



## WAVE Newsletter, January-February 2018

### WAVE News

#### 20th WAVE Conference in Malta at the end of October 2018

The WAVE Network is delighted to announce that the 20th WAVE Conference will take place in Valletta, Malta from the 22nd until the 24th of October 2018. The official WAVE website as well as all of WAVE's social media platforms will be regularly updated in the following months for more details. We look forward to seeing you there to learn more about women's rights worldwide and the importance of countries to proactively adhere to the Istanbul Convention in hopes to eliminate gender-based violence.



#### The publication of the WAVE Annual Activity Report 2017



At the end of February, WAVE published the WAVE Annual Activity Report of 2017. WAVE participated at and carried out a large number of activities over the last year. From Advisory Board Meetings, to WAVE Webinars covering topics such as the Istanbul Convention, femicide, intersectional feminism and more, to the activities of the Step Up! Campaign, the different partner projects like WHOSEFVA and TISOVA, as well as external study visits to the WAVE Office in Vienna, Austria – the report elaborates on all the projects and activities from 2017, as well as exploring WAVE's contributions and efforts in the previous year. In 2017, the Network greatly expanded and joyfully anticipates to soon share with you all of the important and inspiring activities and projects of 2018 that aim to eliminate violence against women and their children. The WAVE Annual Activity Report 2017 can be accessed [online](#).

#### Launch of Erasmus+ Project DIS.CO – Development of “at a Distance” Counselling Skills

From 25-26 January 2018, project partners met in Heraklion, Greece for the launch of a new Erasmus+ funded project, DIS.CO “Development of ‘at a Distance’ Counselling Skills for Professionals in the Field of Counseling Women Victims of Violence or Abuse”. This two-year project gathers 8 partners (including universities and NGOs) from 6 European countries (Austria, Greece, Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Estonia and Spain) to develop, pilot and disseminate material regarding the enhancement of psycho-social counselling in the field of counselling women victims of violence through alternative digital means. The aim is to provide alternative innovative services and to build 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. Counselling has taken place face-to-face; however, different ways of engaging in therapy have emerged in recent years (such as email, Skype and other video conferencing). These new ways allow for the therapist and client to be able to connect with each other without being physically present in the same space or at the same moment. CaaD (Counseling at a Distance) provides access to counselling for persons who may otherwise not be able to receive help (such as those with special needs, people without means of transportation or low-income, those where distance prohibits regular contact, those traveling or on-the-move, those needing cross-border support, those living in rural areas, young people, and those who require daily follow-up contact).

#### WAVE Position Paper on Intersectionality



WAVE developed a position paper entitled “[Intersectionality and the Inclusive Approach to Dealing with Gender-Based Violence](#)” to state our principles on intersectionality and the importance to integrate an inclusive approach to dealing with gender-based violence. The paper is structured into one theoretical and one practical section. The legal framework regarding intersectionality is elaborated in the first section of the paper. WAVE adheres to the principles of intersectionality embedded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Istanbul Convention. It is thus vital to provide and conduct service provision in such a manner that all women are included. On a practical level, intersectionality can be achieved through the provision of multilingual support services, local prevalence of organizations and services in rural areas, conduct of programs and projects through cooperation with other organizations and services, and provision of barrier free and facilitated access, as well as a facilitated use of language. The position paper concludes with WAVE’s objective to further develop, integrate and implement strategies and guidelines to ensure inclusivity and intersectionality in its activities

### Platform for Survivors of Domestic Violence in Romania



On 7 March, The Association for Liberty and Equality of Gender – A.L.E.G. organizes the Romanian Survivors’ Forum in Bucharest. The get-together is dedicated to women who have been suffering from violence to share their experiences and be recognized for their courage and power to survive. The aim is to also provide strength to women to break the silence and showcase that violence can be overcome. The main objectives of the Forum are a.) to collect survivors’ views about what quality support means; b.) to acknowledge the strength of women who have overcome violence and encourage them to get to know each other, unite their voices and form support networks; and c.) to promote a change of attitude towards women facing violence emphasizing their strengths rather than their weaknesses. *Loredana Kaschovits, a survivor of domestic violence*, will be one of the speakers at the forum, along with other extraordinary women. Another special guest is Ana Bella from Spain, a domestic violence survivor who has helped over 20,000 women find the strength to transform their lives and find fulfilling jobs that meet their dreams. The event is organised by the [Association for Liberty and Equality of Gender](#) – A.L.E.G, with support from Ashoka Romania through the program Ashoka Localizer, and funding by the Voices Against Violence GBV Global Initiative and AVON.

### Male Victims: Why a Gender Informed Approach Matters Event about male survivors of domestic violence and abuse held in London

On 21 March, Respect: men and women working together to end domestic violence will conduct an event at the Amnesty International Human Rights Action Center in London, England, to focus on safe, effective and accountable service provision for male victims of domestic violence and abuse. Entitled “Male Victims: Why a Gender Informed Approach Matters”, the event will target the importance of a needs-led, gender-informed approach for men and how this fits with a similar approach for women. Furthermore, organizations who have developed safe models for working with male victims, as well as organizations who have expanded from working only with women to now including men will also present at the event and showcase their research and findings. The aim of the event is to explore the importance of Respect’s standards for work with male victims’ needs and how these intersect with other standards in working against domestic violence and abuse. Women’s Aid England will be one of the speakers at the event, as well as Galop, a UK-based LGBT+ anti-violence charity, who will present and



conduct a workshop titled “Supporting men through the sexual violence service”. More information on all of the speakers and workshops can be accessed [online](#). [Respect](#) is a UK membership organization for work with domestic violence perpetrators, male victims of domestic violence and young people’s violence in close relationships.

### **FAQ document published to provide responses to legal regulations for refugee women survivors of violence in Germany**

The Bundesverband Frauenberatungsstellen und Frauennotrufe Frauen gegen Gewalt e.V., a federal association of rape crisis centres and women’s counselling centres, and the Frauenhauskoordinierung e.V., an association of women’s shelters, from Berlin, Germany, have published the English version of their [FAQ document](#) that provides responses to frequently asked questions on legal regulations at the intersection of flight and protection against violence in Germany. The document was arranged by the Association of Women’s Shelters (FHK e.V.) and the Federal Association of Rape Crisis Centres and Women’s Counselling Centres (bff e.V.), in close cooperation with lawyer Barbara Wessel. A glossary is provided to clarify key terms and their consequences for female refugees. The document is divided into ten topics in which various questions on 1.) regulations relating to asylum and residency, 2.) gender-based violence and asylum, 3.) marriage and family law, 4.) medical care and social benefits, 5.) funding of counselling and protection for refugee women, 6.) refugee women living in shelters, 7.) admission of refugee women to shelters, 8.) name change as a protective measure, 9.) the new penal code for sexual offences and its impact on residential regulations, and 10.) church asylum are responded to in order to provide protection and security to refugee women survivors of violence.

### **First-ever research of philanthropic funding for work to end VAW in Europe is published**

The Ariadne European Funders for Social Change and Human Rights network recently launched the publication ["Ending Violence Against Women in Europe: An Exploration of Philanthropic Giving"](#), which was co-authored by the independent expert on violence against women WAVE Member Karin Heisecke and philanthropy advisor Karen Weisblatt. It presents the first-ever research into philanthropic funding for work to end violence against women in Europe and addresses both donors’ and recipients’ perspectives on current activities and funding priorities in this field. Its goal is to enable foundations active in promoting social change and human rights across Europe to better understand their position in the context of the larger funder community. The report identifies avenues for further reflection and engagement and discusses the potential role that foundations can play moving forward.

### **Women’s Aid England to deliver petition to Prime Minister calling on government to protect refugees**

On 23 January, Women’s Aid England was joined by British actress Dame Julie Walters, Women’s Aid survivor ambassadors and a cross-party group of Members of Parliament to deliver their [petition](#) to Prime Minister Theresa May in London, England, signed by over 170,000 supporters, calling on the government to halt dangerous planned changes to funding for domestic abuse refugees. The aim of the petition is to protect refugee women survivors of violence and their children, whose lives are at greater

risk, if the funding mechanisms will be amended. The planned changes of the government concerns housing funding. The proposed model will remove housing benefit and delegate housing costs to local authorities to “fund services that meet the needs of their local areas”. Women’s Aid urges the government to adhere to its Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill by calling off these planned changes to refuge funding and to work with Women’s Aid to find feasible funding solutions for refugee women survivors of violence and their children.

**Participatory photo project to support women survivors of violence to share their experiences**



Since October 2017, the Hungarian women's rights association NANE Egyesület conducts an [online](#) community-based participatory photo project that supports women to share and highlight issues related to their experiences of domestic violence and healing. This project provides women with a platform to let their voices be heard in the public sphere and to reach a wider audience in order to raise awareness on violence against women.

The pictures as well as their short descriptions should be self-made and empowering. NANE uploaded all of the contributions to their social media accounts, and even had an exhibition at the 2B Galéria in Budapest, Hungary to present all the pictures and short stories (also explicit content) from the 9-10 December of 2017 as their closing to the UN Women’s 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. The aim for collecting these visual images is to lobby policy makers and shed light on the impact of domestic violence. Additionally, NANE aimed to amplify the project in January by organizing workshops and experimenting with qualitative methods. The next step will be to introduce the project to an international audience for even greater and diverse contributions on experiences concerning VAW.



**THE WEBSITE LAUNCHES**

**Launch of the Civil Society Strengthening Platform**

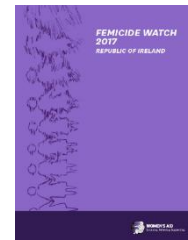
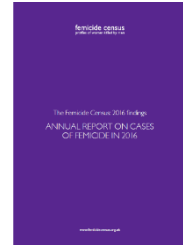
On 15 February, the website for the Civil Society Strengthening Platform ([CSSP](#)) officially debuted. The CSSP is part of the three-year European Commission/ UN Women Regional Programme ‘Implementing Norms, Changing Minds’ to strengthen women’s organization networks and regional women’s civil society organizations to end gender-based discrimination and violence against women in the Western Balkans and

Turkey, with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged groups of women. The CSSP website is a communication and information sharing platform for partner organizations from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey that work together with WAVE to share and collect information among each other and the world relating to progress and efforts of the regional programme. Each country has its own subsection on the website, which is available in their respective local language as well as in an English translation to ease the information sharing process.

**Publication of reports on Femicide in the UK and the Republic of Ireland**



Women’s Aid England and Women’s Aid Ireland each published a report addressing the issue of femicide, thus providing statistics and key figures on the gender-motivated killing of women and girls in England and the Republic of Ireland. Women’s Aid Ireland published the report [Femicide Watch 2017](#) with information on femicide from the previous year, and Women’s Aid England released its report entitled [The Femicide Census: 2016 Findings Annual Report](#), which elaborates on and assesses the situation in England, Wales and Northern Ireland from two years ago. The reports revealed that the prevalence of violence against women and girls, and femicide is just as much a European, as it is a worldwide problem. According to The Femicide Census, 113 women in the UK were killed by men between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2016. Furthermore, the Femicide Watch shows that 150 women (88%) of all women killed in Ireland from 1996-2017, were killed by a man known to them. During that same timeframe, 137 women (63%) were killed in their own homes. It is evident that governments and institutions must aim to prevent and eliminate gender-based violence and provide safety and protection to all women and girls. Moreover, it is of utmost importance to collect data on violence against women and femicide to lobby state actors to implement effective policies that counteract gender-based violence and provide sufficient funding for prevention and support services.



### Educational Workshops for boys on violence against women in Georgia

Since January of 2018, the women’s NGO Cultural-Humanitarian Fund ‘Sukhumi’ has broadened their project “Strengthening the women’s rights in Western Georgia” by providing [workshops](#) to boys in Georgia. The aim of this work is for boys to be more knowledgeable on the issue of violence against women. Many schools in Georgia have been interested in the project. In the framework of the project, Fund “Sukhumi” subsequently conducted its first meeting in Tskaltubo, with students from the 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> grade.



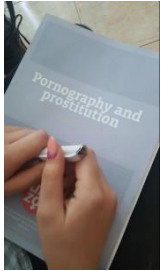
### 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Welsh Women’s Aid - Politicians, charities and survivors celebrate 40 years of working to end violence against women in Wales

2018 marks the 40th anniversary of Welsh Women’s Aid, the national charity in Wales working to end domestic abuse and all forms of violence against women. Therefore, the charity is running the [Forty Voices, Forty Years](#) project in collaboration with the George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling at the University of South Wales, which is a heritage project that aims to capture the memories, voices and lives of women in Wales that have been written out of its national heritage. It will do this by collecting oral histories, digital stories and exhibiting the archive materials from the women and specialist services. This project will not only enhance the understanding of the movement to stop violence against women in Wales, but also improve community knowledge about these types of abuse and Welsh Women’s Aid prevention work. The project will culminate in a touring exhibition. To launch the project and celebrate its 40th anniversary, Welsh Women’s Aid hosted an event, [Still We Rise](#), at the Pierhead in Cardiff, sponsored by the first coordinator of Welsh Women’s Aid, Jane Hutt AM.



## WAVE member Unizon goes to Albania and engages in discussions about violence prevention with youth and other NGOs

[Unizon](#) was invited by one of the WAVE Member organisations from Albania – Gruaja tek Gruaja (Woman to Woman) – to hold a workshop on violence prevention and masculinity for the Albanian national network of NGOs working against men’s violence against women as well as to participate in the Forum “*Masculinity, Sexuality and Violence*” at the



University of Shkodër on January 17-18, 2018. During the workshop “Violence Prevention and Masculinity” – held with representatives of Albanian NGOs providing help and support to survivors of men’s violence as well as working with perpetrators – Unizon shared their experiences on working with youth and addressing destructive masculinity norms. The Macho Factory, an educational material for teachers and other professionals working with young people, was further presented by Unizon. [The Macho Factory](#) focuses on how oppressive social norms and values of masculinity can be challenged and changed.



## International News

### Armenia adopts new law on domestic violence and signs the Istanbul Convention



As of 18 January 2018, Armenia is the [45th member](#) state to sign the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention). The Convention was signed in Strasbourg, France by Paruyr Hovhannisyian, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Armenia to the Council of Europe. There has yet to be a date announced when the Convention will enter into force. The Istanbul Convention

provides for an independent expert body – the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), which evaluates and monitors the compliance of all parties with the implementation of the Convention. Prior to signing the Istanbul Convention, Armenia adopted a new domestic violence [law](#) in December 2017. The legislation will require state service providers to take on greater responsibilities and oblige the government to subsidize existing shelters as well as open new ones, among other requirements. Nonetheless, the state must still provide more comprehensive services and effective responses to survivors of violence and their families.

### 13th meeting of GREVIO

From 19 - 23 February, the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) was conducted in Strasbourg, France. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the preliminary draft reports on Montenegro and Turkey and review the respective state reports on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention with representatives from [Sweden](#) and [Portugal](#). Consequently, a GREVIO delegation will conduct visits to Sweden and Portugal in March 2018 for adequate assessment of the respective situations. By the end of 2018, GREVIO is scheduled to publish the results of the visits within the framework of evaluation reports on Sweden and Portugal.

### Double reproach for Italy due to insufficient protection for survivors of violence



On 1 February, the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg newly condemned [Italy](#) for failing to protect a minor (15 year old girl) who fell victim to a child prostitution ring. The ECHR recognizes that child prostitution and rape are behaviors akin to torture and serious violations. These human rights violations could have been avoided, if first the Juvenile Court and secondly Social Services had acted more quickly. Italy was [first](#) condemned for insufficient protection against violence by the ECHR in September of 2017. A woman and her son were not adequately protected against the domestic violence perpetrated by her husband, which led to the murder of the boy and the attempted murder of the mother. The ECHR condemned Italy for the violation of three articles (Right to life (2), Prohibition of torture (3) and Prohibition of discrimination (14)) of the [European Convention on Human Rights](#).

### **Morocco adopts new law on violence against women**

On 14 February, the House of Representatives in [Morocco](#) approved and adopted the law no. 103-13 on combating violence against women. The law will come into force six months after its publication in the official bulletin. The law recognizes and criminalises some forms of abuse, and understands violence against women as “any act of gender discrimination that entails physical, psychological, sexual, or economic harm to a woman”. The law also establishes measures for prevention of violence against women by e.g. obligating public authorities to conduct programs to raise awareness. Nonetheless, the new proceedings for survivors to obtain protection require the filing for criminal prosecution, which “may deter survivors from seeking protection orders” (cit. UN Women [Handbook for Legislation on Violence](#): 45). Furthermore, the law does not target the duty of state actors in cases of domestic violence nor provide a definition of domestic violence, which is still leaving many women at risk.

### **Austrian NGO alliance „Allianz Gewaltfrei leben“ promotes full implementation of Istanbul Convention**

In 2017, the NGO alliance „Allianz Gewaltfrei leben“ was founded in the context of Austria being evaluated by a Council of Europe Committee on its implementation of the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention). The 30 member organisations, which are all active in the field of gender-based violence, prevention and victims’ support, have first contributed to a [NGO shadow report](#) that complemented the official state report on the Austrian implementation of the Convention. After the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) published its official evaluation report and recommendations to Austria in September 2017, „Allianz Gewaltfrei leben“ has focused on promoting rapid and full implementation of these recommendations and conducting awareness-raising activities. Since its creation the alliance has a.) contacted representatives of all political parties in parliament to inquire about their plans for implementing the GREVIO recommendations, b.) has published joint press releases on relevant current issues and is planning to stage public protests to push for the realisation of specific recommendations (e.g. to increase the budget of the Ministry of Women) and more.

### **Government in Denmark aims to criminalize psychological violence**

The non-governmental organisation LOKK is comprised of 43 women’s shelters and counselling centres in Denmark. Together with various other women’s’ organizations, LOKK has been working and providing services to women survivors of psychological violence. Particularly in frontline services e.g. shelters, the harmful repercussions of psychological violence are explicit. In November 2017, Denmark submitted comments on Group of Experts on Action against Violence GREVIO’s final report on the implementation



of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ([Baseline Report](#)). In the report, it is stated that psychological violence is criminalized in three sections (245(2), 260 and 266) of the Criminal Code, and that “the Danish Government can inform GREVIO that a dialogue with a series of relevant stakeholders on how to improve protection against psychological violence will be initiated in the near future” (Report: 13/14). The Danish minister of Justice invited relevant organizations to provide information and recommendations for the Danish government to take steps towards criminalizing psychological violence. The Danish government is now in the process of analyzing possible legal options and experiences from other countries in hopes to bring forth a law effectively criminalizing psychological violence.

### **Project launch “Co-creating a Counselling Method for refugee women Gender-Based Violence victims”**

The German charity organization SOLWODI has received a project grant for its project "Co-creating a Counselling Method for refugee women Gender-Based Violence victims" (CCM-GBV) from November 2017 until the end of October 2019. The project takes place in the main countries receiving refugees in Europe and are represented by the following project partners: SOLWODI Deutschland e.V. (SOLWODI, Germany), the Italian Refugee Council (CIR, Italy), G.I.R.A.F.F.A. onlus (Giraffa, Italy), the Greek Refugee Council (GCR, Greece), the Cyprus Refugee Council (CY.R.C., Cyprus), Suomen Setlementtiliitto (Settlement, Finland) and the Jesuit Refugee Services (Croatia). The European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI, Finland) supports the project with its expertise in monitoring and evaluating data on vulnerable people. The European Network of Migrant Women (ENOMW, Belgium) will support the beneficiaries in holding an EU expert meeting and disseminating the project results. At the end of the project, a handbook will be published to provide information on challenges from consulting practice for refugee women survivors of violence and to offer recommendations for practitioners. Additionally, a training manual on dealing with gender-based violence in the context of refugees will be published as well.

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