

## WAVE Newsletter November-December 2019

### WAVE News

#### Hello and Goodbyes

2020 will see a lot of changes in the WAVE Office, our Grant Development and Advisory Board Coordinator, **Kelly Blank**, has left for her maternity leave and **Maria Knaub** will be filling in. We also welcome **Martina Fontana** from Italy, our previous intern which you probably met at our last conference in Estonia, who will be our new Office Administrator and Project assistant. And sadly, our Data Manager and Analyst, **Andrada Filip**, and our Intern, **Claire Davis**, will be leaving us this month.

#### WAVE 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



To celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, WAVE will be publishing articles, interviews and pictures throughout the year of its history, achievements, and members. All of which can be found on the [WAVE Blog](#). You can watch the [interview](#) with two of the WAVE Network's founders, Lepa Mladjenovic and Urszula Nowakowska, and discover more about the beginnings of WAVE – the challenges, its goals

and the future prospects.

#### November 4 – DIS.CO final dissemination meeting in Vienna

DIS.CO Conference on counselling at a distance for women experiencing gender-based violence was held in Vienna on November 4, 2019. The event gathered exclusive speakers such as Petra Bayr, Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Gender Equality in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe & [SPÖ Frauen](#), Nicholas Spetsidis, project lead and hailing from Σύνοδος Μελών Γυναικείων Σωματείων Union of Women Association and many other professionals in their field. The conference featured a presentation of the DIS.CO project, an expert's panel discussion with European discussants including Iris Luarasi, Vice-President of GREVIO on the challenges and opportunities of counselling at a distance and lively workshops. Learn more about DIS.CO [here](#).

#### November 4-5 – Madrid Study visit, Spain

From November 4 to 5, the WAVE Working Group on Sexualized Violence held a study visit in Madrid, Spain. Ten members from across Europe gathered to learn from Spain's practices in preventing gender-based violence and protecting victims. Participants were also able to visit the GBV Coordination Unit, WAVE Member office, Aspacia, the Cimascam Sexual Assault Center, the specialized GBV police unit as well as the magistrate specialized court and protest along with others during the Monday 4th demonstration.

#### November 18-19 - MARVOW Kick off, Vienna



On November 18-19, the kick-off meeting of the project MARVOW – Multi-Agency Responses to Violence against Older Women took place in Vienna. The project partners are the Austrian Women’s Shelters Network (AÖF), the WAVE Network, the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence (WWP EN), the Union of Women Associations of Heraklion Prefecture (UWAH), the University of Tartu (UT) and the Women’s Support and Information Centre (WSIC). The MARVOW project will develop and implement a comprehensive multiagency cooperation model for working with elderly

victims of abuse. It will do so by bringing together a wide range of stakeholders from relevant sectors of activity (eldercare, healthcare, protection and social services, judiciary and police among others) to identify the gaps that exist within current systems that hinder their ability to adequately serve older victims. The model will be extensively evaluated and improved before being disseminated to a wide audience of policy makers and service providers in partner countries (Austria, Estonia, Greece, Germany) and throughout Europe for replication.

### November 25 - Step Up! Campaign, Estonia



For the International Day to End Violence Against Women, Pille Tsopp-Pagan held an event in Estonia called “Living Library” where 7 women were sharing chapters from their books. The current Estonian president, Kersti Kaljulaid, who is also the first woman president of Estonia, came to visit the event as well! In Belgium, people were also proudly wearing their StepUp! Woohoo! We couldn't be happier seeing the Estonian president Kersti Kaljulaid wear the StepUp! Campaign T-shirt!

### December 9 - CSSP News: Mapping on sexual violence services in the Western Balkans and Turkey Executive summary

The ‘Mapping on sexual violence services in the Western Balkans and Turkey’ Executive summary aims at providing an overview of the services specifically supporting victims of sexual violence in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey. Download the summary and read more about it [here](#).

### December 10 - DIS.CO: Safety Planning Application & practical guide for long-distance counsellors

The final two outputs of the DIS.CO project have been published! The sixth output is the Safety Planning Application, which is meant to guide and facilitate counsellors working through counselling at a distance. With this application, counsellors will be able to propose and design a safety plan for the clients and monitor their progress. Additionally, the seventh and last output, the Assessment of the project & Practical Guide “CaaD Training for Counselling Practitioners” has also been published! This document analyses and assesses project results through feedback from the trainings. Download both outputs [here](#).

### November 23 - Symbolic Tree Planting Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family (SPAVO), Cyprus

For the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence, the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family (SPAVO) organized a symbolic tree planting in November 23<sup>rd</sup>, to commemorate the women who were murdered by their ex or current partners in Cyprus, since 2000. The purpose of the symbolic Tree Planting was to inform and raise public awareness on domestic violence issues and the goal was to plant 37 trees in memory of the 37 women who have been murdered in Cyprus for the past 19 years. The tree planting was carried out by governmental officials, media and communications officers, artists, Presidents of International and Pancyprian organizations as well as celebrities who have contributed either through their positions or through their voluntary work for promotion, repression and prevention of the social phenomenon of violence against women.



### November 25 – 16 Days of Activism Campaign with Necuvinte, Romania



Necuvinte Association together with a young journalist Ioana Sabo launched the **Campaign COMMA – comma between Women and Rights** for the 16 Days of Activism Campaign. A series of videos were posted on its YouTube channel **Proiectul Comma** with lively interviews of women from all walks of life from experts, relevant

people from the independent media, NGOs, relevant institutions, PR and academia, all talked about women from different perspectives, rights, sexism, feminism. The purpose of this project was to start a conversation about what it's like to be a woman in 2019 in Romania. Their goal was to raise awareness regarding the issues related to human rights through talking about people rather than statistics. Every single interview can be found both in English and Romanian and the content can be found on their [Facebook Page](#) and [website](#).

### November 25 – December 10 - #WeSay: Feminist Social Media campaign Vs Anti Gender Narratives, Italy

The women's movement is starting to join forces to counter-act the development of right-wing backlash. For this reason, EuroMed Rights and The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation decided to collect information about this phenomenon and launched a social media campaign from November 25 till December 10. This campaign is part of this "push-back to the push-back", #WeSay, 10 messages were launched in Italy by D.i.Re simoultany in English, Arabic French in MENA region and other European country member of EuroMed rights, with powerful picture. Because #WeSay: When feminists unite, things change! More Info [SURVEY ANTI GENDER NARRATIVE](#). Check out [D.i.Re fb](#)

### November 25 – December 19 - ANAIS Association, Romania

ANAIS association has submitted to the National Institute of Magistracy in Romania a proposal through which voluntarily, through its experts, wishes to conduct training courses with judges and prosecutors who are called to solve domestic violence cases. It has also started a project to inform schools and to train teachers so that they can identify children who are victims of domestic violence in order to be protected. ANAIS Association along with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Romanian Police and the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men participates from November 25 to December 19 to the Campaign conducted within the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence: *Don't be indifferent, your attitude can save lives! Say no to domestic violence.*



### November 26-27 – Helsinki Conference

The conference *Stop the backlash – Stop domestic violence* was held in Helsinki. WAVE’s president Pille Tsopp-Pagan, together with the general secretary of The Federation of Mother and child homes and Shelters Riitta Särkelä presented the Helsinki Declaration to the representatives of current and upcoming EU-Presidencies: Finland (Minister of foreign affairs Pekka Haavisto) and Croatia (State Secretary, Croatian Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy, Marija Pletikosa). This is a huge initiative and we are extremely proud of our sisters in Helsinki who passed on the declaration!

### November 28 - "S-hero meets Illustrated violence festival", Bologna

On Thursday 28 November, in Bologna, the S-hero’s vernissage took place, together with the awarding of the winners of the call for cartoonists and graphic designers over who all aimed at creating a heroine - Shero - which embodies the values and actions of the Istanbul Convention, as part of the Wave StepUp Campaign. The winners were Beatrice Candrea, Federica Manfredi, Francesca Rosa. The event was organized by D.i.Re, Wave StepUp Italy. The Festival is promoted by Casa delle donne per non subire violenza Onlus that celebrates November 25th joining the UN Campaign "16 days of activism against gender violence", Anna Pramstrahler (Casa delle donne per non subire violenza, DiRe), Alice Degl’innocenti and Silvia Menecali (StepUp Italy Campaign coordinators, D.i.Re) spoke about the StepUp campaign. Nicoletta Mandolini (KU Leuven) spoke about the role of the graphic novel in the representation of male violence against women.



### December 4 - The Write to End Violence Against Women Awards, Scotland

Zero Tolerance hosted the seventh annual awards ceremony at the Scottish Parliament, sponsored by Jackie Baillie, MSP. You can read all about the winners and the speeches [here](#).



### [A practical tool for healthcare professionals to protect rights of women survivors of violence, Russia](#)

The practical manual “Quality of Clinical Assessment as a Factor of Success in Forensic Analysis” was published in St. Petersburg, Russia. This brochure provides medical workers with practical recommendations on proper assessment and description of injuries in people suffered from violent actions, including women who experienced physical and/or sexual violence. Properly drafted medical documents are essential for forensic experts to assess severity of injuries, which is the basis for guaranteed prosecution of the offender. Due to appropriate documentation of injuries more cases of VAW will get to court proceedings, which will address the impunity of offenders, and eventually ensure safety for women. The brochure is addressed to medical workers who provide first aid to people suffered from violence (trauma specialists, surgeons, gynecologists). This is the first publication of such type in Russia. It is published in partnership between NGO “Doctors to Children” and State medical institution “Bureau of Forensic Expertise”.

### Women’s Aid Federation Northern Ireland – [Call for Action](#)

Women’s Aid is the lead agency tackling domestic violence and abuse in Northern Ireland. The work of the organization is to support all women, children and young people experiencing and living with domestic violence. Northern Ireland does not have the same legal provisions as the rest of the UK in relation to Coercive control legislation, stalking legislation and as yet have no Domestic Homicide Reviews. Northern Ireland now has had no functioning local government since the collapse of the power sharing assembly in January 2017. This has put a halt to the introduction of much needed legislation and puts victims of domestic violence at further risk of harm.

Northern Ireland also has no gender-based focus on domestic violence and all the definitions from their strategy and working policy documents re gender neutral diluting the gender-based element to all forms domestic violence and abuse. **Women's Aid Federation NI calls on local government if restored to get back to work and introduce the much needed legislation to put us on a power and have parity with the rest of the UK and Ireland, to focus on gender based violence and introduce a strategy on Violence Against Women and Girls.** They need a strategy to strengthen the legislative framework and include new offences to tackle stalking, coercive control and controlling behaviour which can ruin women's lives. They want new protection orders for domestic violence, sexual violence and FGM to allow authorities to act. They also want to work with our partners in police to improve their understanding and response to these crimes. They want to make violence against women and girls everyone's business and this needs to be addressed first of all by a strong legislative framework.

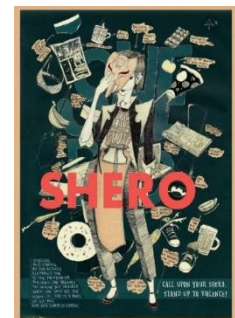
## ***WAVE Messaging and Joint Approach for addressing the backlash***

In the framework of our WAVE 4 Year Strategic Plan (2019-2022), one of our many aims for the end of this year 2019 was to gather some best practice examples of positive messaging regarding awareness about violence against women and girls (VAWG) and awareness about the Istanbul Convention amongst the wider population. Due to the current significant backlash against the Istanbul Convention as well as women's rights in general in many European countries and particularly in the Eastern European region, many feminists' organizations and human rights activists are working against this dynamic through the creation and dissemination of positive messages of how the IC and other key legal frameworks protect women from violence and empower them. **The aim is for WAVE was to take a leading role in creating these positive messages** (whilst avoiding repeating the negative contents of the political right).

## ***Upcoming Events***

### **December-January Step Up! Campaign SHERO Exhibition, Belgium**

Exciting WAVE Step Up! Campaign exhibition is taking place from now until the end of January. The artworks are the result of an international call published through the Step Up! Campaign in autumn 2018. WAVE published a 28-page interactive booklet with original cartoons authored by female artists, who imagined and presented their vision of an inspirational role model, the character of a Shero – a female hero, a role model who is an agent of positive change in society. The stories, presented through the art form of a cartoon, relate to the issue of domestic – psychological or sexual violence as it is defined in the Istanbul Convention. The entrance to the exhibition is free. Finissage is on 28th January 2020.



## ***International News***

### **November 5-8 – 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Women's Shelters in Taiwan**

The 4WCWS program reflects the key issues facing both the shelter community and the broader movement to end violence against women today, and is designed to produce maximum participation, learning and networking opportunities for delegates. Many of our WAVE members joined the conference including WAVE President, Pille Tsopp-Pagan.

### **November 10-15 – Antibullying Week, UK**

From Monday 11 to Friday 15 November, Anti-Bullying Week 2019 happened with the theme 'Change Starts With Us', coordinated by the Anti-Bullying Alliance which is based at the National Children's Bureau (UK). The aims are to support schools and other settings to help children and young people, school staff, parents and other professionals who work with children to understand: that bullying is still a serious issue and we are all responsible. The Anti-Bullying Week provided a report, School Kits, Odd Socks Day, and different resources shared by members. Content was also shared on our [Cybersafe Project Facebook Page](#) and its Instagram account.

### **November – GREVIO Baseline Evaluation Report for France**

The Council of Europe Expert Group on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) published its first baseline evaluation report on France. The report contains a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the provisions of the Istanbul Convention. It highlights positive initiatives to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and domestic violence at the national level and provides suggestions and proposals to improve the situation of women facing such violence.



### **November 20 – First Vagina Museum, UK**

London, the world's first vagina museum dedicated to gynaecological

anatomy, opened in north-west London. The first exhibition, Muff Busters: Vagina Myths and How To Fight Them, will run until the end of February and looks at the misconceptions that surround gynaecological anatomy.

### **As of September 2019, all third level institutions in Ireland must demonstrate their compliance with the *Framework for Consent* to qualify for public funding**

The Framework emerged from RCNI's longstanding advocacy of a safe-to-learn, holistic model of schools and educational settings' response to sexual harassment and violence. The Minister for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O'Connor, engaged on this question and was struck by the RCNI argument to move beyond the provision of consent classes to 3<sup>rd</sup> level students, to a whole-of-system engagement on prevention. The Framework, developed by the Minister's expert group drew on frameworks in other jurisdictions, outlines roles, duties and responsibilities to prevent and respond to all forms of sexual violence across the whole institution. What is entirely new is that compliance with this Framework has been tied, by the government, to the formal administration of public funding to all 3<sup>rd</sup> level institutions.

