



## WAVE Newsletter May-June 2020

### WAVE News

#### **CALL FOR PANELS & WORKSHOPS: For the 22<sup>nd</sup> WAVE Conference, October 2020**

We are happy to begin accepting suggestions for panels & workshops for the 22<sup>nd</sup> WAVE Conference titled: **“Structural inequality: the root of the global pandemic of violence against women”**.

Due to the current global situation, **the WAVE conference will happen online this year**. In order to make the online experience as pleasant as possible for all participants, we will have less panels and workshops than usual.

We have put together a survey to determine which panels and workshops your organization is interested in having at the WAVE conference this year. Please be aware that due to the fact that it will be a shorter conference, it will not be possible to accept all suggestions, however, we will try to incorporate them as best we can.

Please fill out the survey, found [here](#), by **July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020**.

### Upcoming Events

#### **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: The 4th European Conference on Domestic Violence (13 - 15 September 2021 in Ljubljana, Slovenia)**

We are pleased to announce that the call for abstracts for the 4th European Conference on Domestic Violence is now open until December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

The aim of the conference is to bring together researchers, academics, students, professionals, practitioners and policy-makers from Europe and further afield to share and build knowledge and experience on a wide range of issues concerning domestic violence. The ECDV views domestic violence as encompassing a range of different types of gender-based violence and abuse, among others including intimate partner violence, stalking, honour-based violence and elderly abuse. The conference is rooted in an ecological understanding of domestic violence while recognising the primary role of gender as a significant factor both causing and sustaining abuse and violence.

Find out more specific details about the call for abstracts [here](#).

### International News

#### **TISOVA online course received the Estonian e-course Quality Label Award**

Last year University of Tartu in Estonia launched an online course on “How to Identify and Support Older Victims of Abuse”. The course is part of the TISOVA project that addresses the issue of violence against older women. It provides additional training to healthcare professionals and volunteers at elderly homes, hospitals and other organizations. It also has a special study track for elderly people on how to protect themselves from abuse.



TISOVA online course participated in the competition “Estonian E-course Quality Label 2020” organized by IT Foundation for Education in Estonia (HITSA). It was awarded with the quality label and included in the top-6 ranking of all the applicants this year. The quality label confirms the excellent level of the e-course and is an acknowledgement to the designer and teacher. Find out more [here](#).

## Erasmus + Project Development of “at a DISTance” COunselling Skills for professionals in the field of Counselling Women Victims of Violence or Abuse evaluated as “good practice example” by European Commission

The DIS.CO project, for which WAVE was the dissemination partner, has been evaluated as a “good practice example” by the European Commission. The project was a strategic partnership supporting innovation in the field of vocational education and training, aiming at enhancing the work-based skills of counselling practitioners through networking and capacity building on the topic of Counselling at a Distance, when working with women victims of domestic or sexual violence or abuse. It aimed to create specialised training materials and tools, to enhance the work-based competences of counselling practitioners and to facilitate the creation of virtual workspaces and alternative forms of victim support.



To learn more about the project and to download all materials, click [here](#).

## Panel discussion on domestic violence in times of COVID-19 by the European Students' Forum and the European Youth Event

For women in abusive relationships, being forced to remain at home with their partner results in a higher risk of psychological and physical violence and asking for help becomes nearly impossible. What are the local and European responses to this hidden crisis? How do we ensure measures are gender-sensitive? We discussed this with Jurgita Pečiūrienė - researcher from the European Institute for Gender Equality, Alicja Switon - Executive Manager of the WAVE Network, Kika Fumero - General Director of the Canary Islands Institute for Equality and initiator of the initiative “Mascarilla-19”, Léa Thuiller and Amélie Durand - representatives of the organisation En avant toute(s), running the initiative “tchat”, and Marcella Pirrone - representative of the International Working Group D.i.Re “Donne in Rete contro la violenza”, the Italian network of non-institutional and self-led women’s shelters.

You can view a recording of the panel discussion [here](#).

## Domestic Violence during the COVID-19 crisis in Cyprus: responding to increased victims’ needs



The Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family reported an increase of reports of domestic violence up to 47-50%; these rates have been alarming, but not unexpected. As evidence shows, major crisis often lead to increased gender-based and domestic violence, which further worsens following a crisis’ recession. In order to better serve the victims’ needs during the pandemic, APHVF established new services, i.e. SMS services, live chat, and teleconferencing or telephone

counseling. Overall during March-May 2020, 745 incidents of domestic violence were reported to the Helpline 1440, the SMS service and live chat. Of the 745 incidents, 420 were reported during May alone - significantly higher rates than in previous months. Respectively during these months, a total of 54 abused people (29 women and 25 children) were hosted in APHVF’s shelters and, temporary safe accommodation places which have been operated by APHVF since the increase in shelter requests.

Find more information on their website [here](#) and Facebook page [here](#).

## Guidelines of Civil Society Strengthening Platform to support women victims of violence in light of COVID-19 outbreak

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures of containment implemented by national governments to counter the spread of the virus, have strongly impacted the health of populations, economies and public services. Starting in March 2020, when the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak as a global pandemic, governments in the Western Balkans and Turkey began introducing measures of containment (such as closing various businesses and limiting free movement of people) to respond to the crisis. The impact of the pandemic and of these measures has deepened already profound gender gaps grounded in patriarchal structures and cultures, and the burden of the COVID-19 crisis has been placed particularly on women.

To better respond to the needs of women victims of violence and to ensure adequate support, while also taking into consideration the fear and possibility of a resurgence of COVID-19 cases, **the Civil Society Strengthening Platform** partners in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey have prepared a **set of guidelines in all national languages** to better support national governments and service providers in times of crisis to protect women, victims of violence. More information about the project and about the guidelines can be accessed [here](#).

### New publication on GBV in the asylum context

The European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control (HEUNI) participated in an EU-funded project entitled “Co-creating a Counselling Method for Refugee Women GBV Victims” in 2017-2019.

As a result, a **“Handbook on Counselling Asylum Seeking and Refugee Women Victims of Gender-based Violence - Helping her to reclaim her story”** was developed in cooperation with partner organizations who work daily with refugee women in six EU member states, namely Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Finland and Italy. The Handbook contains a counselling method for working with refugee women, and it is based on the practical needs identified by the counsellors assisting refugee women. As a continuation, they have now published a report **“Unseen Victims – Why Refugee Women Victims of Gender-Based Violence Do Not Receive Assistance in the EU?”**. The report describes refugee women’s experiences of gender-based violence - the risk factors, forms and consequences. The report is also an attempt to raise awareness and promote discussion on the topic of violence against women especially in the refugee context.

The handbook (in English, German, Finnish, Croatian, Greek and Italian) and the report (English) are available [here](#). More information about the project and additional resources can be found [here](#).

