

WAVE Newsletter, September-October 2017

WAVE News

1 – 3 September 2017 – Nordic Women Against Violence/Nordiske Kvinner Mot Vold 2017 Conference (Reykjavik, Iceland)

The annual Nordic Women Against Violence/Nordiske Kvinner Mot Vold Conference was organized by WAVE Member Stigamot and the Women's Shelter in Reykjavik, Iceland. This three-day conference gathered over 200 participants from women's organizations throughout the Nordic countries (Sweden, Norway, Greenland, Finland, Iceland, Faroe Islands and Denmark). The Conference focused primarily on including the voices of survivors in the work of preventing and combating violence against women. The Conference drew a range of speakers from various backgrounds regarding important themes such as prostitution and the impact of violence on children. For instance, Liz Kelly discussed how survivors are at the heart of movements to end violence against women, while Rachel Morgan discussed the human rights of prostitution. Effective tools for including survivors' voices in advocacy were also discussed, with videos of good practice examples shared. Workshops on the second day included a range of topics, including sexual violence and incest, the Family Justice Centre model, standards and guidelines for service providers, and the rights of children in seeking support and protection.

Study Visit Delegation from Kvinna till Kvinna

On 19 September 2017, a delegation of 20 participants visited the WAVE office, among other institutions and organizations in Vienna. The participants represented various countries in the Balkans (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia). The study visit was co-organized by Kvinna till Kvinna, which supports women in times of war and conflict and cooperates with organisations that work for women's rights and peace. Participants were interested in the organizational and structural aspects of the Network, and also how to become a Member of the WAVE Network. In addition to visiting the WAVE Office, the delegation also visited the Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre Vienna, the Men's Counselling Centre, Fundamental Rights Agency, OSCE Gender Section, Judge of the District Court and the Austrian Ministry for Health and Women's Affairs.

Work with Perpetrators European Network 6th Annual Meeting

From October 11th – 13th, the [6th annual workshop](#) of the Work with Perpetrators European Network took place in Zagreb, Croatia. This year's meeting was conducted to discuss the "Work with Perpetrators: Strengthening Accountability, Developing Practice and Increasing Safety" and was hosted by the following two organisations. The mental health organization and one of the founding members of the WWP EN, Society for Psychological Assistance (SPA), and the institution for children and adults – victims of domestic violence, Home Duga-Zagreb. Duga Zagreb provides facilities and shelter services as well as legal support to victims of domestic violence for free and with a 24/7 access. One of the participants attending the meeting was the Executive Manager of the WAVE Network, Stephanie Futter-Orel, to actively partake, network, share ideas and learn more about focusing on the treatment for perpetrators of domestic violence for the purpose of protection of family members and increasing their security.

Behind Closed Doors Report on Femicide by Women's Aid Ireland



Women's Aid Ireland published their Report *Behind Closed Doors* in November 2016 to mark 20 years of tracking female homicides in Ireland and the learning from this project. Since then, they have presented the data at international conferences in Vienna (ACUNS), Belfast and Portugal. Getting an overview in Vienna on global developments on femicide watches has helped develop their thinking on more effective use on what and how to use the 20 years of data they hold. Learning of the

proposed [Femicide Watch Platform](#) was very encouraging. While hearing from practitioners on the ground including chairs of domestic homicide reviews and those supporting families provided food for thought about what needs to happen in Ireland. The Behind Closed Doors report is regarded as a leading example of good practice in collecting publicly available information on Femicide.

A year on, Women's Aid will continue their initiative and will **publish the Femicide Watch 2017 (Republic of Ireland)**. This report will include updated information for 2017, data on sentencing, children, perpetrators and further analysis of the key findings of the Femicide Monitoring Project. The report will be launched at a seminar in Dublin on 24th November 2017 to mark the start of the 16 Days of Action. More information: www.WomensAid.ie



19th WAVE Conference

With more than 200 participants representing over 20 different organisations, the WAVE Conference is ready for take-off. The [19th Conference](#) will take place in Budapest, Hungary at the European Youth Centre from October 30th until November 1st and will be co-hosted by the Hungarian Women's association, NANE Egyesület. The first two days are aimed at dealing with different issues regarding violence against women. The implementation of the Istanbul Convention, intersectionality and the protection of children are key topics that are being discussed on the first day, and are then followed up by ten different interactive workshops that showcase another array of issues, such as cyber violence, heteronormativity, sexualized violence and the relevance of data collection for visibility. The results of the election of the General Assembly will also be a focal point of the second day. The Conference will conclude with a WAVE internal discussion with the last day being set to discuss the progress, obstacles and objectives of the Network only with the WAVE Advisory Board members and state representatives. We are very pleased to welcome all our participants to unite, collaborate and network towards the prevention and protection of violence against women as well as progress within our Step Up Campaign and accumulate more signatures for our [pledge](#) to end violence against women.

WAVE Step Up Campaign

Highlights of the Step up! Campaign activities in September

In September two of this year's Step up! Campaign activities reached their peak in all participating countries. After the Meme Contest was closed, mid-month, the far-reaching Peace Day Protest took place in many parts of Europe, and wider, on Thursday, 21st of September. The Meme Contest proved

that the topic of women recovering from violence was not an easy task to grasp for young contestants, and that the campaign needs to further explore possible ways of engaging young people. The Peace Day Protest was the widest-reaching of this year's campaigning activities, with 15 countries participating. The protest took various creative forms, attempting to draw attention to the persisting, systemic problem of VAWG.



If you are attending the WAVE Annual Conference in Budapest, make sure to check out the exhibition of the best memes that we are about to set up at the conference venue. See you at the European Youth Centre Budapest!

Photo caption:
Peace Day Protest in Sibiu, Romania (organised by A.L.E.G.)

International Peace Day Protest –Uniting women from all over Europe

On September 21st, the WAVE Step Up! Campaign along with WAVE members from across Europe held the first international Peace Day Protest to march in solidarity and demand the right for peaceful living without violence. The protest was intended to call for visibility and awareness for the work of women's shelters and women's specialist support services, and urge governments to aid financially and legislatively in the support and protection of women and children against violence. Different women's organisations, peace organisations and other allies united to promote the importance of ratifying the Istanbul Convention, defending women's rights and providing them with specialist services and facilities. The WAVE Network was protesting in front of the Justice Palace in Vienna, Austria with Maria Rösslhumer and Stephanie Futter-Orel, the co-founder and the executive manager of the WAVE Network, sending a clear message that violence against women must be prevented and stopped at the international level. From Armenia and Moldova, to Slovenia, Romania, to Finland and many more countries; solidarity marches were held to fight against domestic violence, stalking, sexual violence, sexual harassment, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, forced abortion or sterilization.

Multidisciplinary Training with PICUM on protection for undocumented women



On September 28th – 29th, a multidisciplinary training seminar on access to empowering support, protection and justice for undocumented migrant women survivors of violence and their children was held in Vienna, Austria organised by

WAVE in cooperation with [PICUM](#) (the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants). More than 20 practitioners representing key migrant's organisations, women's support services and women's shelters from Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Slovenia actively collaborated in different working groups to discuss strategies to protect the rights of all women. The seminar was aimed at creating a joint action plan and a new tool to increase awareness about the rights of migrant women. After the successful and fruitful seminar, WAVE, PICUM and the collaborating organisations are now working towards the development of the tool, to be accessible for service providers, government officials and affected women.

WAVE takes part in EWL's #HerNetHerRights Conference

On Friday, October 13th, the WAVE office took part in the [European Women's Lobby](#) first online conference about gender based cyber violence within the framework of their campaign #Exposetheabusers #SayNoToOnlineViolence. Activists and researchers had gathered around the virtual table to discuss women's rights issues online and possible solutions to create a safer web for Europe's women and girls. WAVE staff live-tweeted throughout the conference and also participated in the tweet chat which discussed topics ranging from bro culture in the tech industry to links between sexist media and cyber VAWG. The conference was recorded and can be found [here](#). A storify summary of the conference, where some of WAVE's tweets are featured, can be found [here](#).

WAVE Webinars – Winter session

WAVE has set up five webinar sessions within the frame of the WAVE Step Up! Campaign that will be held in the months of November and December 2017. The focus of the winter session will be the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, WAVE's upcoming newest communication platform, intersectional feminism as well as the importance of self-care. The webinars will be held by the WAVE Office and are available to participants worldwide with the purpose of educating and sharing ideas on issues concerning violence against women. Attending the webinar is free of charge and participants can join by signing up until the date of the webinar. All the webinars will then be uploaded to YouTube. To learn more about previous WAVE webinars, there is an online [playlist](#) of the eight successful webinars that have been conducted so far.

13 November 2017 – 13:00-14:00 (CET)

Legal tools used for implementing the Istanbul Convention

To register for the webinar, click here:
<http://bit.ly/2yEUz2S>

22 November 2017 – 13:00-14:00 (CET)

New WAVE Communication: Fempower & the WAVE Blog

To register for the webinar, click here:
<http://bit.ly/2yJWbGe>

28 November 2017 – 13:00-14:00 (CET)

Self-Care: Burn-out Syndrome in Social Services' Providers

To register for the webinar, click here:
<http://bit.ly/2zMqY5w>

1 December 2017 – 10:00 – 11:00 (CET)

Intersectional Feminism within the Context of Violence Against Women

To register for the webinar, click here:
<http://bit.ly/2xiztDr>

6 December 2017 – 13:00 – 14:00 (CET)

The Ecology of Self-Care

To register for the webinar, click here:
<http://bit.ly/2iOVws6>

International News

Germany ratifies the Istanbul Convention



Now being the [25th state](#), Germany ratified the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) on October 12th 2017. In Germany, the Convention will enter into force on February 1st 2018. The Istanbul Convention provides for an independent expert body – the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) – to monitor compliance of all Contracting Parties with the Convention. It carries out this task in a spirit of dialogue and co-operation with the Contracting Party concerned.

12th meeting of GREVIO

As part of the Istanbul Convention monitoring mechanism, the [12th meeting](#) of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) was conducted from October 9th – 13th October in Strasbourg, France. The meeting was intended to adopt a list of decisions including GREVIO's Final Report on Albania and on Denmark, which are set to be published and sent to the Committee of the Parties after the national authorities have made final amendments. State dialogues with Montenegro and Turkey have also been targeted within this meeting to consider the reports that have already been submitted by these two countries. Among other issues, the meeting resulted in proposing an amendment to the Rules of Procedures. It was also held to elect the GREVIO's President and Vice-Presidents with Feride Acar being re-elected as the President and Marceline Naudi and Simona Lanzoni now being First and the Second Vice-President. The election is conducted every two years and their term of office is therefore ending in 2019.



Solidarity march in Romania

On October 14th, the [solidarity march](#) "Împreună pentru siguranța femeilor" (together for women's safety) was held in Bucharest, Romania to condemn all forms of violence against women and to reveal the stigmatization of women from different social groups in Romania. It was organised by the Romanian Network for Prevention and Combating Violence against Women, and was intended to demand the guarantee of safety in all places and the insurance of legal protection for women provided by the Romanian government and state. The [march](#) amassed a wide range of participants including the ambassadors of Sweden, Anneli Lindahl Kenny, and Finland, Päivi Pohjanheimo, in Romania as well as the Spanish and British ambassadors to Romania, Ramiro Fernández-Bachiller and Paul Brummel, to march in solidarity with women survivors of violence and shed light on the importance of penalizing all forms of abuse.