

WAVE News

WAVE Training Institute to develop a wider strategy for the WAVE Step Up! Campaign 2018



From 11 – 13 December 2017, the annual WAVE Training Institute was conducted in Vienna, Austria, to further develop effective activities and strategies to implement the Step Up! Campaign’s objectives to unite and strengthen the capacity of women’s support services and organisations in Europe. 27 campaigners from 22 different EU and non-EU

countries participated in various group works and plenary discussions on the past, present and future of the Step Up! Campaign which were led by the WAVE Office Step Up! Campaign Team. Furthermore, the three-day training encompassed two external speaking groups. Vincent Emanuele discussed the importance of coordinated organisation for improved engagement and participation. The Super Social Team provided an in-depth presentation on the appropriate use of social media platforms. Lastly, Patricia Joyce shared her prosperous proposal with the campaigners to run across Europe in solidarity of women survivors of violence, and to proactively support the Step Up! Campaign. After the fruitful training, the campaigners and respective organisations are now working towards the practical implementation of the strategy within the framework of the next four years.

Step Up! Campaign Video Message for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign

From 25 November – 10 December, WAVE and the Step Up! Campaign participated in the [16 Days of Activism campaign](#), conducted by UN Women since 2013, to raise awareness on the ubiquity of gender-based violence and to shed light on effective protection strategies of all women and girls against all forms of violence. Stephanie Futter-Orel, Executive Manager of the WAVE Office, kicked off the campaign by sharing a video message with other campaign partners, organizations, stakeholders and the general public on the importance of granting justice and access to specialized services to all women survivors of violence irrespective of their immigration status, nationalities, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation and more. Furthermore, WAVE conducted interviews with eight 16 to 23-year-old persons within the framework of the campaign to increase youth engagement and contribution. The participants were asked to film themselves, and respond to the following questions: “What does feminism mean to YOU?” and “How can YOU contribute to ending VAW?” The interviews were compressed into one video entitled [Step Up For Everybody](#) and uploaded on 10 December, the last day of the 16 Days of Activism campaign and the Human Rights Day. The video received great responses, was widely shared on different social media platforms, and generated 1.160 views on Facebook as of 28 December 2017.



Rosa Logar, president of WAVE, talks to UN Women about the role of CSOs in tackling violence against women



WAVE is currently partnering with UN Women to support the work of civil society organizations (CSOs) on ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey – under the EU-funded programme, ‘Implementing Norms, Changing Minds’. Rosa Logar, one of the founding members of WAVE, discussed their involvement in the regional programme with the UN Women Office for Europe and Central Asia, emphasizing the vital role that CSOs play in the fight to end violence against women. As of recent, WAVE signed an agreement with UN Women to establish and strengthen CSO platforms in the Western Balkans and Turkey, to advocate for the development and implementation of laws and policies in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention. The full interview is available [here](#).

WAVE attends partners’ meeting of EU- UN Women programme “Implementing norms, changing minds”



The first partners’ meeting of EU–UN Women’s Regional Programme on ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey, [‘Implementing Norms, Changing Minds’](#), was held on November 27th 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey. Several civil society organizations (CSOs) that have been selected to implement different components of the programme, including Imkaan, Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE), Yaşama Dair Vakıf (YADA Foundation) and the European Women’s Lobby (EWL), as well as UN Women staff, attended the event. The purpose of the gathering was to improve collaboration and harmonization of approaches among the different stakeholders, to maximize results and ensure complementarity. In the near future, steps will be taken to facilitate cooperation and establish links among CSOs working under the regional component of the programme. Further information about this event is available in the [latest issue of UN Women’s Newsletter](#) for their regional programme on ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey. Photo credits: UN Women.

Campaign #ShareResponsibly (Cro #sherajmoodgovorno)

In 2017 the Women’s Room started a campaign entitled #ShareResponsibly. The campaign was created with the aim of sensitizing and informing young people about all forms of sexualized violence, cyberviolence, including sexualised cyberviolence, ways of prevention and existing mechanisms of protection and support for persons subjected to these forms violence. The campaign is being implemented on three social media platforms –Facebook, YouTube and Instagram. This initiative continues to have a great impact in Croatia when it comes to rising awareness about sexualized cyberviolence.

Further information about the campaign is available at:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sherajmoodgovorno/>

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0R6_7KmVqxCZjzWtVHEXg

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sherajmoodgovorno/>

Serbian NGOs develop a training module for SOS helplines



The Women Against Violence Network from South-Western Serbia (SWAVN), composed of five women organizations (Fenomena Association Kraljevo, Women's Center Užice, Women's Forum Prijepolje, DamaD Novi Pazar and Impuls Tutin) held a meeting in September 2017 to discuss strategic planning for widening cooperation at the sub-national level, develop internal capacities and services, and ensure wider outreach at the national and international level. In the last quartal of 2017 two organizations from SWAVN have developed the first module of the training programme for consultants working at the SOS helpline. The training is based on official legal standards of the Republic of Serbia required for licencing SOS

helplines. This training is in the process of getting accreditation by the Serbian Social Protection Institute. This is expected to happen in the first quartal of 2018. Afterwards, it will be available to all women's organizations who initiate the service licensing process. Additionally, in 2018, SWAVN will engage in advocacy for providing adequate services for domestic violence victims at the local level, with support from local public funds, as foreseen by the Serbian Social Protection Law. A bilateral meeting with WAVE coordinators is planned to take place in 2018 to discuss how WAVE can assist said efforts towards sustainability of services at the local level.

Women's organisations from Western Serbia advocate for the implantation of the Istanbul Convention

Women's Center Užice, a member of the Serbian Women Against Violence Network (SWAVN), has gathered the informal network United Women of



Zlatibor district to advocate as the regional initiative for support and protection of women in accordance with the Istanbul Convention, particularly articles 22, 23 and 24 (regional safe house, regional SOS helpline and establishing the regional fund for violence prevention). The United women of Zlatibor district informal network is bringing together women's organizations, women from political parties and individuals from ten local

communities in Zlatibor district (Western Serbia) to engage in various advocacy efforts. Street actions and media statements were chosen to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and the 16 Days of Activism against Family Violence campaign.

UK Femicide Census Report 2017

[The Femicide Census](#) is a database containing information on over one thousand women killed by men in England and Wales since 2009. It is a ground-breaking project which aims to provide a clearer picture of men's fatal violence against women by allowing for detailed tracking and analysis. The [latest Femicide Census report](#), published in December 2017, reveals that 113 women were killed by men in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2016. Nine in ten women killed that year were killed by someone they knew; 78 women were killed by their current or former intimate partner and 65 of those were killed in their own home or the home they shared with the perpetrator. By viewing these cases

of femicide all together, we can learn what needs to be done to reduce, and ultimately prevent, the killing of women by men.

Sweden plans change in rape law

Sweden is moving closer to [making changes to its rape laws](#) that would require people to get explicit consent before sexual contact. In Sweden, the prosecution must present evidence to the court proving beyond reasonable doubt that the accused has committed the crime. Following the changes to the law, the prosecution will have to present evidence demonstrating that the sexual act was not consensual. If the bill is approved, it would go into effect on 1 July.

Russian victims of domestic abuse forced to pay perpetrator's fine

[Controversial amendments to Russian law decriminalised some forms of domestic violence in February](#). The changes mean violence against a spouse or children that results in bruising or bleeding but not broken bones is punishable by 15 days in prison or a fine of 30,000 rubles (£380) if they do not happen more than once a year. Previously, these offences carried a maximum jail sentence of two years. Human rights campaigners condemn this law that orders wives to pay their spouses' penalty for violence if they share a bank account. [Russian women who are victims of domestic abuse are being forced to pay fines handed down to their abusers, campaigners have said](#). Marina Pisklakova-Parker, head of the Anna Centre, an NGO part of the WAVE network which provides support to victims of domestic abuse, stated that women were "having to pay the fines of the perpetrator of the abuse, if he does not pay".

Switzerland ratifies the Istanbul Convention

On the 14th of December 2017 Markus BÖRLIN Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Council of Europe, deposited the instrument of [ratification in respect of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence](#) (Istanbul Convention). The Convention will enter into force, as regards Switzerland on 1 April 2018. Switzerland becomes the 28th State to ratify the Convention.

BFF project – Active against digital violence

As of 2017, [bff](#) has implemented the "Active against digital violence" project. The project seeks to raise awareness, intervene and educate. Cyber-violence, as an expression of gender-specific violence, has kept women's counselling centres and women's emergency helplines busy for several years. "Active against digital violence" offers the possibility to bring together expert knowledge and current experiences in women's counselling centres and to further develop adequate support for victims. In March of 2017, a survey was sent to all 176 counselling centres with which bff is affiliated. Over 60 counselling centres gave feedback about their experiences with digital violence. Members were asked which forms of online violence are being addressed in counselling centres and which questions are being asked by victims concerning coping strategies and legal measures. Other topics included cooperation with the police and current limitations and challenges in counselling on digital violence.

The paper concludes with six demands for adequate support in cases of digital violence:

1. Additional financial resources for counselling centres:

2. Representative studies
3. Funding of the necessary prevention work
4. Awareness in the police and justice system
5. Nuanced legal regulations
6. Critical debate about violence in the digital public realm

The English version of the paper is available [here](#).