



WAVE Newsletter January-February 2020

Upcoming Events

The date is set for the 2020 WAVE Conference!

The WAVE office is happy to announce the 2020 WAVE Conference will be held from October 7-9, 2020 in Lisbon Portugal. Stay tuned to WAVE's social media & website to stay updated on the latest WAVE Conference news.

2019 WAVE Country Report Campaign

Kicking off on International Women's Day, WAVE will be holding a 7 day campaign to promote the new WAVE Country Report! Starting on Sunday, March 8th and ending on Saturday March 14th, WAVE's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts will be showcasing some important facts from the newest country report while emphasizing the importance of the Istanbul Convention. Stay tuned!

WAVE News

Welcome to the new WAVE President, Marcella Pirrone

We are pleased to announce Marcella Pirrone as the new President of the Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) network and Pille Tsopp-Pagan as the new Vice-President.

Marcella Pirrone has been active in WAVE for 20 years a member of the WAVE Board since 2017. She is an Italian feminist lawyer and activist. Twenty eight years ago she co-founded the Merano and Bolzano women's shelters and in 2012 the Italian NGO D.i.Re (Donne in Rete contro la violenza), the umbrella association representing 80 women-operated shelters throughout Italy. Until 2014, Marcella was a guest professor of Family and Criminal Law in the Social Work Faculty of the Free University of Bolzano, Italy. She has coordinated several international projects on violence against women (VAW) and violence in aged care. Along with her legal practice, Marcella provides training on VAW and violence in aged care for health and social service providers and workers. Marcella is the current Fiduciary Counsellor (Consigliera di Fiducia) for the public health system in Alto Adige and the Municipalities of Bolzano and Merano.



Pille Tsopp-Pagan has been a WAVE Board member since October 2017 and she is also a board member of the Tartu Women's Shelter, which she co-founded in 2002. At the time this was the first domestic violence shelter in the Baltics. For the past seven years, she has served as its Executive Director, working to rebrand the organisation as the Women's Support and Information Center (WSIC), a more internationally-oriented organization that participates in policy analysis and advocacy, research and education. In this role she has managed national and international projects supported by EU Justice, Erasmus and other funders. Furthermore, Pille has over 20 years of experience in financial management of both non-profit organisations and for-profit companies. She has managed the finances for dozens of international projects and for several large and small organizations.

The WAVE Network has 156 members in 46 European countries!

The WAVE Office is proud to welcome the following organisations who have recently joined the WAVE Network:

- Albania – Women Center Light Steps
- Croatia – Domine – Organization for Promotion of Women’s Rights
- Romania – FILIA Center
- Serbia – Human Rights Committee Vranje – Organizational Unit SOS Telephone Vranje

StepUp! Campaign with new members

WAVE is happy to announce that in the 2020 Step Up! Campaign, a record number of 25 member organizations is taking part in campaigning activities. These organizations are:

Albania: Woman to Woman

Austria: Frauenhaus Tirol

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Fondacija Udružene žene Banja Luka

Bulgaria: Association Naia

Croatia: B.a.B.e.

Cyprus: Association for prevention and handling of violence in the family

Estonia: Naiste Tugi- ja Teabekeskus

Germany: Gesine Netzwerk

Greece: Union of Women Associations of Heraklion Prefecture

Hungary: NANE

Italy: D.i.Re – Donne in Rete contro la violenza

Kosovo: Women’s Wellness Center

Lithuania: Vilniaus Moteru Namai

Moldova: National Coalition “Life without Violence”

Montenegro: SOS Nikšić

Northern Cyprus: Association of women to support living – KAYAD

Poland: Centrum Praw Kobiet

Portugal: AMCV – Associação de mulheres contra a violência

Romania: A.L.E.G. – Asociația pentru Libertate și Egalitate de Gen

Serbia: Fenomena

Slovakia: Aliancia žien

Slovenia: Društvo SOS telefon

Spain: Fundación para la Convivencia ASPACIA

Ukraine: International women’s rights center La Strada

Wales: Welsh Women’s Aid



Learn more about TISOVA – Training to Identify and Support older Victims of Abuse

Elderly people are exposed to neglect, physical, sexual, psychological, and financial abuse. All these forms of abuse can be perpetrated by a spouse/partner, adult children, grandchildren, other relatives or care takers. Therefore, it is of great importance to directly and effectively cooperate with senior centres as well as seniors in identifying and supporting older victims of abuse. Within an interactive training program, the main objective of the project is to educate key groups on violence perpetrated against elderly, as well as on the experiences and specific needs of elderly victims of abuse. Do you want to be updated regularly on the outputs of TISOVA? Then make sure to follow the [TISOVA Facebook page](#) #ProjectTISOVA #TISOVA #Ageing Equal



Press Conference AÖF

On January 29th, 2020, WAVE co-hosted a press conference with the Autonomous Women’s Shelters Austria (AÖF), presenting a new awareness raising spot on ‘Men against male violence’. The video aims to address male perpetrators of violence and demonstrates the importance of men taking responsibility for their actions by seeking counselling in order to prevent/end abusive as well as violent behavioural patterns. It was produced by News on Video Austria and in corporation with Austria’s umbrella organisation on work with men, young males and father (Dachverband für Männer-, Burschen- und Väterarbeit Österreich), men’s counselling organisation Vienna (Männerberatung Wien), the NGO poika working with boys and teenagers, and White Ribbon Austria.



New faces and a welcomed homecoming



Please welcome our two newest interns to the WAVE office: Perrine Yarar and Mariana Cunha! 🙌 Perrine comes from Zurich, Switzerland. In 2017 Perrine decided to move to the beautiful city of Vienna to pursue her Master’s degree in Global History and Global Studies. Mariana hails from Portugal and has always been deeply troubled by gender discrimination brought about, in part, by flawed laws and biased institutions. She is passionate about fighting all forms of pressure and social regulations to women’s sovereignty: body image, enforcing a gendered dress code, behaviour pattern, choice in professional career, and obligation to procreate.

We are also happy to announce that Elizabeth Spouse has returned from educational leave on February 17th. She is replacing Andrada Filip as Data Manager & Researcher, responsible for research and database administration, ensuring effective data collection for, as well as the creation of the WAVE Country Report. In addition, she now manages the WAVE Fempower Magazine and the WAVE Newsletter. She will remain the co-organizer of the WAVE Gender Neutrality Working Group with Lina.



International News

Lucha y Siesta: Women’s shelter in Rome needs urgent support in fighting its closure

Lucha y Siesta, a women’s shelter in Tuscolano, Rome, was founded in 2008. Since the very beginning, it has been situated in a building which was unused and abandoned at the time. In these past 11 years the organisation has helped hundreds of women and their children in need by providing them with shelter as well as legal and psychological counselling. Sadly, the building in which the organisation is located has been put up for auction as the owner (ATACS.p.A.) is heavily in debt. Lucha y Siesta is now trying to buy the building themselves so that the organisation can keep on existing. The city is already non-compliant with the IC standards for bed spaces, making Lucha y Siesta an essential life-saving service for the area.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the crowd funding project. Your donations will be of immense importance and highly appreciated!

GREVIO Baseline Evaluation Reports on Serbia, the Netherlands and Italy

The Council of Europe Expert Group on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) published baseline evaluation reports on Serbia, the Netherlands and Italy. The reports contain a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the provisions of the Istanbul Convention. They highlight positive initiatives to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and domestic violence at the national level and provide suggestions and proposals to improve the situation of women facing such violence.



SERBIA. The urgency of establishing a consultative dialogue with women's organizations is emphasized, as well as the need to ensure adequate and long-term financing for the specialized services they provide. To read the full report go to: [Serbia Baseline Evaluation](#)

NETHERLANDS. GREVIO stresses the need to ensure the practical facilitation of women's access to gender-specific victim support services in cases of domestic violence and other forms of violence against women, offering comprehensive support and avoiding secondary traumatisation through repeat referrals. To read the full report go to: [Netherlands Baseline Evaluation](#)

ITALY. There is a need to consider amending the criminal offence of sexual violence so that it is based on the notion of freely given consent, in accordance with Article 36, paragraph 1, of the convention, and introducing legislation to ensure that sexual harassment experienced in all areas of life is subject to a legal sanction. To read the full report go to: [Italy Baseline Evaluation](#)

GREVIO receives state report for Romania and San Marino

The state reports from San Marino and Romania were received by GREVIO on 6 February 2020, and are published today in accordance with Rule 33, paragraph 6 of GREVIO's Rules of Procedure. The Group will consider the reports at its 21st meeting scheduled to take place in June 2020 in Strasbourg. GREVIO plans to carry out an evaluation visit to San Marino and Romania in the Autumn of 2020 in order to assess the situation on the ground. The Group will then draw up and adopt its evaluation reports in the course of 2021. Click [here](#) for more info.

Council of Europe's expert group on violence against women visits Andorra & Malta

A delegation of the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) carried out an evaluation visit to Andorra from 12 to 13 February 2020 and to Malta from 17 to 22 February 2020. Meetings were held with representatives from different Ministries. In Andorra with the Equality Policy Unit, Women's Comprehensive Care Service, Primary Care Service, Specialised Child Welfare Service, Public Prosecutor's Office and Magistrates of the Civil and Criminal Courts and the Child Protection Court, Assistance and Mediation Service, Immigration Department and the Andorran Police Force. In Malta with the Ministry for Justice, Equality and Governance, the Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence, the Ministry for the Family, Children's Rights and Social Solidarity, the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security etc. In addition, the GREVIO delegation met with representatives of civil society and NGOs working in the area of violence against women, including those with a specific focus on migrant women. GREVIO plans to publish its evaluation report for each visit during 2021.

CYBERSAFE Project Report: Cyber Violence against Women and Girls published

Within the scope of the CYBERSAFE project, the project partner University of Ljubljana published the report "Cyberviolence against Women & Girls". This publication is the final report of Work Package 2 of CYBERSAFE and presents a comprehensive overview of the topic of cyberviolence. Read more about the report [here](#)

Conference "Social Empowerment, through Economic Empowerment".

During the 16 days of activism, the Women's Center "Light Steps" organized the Conference "Social Empowerment, through Economic Empowerment". The purpose of this conference was to highlight the importance of every aspect of women's empowerment, as women constitute one of the most important individuals upon which the life cycle is built. The 150 participants of this conference were very diverse, and the presence of each gave an even stronger emphasis to each role that women represent in society. Representatives from different institutions gave us the opportunity to understand that women's empowerment is a step forward, but their inclusiveness pushes us to reflect on how much work needs to be done to empower them. The participation of women from four Municipalities gave colour to this event, by raising awareness about the importance that empowerment of women should have.




ESC Opportunity in UWAH



The Union of Women Association of Heraklion is offering 10-months volunteering positions for two committed young Europeans, in Heraklion, Crete, Greece! Volunteers will engage with a wide range of women rights and gender equality topics, focusing on Online Violence against young women. The project aims at promoting non-formal and work-based learning and will involve volunteers on a full-time basis in order to bring out their full potential on work-related tasks of their interest and background. The volunteering activity is implemented in the context of the European Solidarity Corps programme. Travel and accommodation costs, as well as a monthly stipend for the volunteers are covered by the project.

VOLUNTEERING

HERAKLION,
CRETE
GREECE



OPPORTUNITY

Serbia's National SOS Women's helpline has an uncertain future

In December 2018 the National Women's Helpline for Domestic Violence in Serbia was founded. To this day, there are still suspicions about the possible corruption associated with the process of establishing the National SOS Helpline, the use of its funds, and specific concerns linked to the Istanbul Convention's articles related to anonymity and confidentiality of those calling in. The Gender Coordination Body of the Republic of Serbia is responsible for monitoring the implementation of this helpline and guaranteeing its conformity with IC standards, yet over the course of this last year, the department has not taken any interest or action regarding its establishment or effective functioning. It is unknown whether the contract awarded to "Zvecanska" has been extended and what the further 'fate' of the National SOS Helpline is. GREVIO visited Serbia in 2019 and published a list of recommendations on 22 January 2020 (which can be found [here](#)). This report notes that irregularities were observed in the process of establishing the National SOS Helpline and also notes the marginalization of women's specialist organizations by the mandatory state institutions.

Gender based violence against Roma women and availability of support services

Roma center for women and children Daje conducted field research in 2019 to collect authentic data on gender-based violence against Roma women in Serbia. Research has shown that 67% of Roma women were married before the age of 18 years old. As many as 30% of Roma women were forced into illegal marriages between the ages of 13 and 15. Half of the respondents have given birth to their first child before the age of 18, and 30% of them were 14 or 15 years old at the time of first pregnancy. According to a survey, as many as 90% of Roma women have experienced some kind of gender-based violence, and one in four Roma women were forced into sexual intercourse at least once during their lifetime. Furthermore, Roma women do not recognize GBV; at least 30% of them do not identify different violent male behaviors as gender-based violence. There is correlation between recognition of GBV and exposure to GBV – women which recognize different forms of GBV report being exposed to GBV in lesser extent. The full research report can be found [here](#)

With Rosa Logar and Aurela Anastasi

The Center for Legal Civic Initiatives (CLCI) organized on December 10, 2019 a discussion table with the title, "With Rosa Logar and Aurela Anastasi" on the support of the survivors of domestic violence and use of the Istanbul Convention and GREVIOs recommendations as tools for change; exchanging practices between Austria and Albania.



According to Rosa Logar, some of the main problems and challenges in the Intervention System regarding Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in Austria are:

- Concerning deficits regarding the protection of victims in high risk situations, pre-trial detention is often not used
- Emergency barring orders and civil court protection orders are not sufficient to stop high risk perpetrators
- Impunity - on average only about 15 – 20 % of reported cases of violence against women lead to convictions!
- Migrant and refugee women are especially at risk
- Protection of children, support for children witnessing domestic violence
- Not enough investment in prevention, awareness raising and training

The Constitutional Issues of the Istanbul Convention and the Opinion of the Venice Commission for Armenia, 2019 were presented for participants by Prof. Dr. Aurela Anastasi.

Venice Commission on the conclusions of its opinion given on October 2019 is of the view that there are no provisions in the IC to "contradict" the Constitution of Armenia. On the contrary, the main obligation of the Istanbul Convention, namely to prevent and combat any form of violence against women and domestic violence, already stems from the Constitution and from other human rights treaties to which Armenia is a state party, which means there are no obstacles to the ratification of this convention by the Republic of Armenia.