



WAVE Newsletter May-June 2019

WAVE News

The WAVE Office is proud to announce the following organisations and practitioners have recently joined the WAVE Network:

Ukraine – Center Women’s Perspectives

Serbia – Oasis of Safety

Romania – Necuvinte Association

Italy – Silvia Menecali;

Italy- Cristina Gamberi

Albania – Psycho-Social Centre Vatra

United Kingdom – Standing Together

Multidisciplinary training about cooperation between women’s specialist support services and the health sector will be organized by WAVE next September

The WAVE office is excited to announce that this year’s Multidisciplinary Training (MDT) opportunity will take place from 5-6 September 2019 in Vienna. The title of the training is “Strengthening cooperation between specialist women’s support services and the health sector in effectively responding to elder abuse”. The WAVE Network, in cooperation with **Empowering Old Age Coop – VoiVa**, will deliver this 2-day interactive training. The aim is to bring together key stakeholders from several European countries to address the barriers and gaps which exist in specialist women’s support services to effectively support elderly women victims of abuse, including to increase the capacity of specialist women’s support services to empower older women victims of abuse by including older women’s issues due to aging and health. The training will provide professionals from women’s organizations (e.g. women’s shelters) with the necessary tools to make their services more accessible for older women, including to improve cooperation with the health sector in cases of elder abuse. Click [here](#) to register. Deadline for registration to attend this MDT is Thursday, July 25th, 2019. Further information about the event and the trainers is available [here](#). Alternatively, please contact Kelly Blank in the WAVE office at: kelly.blank@wave-network.org



WAVE Youth Ambassadors meeting



From 3-4 June 2019, the first-ever WAVE Youth Ambassadors meeting was organized by WAVE Youth Engagement Coordinator, Beverly Mtui. Five of the ten dedicated WAVE Youth Ambassadors from across Europe gathered in Vienna, Austria, and met for the first time in person to further develop strategies that aim to ensure youth inclusion in promoting non-violence. The ambassadors were encouraged to engage in critical debates and learned more about the various forms and dimensions of gender-based violence, both in the real world as well as in the digital sphere. The two-day meeting included brainstorming as well as strategic planning. The gathering was essential to fortifying team building and exchanging good practices on how to effectively educate young people on gender-based violence and support them in becoming multipliers of positive change.

Former WAVE Board Member Marceline Naudi was recently appointed president of GREVIO



Marceline Naudi was [elected president of the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence](#). Between 2006 and 2010, Dr Naudi served as a member and was chairperson of the Commission on Domestic Violence. Following Malta's ratification of the convention, Dr Naudi was elected a member and second vice-president, and after a further two years, elected as first vice president, of its Group of Experts, GREVIO. Marceline Naudi is also a long-standing member of the WAVE network, having previously been part of the WAVE Board.

International News

Innovating education in Cyprus – breaking down gender stereotypes through play



How do gender stereotypes affect children and youth? How can we combat these through innovative methods to help them make educational and career choices that better fulfil their potential? These were the key questions that were addressed at the “Gender Equal Education: Innovating through Play” conference that was held on the 13th June 2019 in Nicosia, Cyprus. The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies, along with EU project partners, presented the results of three European projects that all deal with this crucial topic in secondary education - [Free to Choose](#), [GenderEd](#) and [Play it For Change](#).



Experts, teachers and students talked about their experiences developing and playing the Free to Choose board game and using the Dream Fighters app, both designed to challenge gender stereotypes. The conference also featured music acts and clips created by students across Cyprus secondary schools with the theme of preventing gender-based violence in teen relationships.



Second edition of the Survivors' Forum was held in Bucharest, Romania, this June



“Brave together” is the belief that brought together the members of the Survivors' Network in Bucharest, on the 7th of June, at the second edition of the Survivors' Forum, initiated by A.L.E.G, as meeting place for women who have been through domestic violence and are now willing to support other women who are going through abusive relationships. They can now engage in different roles in the network, depending on what suits them best:

1. The role of ambassador of the cause, who is speaking publicly about how she managed to escape violence, to inspire others.
2. The role of resource person in a local support group, to help other women in a counselling context.
3. The role of "Big Sister" who helps with practical advice and accompaniment another woman who is still looking for her way out of violence.



If you would like to get involved in one of these roles or to help in some way, please send the organisers a message at: contact@sieureusesc.ro

WAVE member *Otro Tiempo* supports implementing the State Pact against Gender-based Violence in Spain

Since the Istanbul Convention came into force, Spain has made a series of important advances included the adoption of the “[State Pact against Gender-based Violence](#)” in 2017 which marks an important step forward. This "historic" €1bn five-year action plan aim to tackle gender-based violence by implementing 200 targeted measures. The Government Delegation for Gender-based Violence is performing an essential role by arranging the coordination and monitoring of the Pact, with effective implementation began in 2018 with the





distribution of the first 120 million euros to the Autonomous Communities and Municipal Authorities. Otro Tiempo is working in 2019 at the local level helping municipalities in rural areas to implement the Pact and launch a series of campaigns and actions to raise awareness and prevention against gender-based violence. Our objective is to contribute to break the silence that encourages abuse and to make visible other forms of violence against women by organizing self-defense workshop and cultural events.

Implementing the Istanbul Convention in Serbia: Improved legislation – Failed protection

[PACE's Equality Committee](#) held a meeting on June 5, 2019 in Belgrade. In a draft resolution approved at a meeting, based on a [report](#) by Zita Gurmai (Hungary, SOC), the Committee said the Council of Europe [Convention](#) on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence has had a “tangible and positive impact” since its entry into force five years ago. They also urged Council of Europe member States to combat “misconceptions and disinformation” about the Convention, which has sometimes been “misrepresented by its opponents as an attack on family values or as promoting a so-called hidden agenda”. The Committee adopted the [report](#) by Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD) about gender equality. Parliamentarians expressed concern about a backlash against women's rights in several member States, and concluded that “this calls for heightened vigilance in defending gender equality, and strong political commitment and leadership to secure further advances”. On behalf of Autonomous Women's Center ([AWC](#)), Tanja Ignjatović presented the situation in Serbia at the session *Violence against women: progress and challenges in Serbia*. The [presentation](#) referred to the four key areas defined by the Convention: integrated policies, prevention, protection, and prosecution. She pointed out that the AWC developed a [report](#) on the implementation of the Convention, submitted to the GREVIO expert group.

La Strada women's organization in Moldova does its best to ensure the voices of victims of sexual assault can be heard and that their rights are enforced

In order to ensure access of victims of sexual assault to adequate legal and social protection, La Strada Moldova works continuously to improve the domestic legal system in the area of sexual offenses, including the Istanbul Convention. On February 7, 2019 [an international workshop](#), organized by “La Strada” and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova had place at Chisinau. More than 40 participants attended the event. The discussions focused on a [complex report](#), developed by renowned national experts and coordinated by La Strada. At the same time, we strive for shaping a good social climate and to motivate citizens solidarize with victims of sexual assaults and urge that the Istanbul Convention be ratified by the Republic of Moldova as soon as possible. Thus, a couple days before Denim Day La Strada's employees decided to become for one day [the voices of women who have experienced sexual abuse](#).

Concluding observations on the Fourth periodic report of Serbia on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women



The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) prepared its [Concluding observations](#) on the [Fourth periodic report](#) submitted by Serbia, in which it points out numerous problems and areas of concern in the implementation of the Convention. The coalition of organizations – Autonomous Women’s Center, ASTRA, Women in Black – which prepared an [alternative report](#) and was present at the [72nd session](#) of the Committee, expresses its satisfaction with the content of the Concluding observations. Recommendations made to Serbia highlight the need for the State to take measures to combat the anti-gender discourse and its adverse impact on the State party’s achievements in the area of women’s rights; to monitor the use of misogynistic language referring to women in public statements and media reporting, and ensure that women’s rights activists are able to exercise their rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association without intimidation or reprisals; and that cases of alleged intimidation or reprisals against civil society activists are duly investigated, that civil servants that obstruct the prosecution of attackers are held accountable. The Concluding observations describe principal areas of concern, and list concrete recommendations for the improvement of the situation of women in areas covered by the Convention. The coalition of organizations – Autonomous Women’s Center, ASTRA, Women in Black – started the campaign [#NeVremeZaZene \(ItTimeForWomen\)](#) aimed at informing wider public about the recommendations of the CEDAW Committee.

Intimate partner violence against women is an essential factor in the determination of child custody, say women’s rights experts

(31 May 2019) The Platform of undersigned United Nations and regional independent mechanisms on violence against women and women’s rights voiced its concern over patterns across various jurisdictions of the world that ignore intimate partner violence against women in determining child custody cases. These patterns reveal underlying discriminatory gender bias and harmful gender stereotypes against women. Ignoring intimate partner violence against women in the determination of child custody can result in serious risks to the children and thus must be considered to ensure and grant their effective protection. The Platform members addressed this issue during the conference on “Women’s rights at the Crossroads: strengthening international cooperation to close the gap between legal frameworks and their implementation” hosted by the Council of Europe on May 24th 2019 in Strasbourg (France). In its follow up evaluation of the results, the Platform calls on States to pay particular attention to these patterns and to take the necessary measures to ensure implementation of international standards that require that intimate partner violence against women is thoroughly weighed in the determination of child custody. The full statement delivered by the Platform’s experts can be read [here](#). Further information about the event and the Platform members is available [here](#).

#GetHelp - Campaign against forced marriage and abduction launched in Germany

On 29th of April Papatya launched its newest prevention video #GetHelp. The film aims to encourage everyone, who is threatened by forced marriage and abduction, to get help early enough. Papatya is a Berlin based girls' rights organization founded in 1986. It runs a shelter to protect girls and young women, who suffer from family control and violence, forced marriage or abduction into their families' countries of origin. Since 2004 Papatya runs the free online advice service SIBEL that is available around the clock. Every year around 20 young people who are held abroad against their will approach Papatya for help. The estimated number of unknown cases is presumably very high. If at all, a safe return is very hard to organize. Therefore, prevention is crucial. The campaign aims to warn those who are still in Germany to get help early enough. A link to the video is available [here](#). A link to counselling website is available [here](#).

New law that redefines rape adopted in Greece was met with national and international criticism



The Greek government was asked to [revise legislation that redefines rape](#) after unprecedented criticism from activists, human rights groups and senior judicial officials. The law, part of a new penal code submitted to parliament by Alexis Tsipras' administration only [weeks before snap elections](#), had raised fears of convicted rapists being treated more leniently. Less than 24 hours after women's groups had converged on parliament in protest, the Justice Minister amended the bill, known as Article 336, clarifying that sex without consent would be considered rape and, as such, punishable under the law.

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

