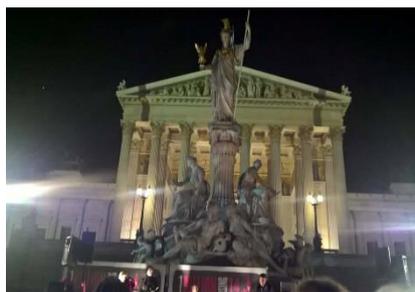


WAVE News

WAVE office hosts study visit from Finland

On February 3rd 2017 the WAVE office welcomed a study visit from Finland. A total of 18 representatives from ZONTA Finland came to meet the staff working at the WAVE office to learn more about the projects and events organised by WAVE. The visitors were also keen to receive information on Austrian legislation tackling violence against women and children, the availability of women's specialist support services in Austria and Europe and last but not least the emergency barring order which is applied by police officers in Austria in cases of domestic abuse. The WAVE office was delighted to exchange information in the area of VAW with representatives from ZONTA, find out more about their organisation and Finnish legislation addressing VAW. The WAVE office welcomes study visits from women's organisations, government representatives and other relevant entities throughout the whole year.

50 Billion Rising Demonstration in Vienna



On February 14, women around the world danced against violence. While exploitation, modern slavery, trafficking in women and female genital mutilation dominate the developing world, the Western world is primarily affected by the domestic violence that many women suffer from. One in three women in Europe has experienced physical and / or sexual violence since the age of 15. One Billion Rising (one billion rises) is a quite unusual response to the many forms of violence against women. The world's largest mass protests are held on Valentine's Day. A diverse crowd of people gathered to dance to the song "Break the chain", which follows a strict choreography, however the programme of demonstrations varies locally. WAVE manager Maria Roesslhuber gave a speech during the opening session of the 50 Billion Rising Demonstration in Vienna, which took place in front of the Austrian Parliament.

WAVE representatives attend a conference in Malta on gender-based violence



On the 3rd of February 2017, the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union organized a seminar entitled 'European Union Responses to Gender Based Violence: An intersectional perspective'. The seminar brought together representatives of the European Commission, European Parliament, Government officials but also NGOs from different Member States. Approximately 200 people attended the event. The seminar aimed at sharing and exchanging information on current practices to prevent and protect victims of gender-based violence, practices adopted by Member States but also current policy measures on service provision. WAVE President, Rosa Logar, attended the seminar together with Anca Ciupa from the WAVE office. Rosa Logar held a presentation about the WAVE Network, StepUp! Campaign and the implementation of specialist support for victims of gender-based violence in healthcare systems across Europe. As part of the cooperation with the Coalition to end violence against women, convened by European Women's Lobby

and the WAVE StepUp! Campaign, WAVE together with some of its members and members of the Coalition, organized an action in support of the ratification of the Istanbul Convention (IC) by the EU during the first break of the seminar. As a result of the seminar, EU institutions have issued a joint statement calling on Member States that have met in Valletta to sign and ratify the IC, to fully and effectively implement it and to conclude and finalise the decision on the EU accession to the IC within a meaningful scope.

Joint statement link:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20170206IPR61393/malta-joint-statement-european-institutions%E2%80%99-call-for-action>

Agenda of the seminar:

<http://www.unibs.it/sites/default/files/ricerca/allegati/European%20Responses%20Agenda%202-3%20Feb.pdf>

WAVE Step Up! Campaign

Step Up! Activities planned for 2017

The WAVE Step Up Campaign has recently entered its second year. In December 2016 the WAVE office in Vienna organised a session of its annual Training Institute to plan and discuss Step Up! activities for 2017 with 22 campaigners from 16 European countries. The following campaign activities are planned for 2017:

Activity 1- Pledge for undocumented migrant women

Activity 2- VAW Economist Group: "Uncovering the invisible ways through which governments finance violence against women"

Activity 3- Europe-wide peace day demonstration (21 September)

Activity 4- Engaging youth to create memes with positive messages

Check out the WAVE Step Up! Campaign website for further information on these activities and regular updates.

Youth Video Award



The European Youth Video Award was created in order to bring more youth involvement to the campaign. Young people (18-25 years old), youth organizations, (film-) schools and media departments of universities were encouraged to participate actively, with the main goal of raising awareness of violence against women and encouraging survivors to seek support. Six countries took part in the Video Awards: Austria, Italy, Finland, Macedonia, Portugal and Serbia. The jury consisted of filmmakers, politicians and WAVE members. After much deliberation, the jury agreed on "Portami via" by Italian filmmaker Luciana Trulio being the winner. The Youth Video Award also had an Audience Award, where each YouTube view over a one-month period of January to February, was considered a vote. The Audience Award Winner is "Atitude em movimento" by Portugal's Joana do Mar Ferreira

Machado, with almost 6,000 views. On Monday, February 27th, WAVE held the first ever Youth Video Award ceremony in the EU Parliament in Brussels where EU Parliament Vice-President Ulrike Lunacek, MEP Monika Vanna and MEP Terry Reintke spoke about the importance of engaging youth in raising awareness of violence against women. The awards were bestowed to the winners by jury members Kirsi Liimatainen and Kajal Patel, which was then followed by a quick exercise on self-defence methods conducted by Irene Zeilinger of Garance ASBL, a WAVE member.

Sign the Pledge to Support Undocumented Migrant Women!



As part of the [Step Up! Campaign](#), the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants ([PICUM](#)) and WAVE joined forces to improve access to services for undocumented women and women with precarious immigration status. Our goal is to make support services for gender-based violence accessible for all women, whatever their migration status. Despite international

human rights conventions and women's rights standards that guarantee access to protection and services for all, survivors of violence who are undocumented face major obstacles. They face challenges to report violence and abuse without being afraid, and to access shelters safely. We urgently need you – and your friends, family, and co-workers – to sign our [Pledge](#) of support, and declare that women's rights are human rights, and apply to ALL WOMEN. Help us reach our goal of 1012 signatures by 10 December 2017! Sign the Pledge! And afterwards, actively: resist racism and the growing tendency to stigmatise and dehumanise migrants, recognising the gender dimension and impact of prevailing rhetoric and policies on migration; join the struggles of migrant women and embrace an intersectional agenda, and empower undocumented women by supporting their cause and their rights, as well as their efforts to organise and mobilise; and engage in human rights education to raise awareness of the situation of migrant women, and women facing intersecting forms of discrimination, and to promote ways of better supporting their rights and their needs in practice.

<http://www.wave-stepup.org/belgium/picum-pledge-form-english>

International News

GEORGIA: Act! – campaign addressing violence against women and domestic violence

The Ministry of Justice in Georgia initiated the social campaign “Act!” against violence towards women and domestic violence. The aim of the campaign is to inform society about changes in the law and activate society against violence. Recent legislative changes increase the list of aggravating circumstances for violent crimes. The amendments to the law on “Elimination of domestic violence, protection and assistance of victims of domestic violence” now cover violence not only within families, but also in any other places. Furthermore, detention and protective orders are to be used in all cases of violence against women. The Criminal Code introduced a new concept – stalking, which becomes punishable. A new article was added to the Code, which criminalizes so-called female circumcision. After implementing these amendments into the existing legal framework, women's rights in Georgia will be protected in accordance with European standards, and Georgian legislation will be in line with the Istanbul Convention, which obliges signatory states to establish effective mechanisms to protect women from all forms of violence, including domestic violence.

EU-project Safe at Home: raising awareness and directly and early support for victims of domestic violence



On the 1st of January 2017 the Safe at Home project on domestic violence was launched. It is led by the Dutch organisation Kadera, in partnership with FEANTSA (EU), Peabody (UK) and Standing Together Against Domestic Violence (UK). The partnership aims to strengthen the role that housing providers play in preventing, identifying and tackling domestic violence. The project aims to disseminate information for use throughout Europe. Updates on Safe at Home will be posted to FEANTSA's website. Safe at Home is funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme of the European Union.

Building Healthy Intimate Relationships- a project seeking to sensitize European adolescents

In the context of the [GEAR against IPV-II project](#), which was implemented from 2014 to 2016 with co-funding of the DAPHNE III Programme of the European Union, 81 workshops on "Building Healthy Intimate Relationships" were implemented and evaluated. A total of 1603 adolescents from Greece, Spain, Croatia, Cyprus, and Romania were sensitized through these activities. The workshops were implemented by 73 properly trained teachers/professionals. Following their sensitization, adolescents created messages and products that were included in Awareness Raising [Campaigns](#) on Gender Based Violence, which targeted the general adolescent population of each participating country. In addition, representatives from all adolescents' groups, along with their teacher-implementer, participated in [National Conferences](#) in order to present their work and the benefits they have gained, and also learn about other groups' work and experiences. An overview of the characteristics and evaluation results in all countries and recommendations issued on the basis of experiences gained from adolescents' awareness raising workshops is available in the publication: [Building Healthy Intimate Relationships. The Role of School: Evidence-Based Policy Recommendations for Adolescents' Empowerment](#). Teachers' seminars are available in the publication: [Building Healthy Intimate Relationships. The Role of School: Evidence-based Policy Recommendations for Teachers' Trainings](#).

A new wave of feminism has emerged in Italy: The movement "Non una di meno" and the call for women's strike



On the 26th of November 2016, a huge demonstration against male violence took place on the streets of Rome. Attended by over two hundred thousand people, the demonstration brought together feminists, women's NGOs, supporters of the LGBTQ movement and citizens who share the common objective of stopping violence against women. Under the slogan 'Non una di meno', which emerged out of solidarity with the Argentinian slogan, Ni una mas, this new feminist wave has a common voice – to stop violence against women and end discrimination against women in all its forms. In Italy, violence against women is endemic – femicide occurs every two days, one in three women experiences male violence, doctors refuse to provide abortions, women's shelters operate without sufficient funding, stereotyped patterns of masculinity and femininity pervade family, social and cultural norms, and the rights of women in the labour market are abused and ignored. "Non una di meno" has planned a new event in all Italian cities: 8 March 2017 is the date of the global women's strike. Along with women from

Argentina, Poland and forty other countries, women in Italy will mobilize as part of a global strike of women to prevent violence against women, and uphold women's working and reproductive rights.

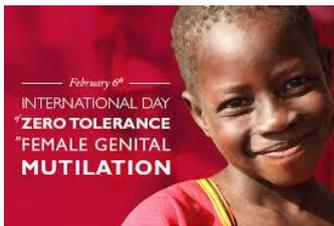
www.direcontrolaviolenza.it

www.nonunadimeno.wordpress.org

Decriminalization of domestic abuse in Russia

Women's rights activists have expressed concern over a legal amendment recently adopted by the Russian Parliament which decriminalises domestic abuse. The amendment makes "moderate" violence within families an administrative rather than criminal offence, punishable by a fine rather than a jail sentence (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jan/19/russian-soften-domestic-violence-law-decriminalise-womens-rights>). As of now, beatings of spouses or children that result in bruising or bleeding but not broken bones are punishable by 15 days in prison or a fine, if they do not happen more than once a year. Previously, they carried a maximum jail sentence of two years (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/feb/07/putin-approves-change-to-law-decriminalising-domestic-violence>).

International day against FGM



In 2012, the UN General Assembly designated 6 February as the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation. This day is observed to enhance awareness of the issue and to encourage concrete actions against the practice. *According to the UN Secretary-General "Sustainable development demands full human rights for all women and girls. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development promises an end to this practice by 2030."* UNFPA, jointly with UNICEF, leads the largest global programme to accelerate the abandonment of FGM.

Women on Wheels Campaign Launched in Pakistan



The Chief Minister's Special Monitoring Unit (Law & Order) in Pakistan launched the Women-on-Wheels Campaign (WoW) to empower women by providing them with the necessary skills and means to increase their mobility through the provision of free motorcycle lessons followed by a rally on a pre-specified road. The purpose of the WoW Campaign is not only to demonstrate that women have an equal right to access public spaces, but also to raise awareness of the street violence and harassment which countless women face when they step out into the public sphere. The WAVE Network congratulates Pakistan on their continuous efforts to support women's rights and equality in various cities in cooperation with the City District Governments, District Coordination Offices and City Traffic Police. Click [here](#) to watch a video and learn more about the Campaign!

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-35368444>

New publication exploring indicators for data collection on VAW: The concept and measurement of violence against women and men



According to data from the World Health Organisation violence against women is widespread; one in three women worldwide will experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. This publication offers a solution to the current choice between invisibility of gender and segregation of women in the measurement of violence. It offers new thinking on the concept of gender, drawing on developments in gender theory. Five ‘gender saturated’ dimensions are identified and defined so they can be measured. These enable the mainstreaming of gender in violence instead of the unsatisfactory alternatives currently in place. The digital PDF version of this publication is available online under the

terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial 4.0 license.

<https://policypress.co.uk/the-concept-and-measurement-of-violence-against-women-and-men#sthash.ntWB894E.dpuf>