



WAVE Newsletter September-October 2018

WAVE News



WAVE Annual Conference 2018 held in Valletta, Malta

The WAVE Network recently concluded its annual conference in Valletta, which is also this year's European Capital of Culture. Over 250 participants have gathered to discuss pressing topics such as the importance of women's specialist support services, a worrisome approach towards gender neutrality undertaken in European countries, or current challenges in addressing different forms of sexual violence against women. On the first day, the audience was addressed by the president of Malta, Ms. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, who spoke about the need to address the root causes of gender inequality and urged everyone to support the work carried out by women's organisations.

Newly Designed WAVE Website!

The WAVE website has been given a modern twist with new colours and a new design. Check it out [here](#).

Gender Neutrality Working Group: Feminist Verbal Self-defence Guide

Within the framework of the WAVE Gender Neutrality Working Group, the Feminist Verbal Self-defence Guide translated into English from its original language, French. The guide was written by Irene Zeilinger of the Belgian organisation Garance ASBL in reaction to the increasing levels of anti-feminism in Europe and around the world. The guide was printed and handed out at the 20th WAVE Conference in Valletta, Malta held from 22-24 October. If you didn't get a chance to acquire a copy you can download the English and/or French versions [here](#).

Civil Society Strengthening Platform: Project Extended!

WAVE is excited to announce that the CSSP has been extended for another year. The kick-off meeting for



the new project year will be held in Belgrade, Serbia on December 17-18th, 2018. This will give women's organisations in the Western Balkans and Turkey further chances to connect and network. Recently a [briefing paper](#) on the benefits and challenges of implementing the Istanbul Convention and a [research report](#) on increasing the accessibility of civil society networks, especially for women from minority and disadvantaged groups, has been released by WAVE. In order to learn directly from the impacted organisations about what the CSSP has achieved during its first year of existence, watch the video [Stronger Together: Civil Society Strengthening Platform](#).

To stay up to date on the latest regional news regarding the Istanbul Convention and women's rights in general, follow the [CSSP website](#) and the official hashtags on social media [#CSSPstrongtogether](#) [#CSSPagainstVAWG](#)



International News

Briefing Published: Primary Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls

Zero Tolerance have launched a briefing on how to end violence against women and girls in the Scottish context. It outlines the extent of VAWG in Scotland, explains the root cause of VAWG as gender inequality, and sets out what everyone can do to play their part in ending violence against women.

<https://www.zerotolerance.org.uk/resources/Primary-Prevention-Briefing-to-Print-Oct-18.pdf>

Italy – Political attacks on women’s rights

In the past few months Italian women have been confronted with increasing attacks on their right to self-determination and autonomy. The proposed “Pillon Senate Bill” outlines significant changes to the existing separation/divorce law in instances where children are involved. The Bill imposes standard



parental roles for child custody (50% custody for each parent) and compulsory mediation irrespective of specific needs or the existence of domestic violence. Furthermore, it introduces the notion of “parental alienation” and amends child maintenance upon separation, seriously endangering the mother’s financial autonomy. Because of these provisions,

the proposed Bill would have serious negative consequences for women who may want to report domestic abuse, by leaving them vulnerable and discouraged to report this altogether. Other alarming examples of attacks at the national level concern the motion signed by the City Council of Verona to fund anti-abortion counselling. Similar initiatives have been undertaken in Rome and Milan, undermining the abortion law n.194 from 1978 and its importance in the context of women’s civil rights concerning sexuality and self -determination. Italian women will strongly fight against these renewed attacks on their human rights.

Analysis of Femicides – Female Homicides in the Republic of Macedonia

On 26th of October, 2018, the National Network to End Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence published the “*Analysis of Femicides – Female Homicides in the Republic of Macedonia*”. This study is based on the need to understand the seriousness of femicides, as well as the urgency to prevent and protect victims of this type of violence. The analysis was conducted throughout September-November 2017 and covers female homicides which had taken place between 2008- 2016. In addition to the presentation of findings from the review of court cases, recommendations for the protection of women victims, including recommendations for prevention of this extreme form of violence are also included. The attendees at the launch were addressed by the Minister of Interior, Mr. Oliver Spasovski, the Minister of Labor and Social Policy, Ms. Mila Carovska, and the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Louisa Vinton. The ministers stated their commitment to amend the Criminal Code and criminalize femicide as specific criminal offence. The main purpose of the analysis was to determine the precise number of femicides in the Republic of Macedonia for the period 2008 -2016, as well as to present institutional responses when a case of domestic violence was reported, and the measures undertaken to ensure protection of the victim. The analysis is available here: <http://www.glasprotivnasilstvo.org.mk/en/26-10-2018-promotion-of-the-analysis-of-femicides-female-homicides-in-the-republic-of-macedonia/>



Nine in ten young women in Serbia have experienced sexual harassment



Unwanted physical contact, touching and getting into a woman's face or men masturbating in public spaces, as the most explicit types of sexual harassment, have been experienced by every third girl in Serbia. These are the findings of the research of the Autonomous Women's Center (AWC) – "Young people and the experience of sexual harassment", that provides insight into how widespread sexual harassment against young women and men is. Although almost 80% of young women and men have experienced some type of sexual harassment, the research confirms that girls are significantly

more exposed to various types of sexual harassment than boys. Inappropriate nick-names such as "doll", "honey" etc. are experienced by as many as 8 in 10 girls, and only 1 in 10 boys. Unwanted text messages and phone calls with sexual content have been received by 6 in 10 girls and 3 in 10 boys. These and similar other types of behavior have only been qualified as a criminal offense in Serbia last year. Currently these are punishable by law by a fine or prison confinement for up to 6 months. The initiative of the AWC under the slogan "I demand to be PROTECTED from sexual harassment" aims to encourage public discussion about society's tolerance regarding various types of sexual harassment. More information about this can be found [here](#).

The Spanish Government makes progress on its budget for 2019 and takes a step forward towards implementing a gender perspective



Achieving gender equality, as an objective of public action and policy, is a commitment that gets strong support from the international community and the majority of governments world-wide. It is nowadays recognised that the public budget is an ideal instrument for achieving gender equality through public policies. This is not only because of the transversal nature of the budget, but also because of its potential for negotiation and its capacity to reassign resources more effectively and efficiently.

Regarding the Spanish Budget for 2019 presented this month, many of the social measures that have been incorporated have identified women – directly or indirectly– as the main beneficiaries. This is because they are among Spain's poorest citizens and have been severely affected by the austerity measures and job insecurity caused by the financial crisis. The national platform "Plataforma Impacto de Género Real Ya" (Real Gender Impact now) of which Otro Tiempo Association is member, presented feminist amendments to the 2018 budget and is now highlighting concrete measures that have been incorporated to the 2019 budget such as increased funding for the Pact against Gender Violence, the rise of the Minimum Interprofessional Salary or the increase of pensions. Other measures such as the calculation of income in the unemployment subsidy for over 52, the ratification of ILO



Convention 189, improvements in dependence or progress in care work also have a positive impact. All of these measures fundamentally improve the situation of working-class women.

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