info](#))



recommendations in Albania. Prof. Dr. Aurela Anastasi, as representative of the Monitoring Network Against Gender Based Violence, presented [a report](#) to the UPR Info pre-session in Geneva on April 4, 2019.

The ratification process of the Istanbul Convention in Armenia

In 2018 Armenia signed the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) with several reservations.

In accordance with Article 78, paragraph 2 of the Convention, the Republic of Armenia reserves the right not to apply the provisions of the Convention laid down in:

- Article 30, paragraph 2;
- Article 55, paragraph 1 in respect of Article 35 regarding minor offences;
- Article 58 in respect of Article 37;
- Article 59.

No major activities have been implemented so far by the Government to prepare the legal and social system to ratify the Convention.

The Women's Law Centre from the Republic of Moldova launched the analysis of compatibility of national legislation with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention.



The Women's Law Centre in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, developed and launched on 18 April the [analysis of compatibility of national legislation with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention](#). The analysis was presented during the meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council to Prevent and Combat Domestic Violence. The event brought together representatives of national authorities, non-governmental organisations, and international

partners. The analysis highlights the main gaps in the legislation and includes a number of recommendations to ensure a coordinated response to cases of domestic violence, set an effective reporting and referral system of cases of domestic violence to specialized assistance and protection services, ensure efficient criminal investigation of domestic violence, in particular, of psychological and economic violence. The analysis is aimed at bringing the Moldovan legislation closer to the standards set by the Istanbul Convention. Delegated GREVIO expert, Aleid van den Brink, encouraged public institutions and NGOs to take joint actions at each stage of an intervention and to cooperate effectively in order to eradicate domestic violence.



Human Rights in Democracy Centre – member of the WAVE network – participates in the UPR lobbying and other advocacy efforts at the UN in Geneva



On March 10– 14, 2019, Human Rights in Democracy Centre (HRDC), a grassroots Albanian NGO which aims to work for the promotion and protection of human rights in Albania partnered with the Advocates for Human Rights, USA. They engaged in lobbying activities part of the Universal Periodic Review, along with colleagues from Ethiopia, Cote D'Ivoire and Russia. Albania will be reviewed on May 2019 in the 33rd Session of the Universal

Periodic Review. Prior to the Geneva lobbying activity, HRDC and the Advocates for Human Rights prepared Albania's Stakeholder Report for the United Nations UPR called '[Domestic Violence situation in Albania](#)' (2018). This UN-related advocacy experience was very successful, as HRDC was able to meaningfully engage with over 25 states to lobby for recommendations to be made to Albania during its upcoming UPR review in May 2019. If such recommendations will be taken into account, undoubtedly, they will help improve the conditions of women/girls, victims/survivors in Albania, and ensure protection of their rights.

Malta ratifies protocol to CEDAW Convention

Malta has recently signed and ratified an optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The protocol grants additional rights to women who have suffered discrimination. Even though Malta ratified the UN Convention in 1991, it did not ratify an optional protocol allowing women who had been discriminated against and who had exhausted all local remedies to take their case before a CEDAW investigative board. The protocol was signed by Equality Minister Helena Dalli during the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2019.

South Korea changes its abortion law

South Korea's Constitutional Court ruled in April as unconstitutional a 66-year-old law that made abortion a crime punishable by up to two years in prison, calling for an amendment to the law. The verdict represented a landmark, if tentative, victory for abortion rights advocates, who have campaigned for the law's abolition as a major step in bolstering women's rights. The court gave Parliament until the end of 2020 to revise the law. If legislators do not meet that deadline, the law will become null and void. It currently remains in force. Polls show that allowing abortion has broad support among South Korean women of childbearing age.

With financial support from the
Rights, Equality and Citizenship
Programme of the European Union

