



WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE



# ANNUAL REPORT 2009 15 YEARS OF WAVE

WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE





**WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE**

IN 2009, WAVE WAS FUNDED BY:

BUNDESKANZLERAMT  ÖSTERREICH  
BUNDESMINISTERIN  
FÜR FRAUEN UND ÖFFENTLICHEN DIENST



**bmask.gv.at**



PHILIP MORRIS INTERNATIONAL

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR WARMEST THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT OUR WORK.

#### PUBLISHER

WAVE – WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

European Network and European Info Centre Against Violence | Austrian Women's Shelter Network/

Bacherplatz 10/4, 1050 Vienna

Executive Director: Maria Rösslhuber

Public Relations Officer: Miriam Freudenberg

Advocacy and Liaison Officer: Regina Webhofer

Layout and Design: Leocadia Rump

Druck: Remaprint

#### PLACE AND YEAR OF PUBLICATION

Wien 2009, Edition Notice

## PREFACE

For the WAVE- Office, 2009 was, like in previous years, very labour- intensive. Due to the financial support from the European Commission within the scope of the Daphne-Operating Grant 2009, as well as the Co-financing from the Federal Ministry for Women and Public Administration, the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection as well as from the Women's Department of the Municipality of Vienna (MA57), all our plans, activities and goals could be carried out and achieved and our services improved.



The additional support by Philip Morris has, among other things, enabled WAVE to invite women from Non-European countries to participate in the WAVE-Conference and in the WAVE CoCo (Coordination Committee) Meeting in December 2009. **We would like to express our warmest thanks to our donors and supporters.**

WAVE, the European Info Centre Against Violence, which has its seat in Vienna, connects 47 countries and 92 Focal Points – comprising women's organisations which engage themselves actively in the prevention of violence at all levels. In 2009, WAVE celebrated its 15 years of existence.

The activities of WAVE in 2009 were manifold and comprehensive: Besides the current service-providing activities for the WAVE-partner organisations and all people interested, we were also able to organise the annual WAVE-Conference, which was held in Vienna and in which many prominent experts from Science and Practice participated. The Conference also marked two anniversaries: 30 Years of CEDAW and 20 Years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. On this occasion, representatives of the UN and the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as from the Hague Convention were invited. Rashida Manjoo, the newly appointed UN-special Rapporteur on Violence against women confirmed her participation in the Conference and prepared a speech which can be checked in our report.

Moreover, a total of eleven delegations and study visits from many different European countries, as well as from Australia and China came to the WAVE office in order to learn more about the Austrian Legislation on Protection against Violence. Some of the visits had even to be cancelled due to a lack of time resources, respectively postponed until 2010. Three training seminars, one in Malta on the work with perpetrators, one in Cyprus with different professions and one in Spain on "Proactive approaches" could be held.

Beside the continuous update of the Website and of the comprehensive database, comprising 4000 addresses, we were again able to publish two new editions of our specialised magazine Fempower (in English and French) with very interesting articles on "International Legal Instruments to Protect Children from Violence" as well as on the issue of "Femicide". The monthly newsletters, which are written in English and translated into French, constitute an important instrument in order to disseminate the current and most important news on the issue of violence against women throughout Europe. WAVE has participated in many national and international conferences, like the 53. CSW-Meeting in New York, as well as in the ECE Conference in Geneva in October, and in the conference against violence against women in November in Sweden, in the framework of Sweden's presidency of the EU. WAVE was also present at the CAHVIO-Meetings of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and has actively worked on the development of the planned European Convention against all forms of violence. We want to express our thanks to Hilary Fischer for the representation of WAVE in this meeting. Moreover, we succeeded in finalizing the two current projects, Genderworks and the bilateral project with Macedonia. A detailed description of the project can be found in this report.

In 2010, we want to focus, together with our partner-organisations, on the fight against poverty and violence against women in the context of the European-Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion by organising and participating in different activities.

**We thank all the WAVE-supporters and our Focal Points for their engagement.**

The WAVE-Team

## 15 YEARS OF WAVE

In 2009, the European Network - WAVE (Women against Violence in Europe) celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We would like to use this occasion to look back, reveal the network's history and bring to mind the ideas and motives behind the establishment of this European-wide women initiative, WAVE. On the WAVE-Website you will find a detailed description of all projects which have been carried out by WAVE within the last 15 years as well as a list of all the WAVE conferences which have been organised so far. Further, we would like to say THANK YOU to those wonderful women who not only had the vision of setting up a European Women's Network but also had the courage, energy and endurance to realize this idea. Without Niamh Wilson, Ebon Kram, Urzula Nowakowska, Marianne Cense, Lepa Mladjenovic, Raquel Cardorso und Rosa Logar, this empowering exchange of experiences and information and this gainful European-wide co-operations coordinated by the WAVE office in Vienna, wouldn't be existing. We also want to say **THANK YOU** to all women who contributed to the WAVE-Network within the last 15 years.

WAVE (Women against Violence in Europe) is a European network of women's shelters, counseling centres and services working in the field of prevention of violence against women and children.

The idea behind the network's founding can be traced back to a number of international events. The widening of trans-national co-operations began with the World Conference on Human Rights, which was held in Vienna in 1993.

Rosa Logar participates in the  
Global Tribunal on Human Rights in Vienna, 1993



In October 1994, the Economic Commission of Europe Conference (ECE Conference) for the 4<sup>th</sup> UN Conference on Women took place in Vienna. European NGOs working in the field of violence against women took an active part in the conference, setting up a working group on "Violence and Human Rights Violations against Women". This working group was organised and coordinated by the Information Centre Against Violence in the Austrian Women's Shelter Network AÖF. It was during the ECE Conference that a group of women working in women's shelters and institutions combating violence put forward the idea of establishing a European network on violence against women and children. It was to go under the name of WAVE (Women Against Violence Europe).

In the course of the 4<sup>th</sup> United Nations World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, progress was made in the formation of the European network. In the course of the World Conference on Women, the WAVE founding group held its constituent session. The group members included: Niamh Wilson of Women's Aid Ireland, Ebon Kram of the Swedish women's shelters network ROKS, Urszula Nowakowska of the Centrum Praw Kobiet in Warsaw, Marianne Cense of TransAct in the Netherlands, Lepa Mladjenovic of the SOS Hotline in Belgrade, Raquel Cadorso of the AMCV Associacao de Mulheres Contra a Violencia and Rosa Logar of the Austrian Women's Shelter Network, AÖF.

The first working session of the WAVE founding members took place in Utrecht, Netherlands in October 1996. The agenda covered an initial definition of the networks objectives and working principles, a discussion about the goals and sources of funding a European WAVE conference.



In September 1997, a project relating to the creation of the European WAVE Network was submitted to the European Commission's newly established DAPHNE Initiative for combating violence against women and children. It was also in 1997 when the WAVE Coordination Office was set up on the premises of the Austrian Women's Shelter Network in Vienna. It acts as an information and service centre for members or anybody else requiring information. It collects and disseminates data on organisations working in the field of violence against women and children and on the applicable legal provisions, prevention programmes, campaigns and international activities in this area. Further activities are the publication of newsletters, conference reports, or country reports and the organisation and coordination of WAVE events, meetings and conferences.

The first WAVE Conference was held in the Eastern European Region Belgrade in 1997. The second WAVE Conference in January 1998 took place in Vienna marked a significant step in the network's enlargement. The 57 delegates expressed their keen interest in collaborating on the network and disseminating the network idea.



4<sup>th</sup> World Conference in Beijing 1995

Personal contacts set up in the course of the conference helped to enlarge the scope of cooperation. Many participants declared their willingness to act as Focal Points in the network. The issues primarily discussed at the conference were dealing with the legal situations and public measures concerning domestic violence in the countries represented by the delegates. For example, the law on protection against violence in Austria which was established one year back, or the legal situation in Poland.

Within the last 15 years WAVE was able to organise a WAVE conference in a different European country almost every year. In this way the network was strengthened and the cooperation between European women's NGOs intensified and extended. In September 2009, the 11<sup>th</sup> WAVE Conference was held in Vienna.

Women's tent at the UN Human Rights Conference in Vienna, 1993





## WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

The WAVE Network is one of the main and most influential European-wide feminist networks of women NGOs (women's shelter, counselling centres, intervention centres and women's helplines, aid organisations for migrant and refugee women) and was established in 1994. It aims at establishing gender equality by eliminating all forms of domestic violence against women. WAVE is the only European network focusing solely on the elimination of domestic violence against women and children.

### WAVE – STRUCTURE

The Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) Network comprises in 2009 92 member organisations located in 47 European countries where members act as "Focal Points" in their respective country. As WAVE Focal Points, our members are serving as regional and national basis for sharing and exchanging information knowledge and experience. These Focal Points, together with the extensive WAVE online database, enable the network draw on more than 4.000 women's organisations all across Europe.

### WAVE – FOCAL POINTS

Focal Points are the primary source of information for WAVE at a national and regional level. They are national networks, most of which are specialized in combating and preventing gender-based violence, in particular domestic violence against women. At present, there are 92 WAVE Focal Points in 47 European countries (in some countries there are two or more networking sites). Focal Points are responsible for the collection and dissemination of information. On the one hand, the WAVE office continually provides the Focal Points with relevant information (e.g. exchange of news: from a national to an international level and reverse, good practice examples, international recommendations, policy papers, legal and policy changes in regards to domestic violence), while on the other hand these Focal Points report about current developments in their respective countries.

Not only is the geographic distribution of the Focal Points important, but also the consideration of various thematic points of focus, in order that a wide range of organisations will be addressed. Through the Focal Points, WAVE reaches out to more than 4.000 women's organisation across Europe. The Focal Points are also the primary contact partners for affected women in regard to inquiries and in regard to research inquiries, etc. The Focal Points can revert directly back to the resources of the WAVE network and thus further strengthen the organisations in their own countries.

### WAVE - MISSION AND PURPOSE

The WAVE Network believes in the importance of feminist organisations as alternative and independent actors working in the area of **promoting women's rights and combating domestic violence against women**. Values of social justice, empowerment and participation of women need to be protected and extended within wider society and Europe. This necessitates a strong focus on migrant and refugee women's rights in all aspects of our work.

The WAVE Network contributes to this objective by **strengthening the organisational and lobbying capacity** of women's organisations, in particular by analyzing and disseminating information on European and global trends and supporting the institutional development of the sector as a whole, which is reached through a multi-stakeholder



approach including all people engaged in defending women's rights and combating domestic violence against women in order to establish true gender equality.

The WAVE Network **connects** women's organisations in Eastern-, Western-, Northern- and Southern Europe with experts, policy-makers and other stakeholders including the governmental as well as the business sector.

The WAVE Network actively **fosters and seeks information and knowledge exchange** as well as the **sharing of experience** between different European countries and regions, with a particular focus on sharing East-West experiences.

The WAVE Network manages a user-friendly, extensive **online database** on domestic violence against women, including an address section of some 4.000 women's support organisations and institutions. It records around 100.000 pageviews / month. The address section is especially designed to support women affected by domestic violence as well as other women's support organisations. It contains a list of addresses of all support organisations classified by country, town, nature of support and service specialisation. Therefore, it is a valuable source for practitioners, researchers and policymakers alike.

In a nutshell, the WAVE Network supports and **strengthens** women's organisations across Europe as well as experts/ researchers, practitioners and policymakers by:

-  providing information on violence against women and children through the extensive online database and online literature documentation,
-  disseminating of actual and important information via the monthly newsletter and the periodical magazine FEMPOWER.
-  fostering the exchange of knowledge, experience and good practice in the field of eliminating all forms of domestic violence against women and their children through the website, seminars and the annual WAVE conferences.
-  improving organisational performance through capacity building programmes and training workshops, including written handbooks and manuals as well as toolkits to improve quality standards in service delivery.



**WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE**

## **WAVE – STAFF AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **ROSA LOGAR – CHAIRWOMEN OF WAVE**

and founding member of the WAVE network

### **MARIA RÖSSLHUMER – MANAGING DIRECTOR**

of the Austrian Women's Shelter Network – AÖF and WAVE

### **HILARY FISHER – CAHVIO DELEGATE FOR WAVE**

Ms Hilary Fisher from UK is attending the Ad Hoc Committee on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence of the Council of Europe on behalf of WAVE.

### **MIRIAM FREUDENBERG – NETWORK OFFICER**

Ms Freudenberg is responsible for the network's coordination, for dissemination, public relations and the website maintenance.

### **JULIA GIRARDI – LIAISON OFFICER**

Ms Girardi is in charge of conducting various projects for WAVE in cooperation with different feminist NGOs in Europe. She is responsible for the Daphne – Project Joint the Net.

### **HELGA HABERLER – PROJECT ASSISTANT**

Ms Haberler was in charge of the organization and coordination of the 11th WAVE-Conference in September 2009 and the WAVE Coordination Committee Meeting in December 2009, as well as for the study visits and capacitybuilding trainings.





### **CATHERINE JOKSCH – TRANSLATOR AND EDITOR**

Mrs Joksch is responsible for the translation and editing of WAVE publications into and from French, English and German.

### **IRENE MÜLLER – PROJECT ASSISTANT**

Ms Müller was documenting the panels and speeches during the WAVE-Conference and writing an abstract about the history of the WAVE Network.

### **PETRA NEUHOLD – PROJECT ASSISTANT**

Ms Neuhold was responsible for documenting the WAVE conference and drafting its final conclusions.

### **KERSTIN PFEIFER – PROJECT ASSISTANT**

Ms Pfeifer was in charge of the updating of the database and conducting research in the context of the annual WAVE Country Report 2009.

### **REGINA WEBHOFER – PROJECT OFFICER**

Ms Webhofer is in charge of WAVE publications such as the annual Country Report, and conducting projects in the framework of the European Commission's DAPHNE Grant. She was responsible for the Project "Genderworks" and for the bilateral Project in Macedonia.

### **IN 2009, WAVE WAS SUPPORTED BY SEVERAL INTERNS.**

**We cordially thank them for their efforts!**

Julia Kensy, Katharina Brandl, Deniz Kemik, Chiara Paoli, Ilaria Farese Alba Aronica and Ute Rösemann





## WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

### WAVE – DATABASE

WAVE has a huge database which serves as online directory on services for women and children victims of DV in all EU member states (comprising over 4000 women's help organizations including shelters, information and counselling centres, networks for services for women, e.g. connections to lawyers, doctors). The online directory on services provides a platform for detailed and regularly updated information on contact persons in the field. The target groups are victims of violence and/or family members, counsellors of victims of violence, researchers, politicians, academics, NGOs.

The directory is widely requested (around 100,000 visits per month) and hosted on the WAVE website. During the previous Operating Grant (2008) the whole website and directory got restructured. To provide quality resources and services this directory needs regular and continuous updating, also in 2009 as well as in the ongoing years. The effort in the year 2009 was to keep the directory on important country information updated on a regular base.

In order to extend the information on international documents and to ensure that the website contains the latest info, a direct exchange of information with the respective institutions providing the information was launched on the one hand; on the other hand, intensified research on the institutions websites and information platforms guarantees a comprehensive expanding. In this section one may find all kind of documents dealing with the subject of violence against women and children. The files are - due to their multitude - mostly structured by the organisations which published it. There can be found documents of the United Nations as well as documents from the European Union, the Council of Europe, the OSCE and other information providers working in the context of violence against women and children.

### WAVE – WEBSITE

In order to continually improve the access to the website, WAVE installed a user-friendly map of Europe showing all women's help services. The directory has to ensure easy handling for women seeking help as well as safety for the organizations providing these services (e.g. secret addresses of women's shelters).

In order to get quick information on organizations in all participating countries, on services for the above mentioned target groups who are personally or professionally involved, WAVE installed four possibilities to quickly access information:

-  Political Map: One gets information by clicking a country/geographical area
-  Flags: One gets information by clicking the flag or the name of a country
-  List of countries in alphabetical order: One gets information by clicking a link of a country
-  WAVE-Media Gallery with videos, posters and campaigns for VAW
-  Advanced database search: One gets specific information providing the categorization of offered services in the various countries

For progress of work, please take a look at the homepage: <http://www.wave-network.org/>

### FACTS ON WAVE ACTIVITIES & THE WAVE HOMEPAGE:

-  About 100,000 pageviews per month are recorded on average for the WAVE website and its database.

- 👉 Besides the number of regular network requests the WAVE office staff regularly deals with a number of complex domestic violence cases on an international level.
- 👉 Certain documents – like the WAVE manual - are downloaded several hundred times per month.
- 👉 Information on more than 4000 organisations and institutions are available via the website's database.
- 👉 The number of closely associated organisations is 92. More than 4000 organisations receive our constant updates on informations related to domestic violence.
- 👉 Austrian ministries, the OSCE, Unifem, the Council of Europe and the European Commission requested cooperation for international projects.
- 👉 The number of inquiries concerning study visits increased significantly in 2009.
- 👉 More than 200 Participant from 40 Countries attended at the WAVE-Conference 2009 in Vienna
- 👉 WAVE is associated with Focal Points in 47 European countries.
- 👉 WAVE welcomed delegations from Australia, China, Turkey, Hungary, Russia and Macedonia, Serbia among others, and conducted 11 study visits to the WAVE office.
- 👉 WAVE conducted three capacity building trainings in Malta, Spain and Cyprus.
- 👉 WAVE regularly participates in international and European conferences, discussing women's right and the prevention of gender-based violence. Among them were the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women Conference in New York, The Economic Commission for Europe's conference on Beijing+15, the conference on domestic violence organized by Sweden, then holding the EU Presidency of the European Union, a conference on violence against women in Kosovo and Macedonia organized by the Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office, among others.

## ANNUAL **WAVE** CONFERENCE

The annual WAVE conference is an important meeting for all of the 92 network's Focal Points and their partner-organisation in their countries in order to inform themselves, exchange information, and develop common means and strategies as well as to facilitate further co-operations. The goal of the conference is to support and strengthen the staff of the respective organisations. At the conference, all participants should learn from each other. The exchange experience should be profitable and supportive and further strengthen the network. Through the transfer of concrete information (e.g. the use of international campaigns, resolutions for the support of persons affected by violence, implementation strategies in one's own country, establishment of organisations offering protection from violence or establishments for migrants, getting to know the Austrian types of intervention such as the violence protection law/ intervention sites/women's shelters, etc.), the establishment of more effective help- and support structures should be improved. In addition, through personal contacts made at WAVE conferences, long-term co-operations are established, and deepened support for women takes place.





## WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

WAVE conferences take place - according to the principle of rotation – every year in a different European country, in order to evenly divide the costs as well as to make the presence of the European WAVE Network visible and to strengthen and support the member organisations in the respective countries.

### WAVE – CONFERENCE 2009

This year's WAVE Conference took place in Vienna, Austria and lasted 3 days, from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2009. More than 200 Guests and professionals from different fields, national and international politics like the Austrian ministries, EU-Commssion, CoE, UNHCR, UN, The Hague Convention, among others, scientific researchers and members of NGOs coming from more than 40 different countries within Europe, Canada, Mexico and the USA took part in the gathering.

In order to also ensure informal work and exchange of experience and knowledge among network members but at the same time strengthening the participation of the public, the conference was divided into the Public WAVE Conference (24<sup>th</sup> to the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2009) and the WAVE Network Meeting (afternoon of the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2009).

The discussions evolved around several topics which had been identified as crucial in the run up to the conference by the WAVE focal points and the office. Among them were issues like: International law to eliminate violence against women, quality standards in women's services, financial literacy for women NGOs, femicide and gender-based homicide, rights of migrant and refugee women, policies and legislations on violence against women.



### MESSAGE BY RASHIDA MANJOO – UN SPECIAL RAPPARTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

*Good morning honourable delegates,*

*I am really sorry that I am unable to join you for the next few days as you discuss the challenges of effectively addressing violence against women. As noted in the Secretary-General's report 'Ending violence against women – from words to action' (2006 page 28):*

*"Violence against women is both universal and particular. It is universal in that there is no region of the world, no country and no culture in which women's freedom from violence has been secured. The pervasiveness of violence against women across the boundaries of nation, culture, race, class and religion points to its roots in patriarchy – the systemic, domination of women by men. The many forms and manifestations of violence and women's differing experiences of*



*violence point to the intersection between gender-based subordination and other forms of subordination experienced by women in specific contexts.”*

*Despite the existence of provisions on non-discrimination on the basis of sex in formal international legal instruments since 1945 (e.g. the United Nations Charter and the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women), the promotion and protection of women’s human rights remains a challenge. In 1993 the UN General Assembly adopted the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action which stressed that the human rights of women and girl-children are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. This declaration also acknowledged that certain gender specific abuses (e.g. violence against women) constitute violations of women’s human rights and, that states have an obligation to eliminate such abuses. In addition, the 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and the 1994 Commission on Human Rights Resolution to appoint a Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences, represent a political consensus at the UN level to address the challenges of promoting and protecting women’s human rights generally with a particular focus on addressing the pervasive problem of all forms violence against women.*

#### **MANDATE OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR**

*The mandate broadly includes the following:*

- a) Seeking and receiving information on violence against women, its causes and consequences; and responding to such information including via the transmission of urgent appeals and communications to States*
- b) Recommending measures, ways and means to eliminate violence against women, its causes and remedy its consequences, at the national, regional and international levels*
- c) Conducting of fact-finding country visits*
- d) Working with other human rights mechanisms to ensure that they regularly and systematically include in their reports, available information on human rights violation affecting women*
- e) Cooperating with regional intergovernmental organisations and any other organisations and individuals engaged in the promotion of women’s human rights*
- f) Furthering the development of international law in this area, including through the submission of relevant annual thematic reports*
- g) Adopting a comprehensive and universal approach to the elimination of violence against women, its causes and consequences; including causes of violence against women relating to the civil, political, economic, social and cultural spheres.*

*The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women places emphasis on the issue of violence in the family, violence in the community and violence perpetrated or condoned by the state. Over the last fifteen years, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women has evolved at both a conceptual and a practical level. At the conceptual level, the mandate has evolved to capture a wider spectrum of acts as they manifest from the home to the transnational arena i.e. ranging from domestic violence, global trafficking of women, to the impact of globalisation on women. At the practical level, the mandate involves regional networking, implementation of international laws, technical assistance and monitoring of international laws. The current approach emphasises the universality of violence against women, the multiplicity of its forms, the intersectionality of diverse kinds of discrimination against women, and, its linkage to other systems of domination based on inequality and subordination.*

*The protection, promotion and fulfilment of all rights, requires a holistic and intersectional approach. States’ have a responsibility to eliminate violence against women through numerous measures, including through legal and policy frameworks, through a responsive criminal justice system, through the provision of social services and also through economic empowerment policies. The due diligence standard requires States’ to promote the right to be free from*



## WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE



all forms of violence, both private and public; and also to develop and implement prevention, protection, punishment and compensation laws, policies and programs. The Secretary-General's campaign titled "UNiTE to end violence against women" identifies five key outcomes in its Framework of Action. These include:

- 1) The adoption and enforcement of national laws.
- 2) The adoption and implementation of multi-sectoral national plans of action that emphasise prevention and are adequately resourced.
- 3) The establishment of data collection and analysis systems, on the prevalence of various forms of violence against women and girls.
- 4) The establishment of national and/or local campaigns and the engagement of civil society in preventing violence and in supporting women and girls who have been abused.
- 5) The adoption of systematic efforts to address sexual violence in conflict situations and to protect women and girls from rape as a tactic of war, and the full implementation of related laws and policies.

The above outcomes and also the due diligence standard provides us with an opportunity to address impunity and to demand accountability. Holding both state and non-state actors accountable for acts of violence against women is an imperative that cannot be ignored. I wish you well over the course of this conference and look forward to reading the conference report.

Thank you.

**MANJOO Rashida** is the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences since 2009. Unfortunately she couldn't attend at the conference because of an illness, therefore she sent a message to WAVE.

### SILENT WITNESSES:

The Conference's programme was framed by the Silent Witnesses Campaign which aimed at raising awareness on violence against women by commemorating women who were murdered by their partners or former partners. Figures were positioned at the location of the conference, each figure representing a murdered woman, her story and backgrounds; they also represented the large number of killed women whose names and stories might remain unknown and not presented. The aim of the project was to raise awareness on such murders in order to prevent such cases of violence in the future. It also provides information for potentially endangered women on where to get help.





## PRESS CONFERENCE

Local and international press as well as participants from political institutions were invited to participate in the press conference held at the location of the conference before

the conference started. Members of the Panel answering the media's questions were answered by WAVE's panel guests: Carol Hagemann-White, University of Osnabrück, Germany Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek, Federal Minister for Women and Public Administration, Austria Dubravka Šimonovic, Council of Europe, Ad Hoc Committee on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (CAHVIO), and Rosa Logar, Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre Vienna, Austria

## INFORMATION MATERIAL OF POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND INFORMATION BAZAAR

Access to information material from the UN, EU, The Hague Convention, the OSCE and other institutions was made available for all participants partly the information material was brought to the conference by WAVE, partly by the institutions themselves.

In addition to the dense programme of the conference, events in the evening enabled informal networking and exchange of experience as well as discussion strategies for further steps leading into a violence free environment.

Moreover, the organisation of the next WAVE conference will start soon. In 2010, the WAVE conference is planned to be held in Warsaw, Poland.

The conference coordinator and project assistant Helga Haberler was responsible for the conference's entire organisation together with Maria Rösslhumer and Rosa Logar. She edited the conference reader, invited speakers, developed and scheduled the programme for the three conference days and helped to prepare some of the speeches.

The conference was organised and coordinated in cooperation with the Vienna Intervention Centre against Domestic Violence We also want to express our thanks to the supporters of the Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre in Vienna, especially Micheala Krenn and Anja Gruber.

On the evening of 25<sup>th</sup> of September, the WAVE-Conference Participations were invited by the Mayor and Governor of Vienna in the City Hall of Vienna for a Cocktail Reception hosted by Ms Nicole Krotsch, Secretary General of the the Socialdemocartic Women's Organisation in Vienna .



## WAVE – COCO (COORDINATION COMMITTEE) MEETING

Strengthening network communication: WAVE coordinated a 2-day coordination committee meeting of WAVE-focal points and women's help umbrella organizations in order to identify current urgent topics concerning service provision and prevention as well as to plan a structure to address these problems. The meeting took place in Vienna.



## WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

The WAVE Founding Group consisted of representatives of women's organisations from various European countries and regions who are all experts in the field of fighting violence against women. Countries were divided into 17 regions which chose one representative to participate in the CoCo meeting, since WAVE doesn't have enough money to fund a delegate for every country. The WAVE CoCo (Coordination meeting) which is supposed to hold a face to face meeting once a year in the future was installed. It helped intensify the co-ordination and planning for the WAVE Network and its future activities.

To ensure representation from all regions a structure was used that identified 17 regions within the 47 European Countries. One representative of each region had to be nominated by the focal points within the respective regions.

The first WAVE CoCo Meeting took place in Vienna, from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2009, informal discussions dealing with the meetings contents started on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2009, followed by the agreed upon dense schedule of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

Both the pre-communication for and the meeting at WAVE CoCo intensified not only the WAVE Office's relationship with the partner organisations but also the communication and co-operation between our partner organisations.

Additionally the use of new information and communication technologies (ICTs) is planned to strengthen the WAVE network communication: In 2008, a WAVE-mailinglist was set up. It needs to be updated on a regular base, new members included and information spread by the mailing list coming from all focal points and member organisations. The WAVE Conference was also a factor to extend our co-operations to partner organisation in other continents.

## WAVE – REGULAR PUBLICATIONS AND DISSEMINATION

### MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Since May 2007 WAVE started again to issue an electronic newsletter on a regular basis. In 2009, the WAVE newsletter got regularly disseminated each month to all Focal Points as well as several associated women's networks and experts. Through our Focal Points, the newsletter reaches out to women's organisations in 47 European countries. Furthermore, the newsletter is available online and can be downloaded from the WAVE Website at:

<http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?ID=186&b=151>

### FEMPOWER PERIODICAL

WAVE published two new editions of the bi-lingual periodical FEMPOWER in English and French in 2008. The issue no. 13 is dedicated to the UN CEDAW document (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women), the topic of no. 14 deals with perspectives and lessons learned at the women's shelter's world conference 2008 in Canada.

FEMPOWER no. 15 (1/2009) was issued in June 2009 and dealt with **international legal measures to protect children from violence**.

FEMPOWER no. 16 (2/2009) was issued in December 2009 and dealt with **the topic of femicide, which describes gender-based homicides**.

All issues of Fempower can be downloaded at

<http://www.wave-network.org/start.asp?ID=16>



## WAVE-COUNTRY REPORT 2008 UND 2009

The first WAVE Country Report was issued in December 2008 giving a NGO-approved perspective on the available services for women victims of violence in Europe. It reveals the situation on European women services for women survivors of domestic violence and their children from a non-governmental perspective and sheds light on shortcomings as well as best practices in the field of fighting domestic violence.

The second WAVE Country Report 2009 will focus on the rights of migrant women. The research for this report is ongoing and information is gathered in cooperation with the WAVE focal points by means of a comprehensive questionnaire. Fempower and the Country Report are realized thanks to the support within the Daphne Operating Grant 2009.

## 53<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN 2009

The 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women was held at the United Nations headquarters in New York from March 2<sup>nd</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> 2009. The priority theme was the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS. The WAVE delegates Rosa Logar and Miriam Freudenberg participated in this session and registered via our Portuguese focal point AMCV. Currently WAVE applies for a consultative status with the United Nations. The decision process until the status is granted can take up to two years or longer. WAVE established new ties with a lot of international NGOs working in the field of violence against women and maintained a fruitful cooperation with Austria's governmental delegates. Ms Logar and Ms Freudenberg participated in a lot of NGO workshops, engaged in discussions and in drafting NGO statements and followed the official UN sessions closely.

## CAHVIO – COUNCIL OF EUROPE - EUROPEAN CONVENTION FOR ALL FORMS OF VAW

CAHVIO is the acronym for Ad Hoc Committee on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence of the Council of Europe, which gathered for the first time in 2009. Hilary Fisher is participating in the meetings on behalf of WAVE.

The purpose of the meeting was to achieve agreement on an interim report from the CAHVIO committee which is to be presented to the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers in June 2009 for their approval. If approved, the report would form the framework for a convention and subsequent meetings of CAHVIO would then draw up a convention on the basis of the interim report.

During the meeting there was a clear divide regarding the scope of the convention amongst member states. A vocal minority lobbied hard for a convention on all forms of domestic violence, without a gender dimension, there was a much larger group calling for a convention on violence against women including domestic violence.

The definition of domestic violence used by a significant number of member states is gender neutral, therefore covering all forms of violence within the family. The inclusion of family members could threaten the ability of the convention to address the root causes of violence against women in all member states. WAVE is lobbying for a convention which distinctively protects women against domestic violence.



## WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

### WAVE-PARTICIPATION AT THE SWEDISH EU-PRESIDENCY

WAVE delegate Miriam Freudenberg participated in the **Swedish EU Presidency's Expert Conference on Measures and Strategies to Combat Men's Violence against Women** in November 2009.

Delegates from European women NGOs, national ministries for equality, governmental women's shelters, perpetrator programs and other entities were invited to participate in the Swedish Presidency's conference on combating violence against women. The gathering's aim was to focus on working methods, strategies and legislation concerning men's violence against women. Panel discussions, lectures and workshops were arranged to ensure the transferring of knowledge and expertise among the participants.

WAVE brought home a lot of useful contacts. Ms Freudenberg was able to talk to several delegates from Eastern European women NGOs, who are in need of strong support from national and international feminist movements.

Concerning future developments on the EU-level, WAVE hopes that the upcoming Spanish Presidency will not only focus on violence against women, but also continue the important work and further elaborate the outcomes that have already been stated at this occasion.

### WAVE-PARTICIPATION AT THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA

In October and November 2009, WAVE also took part in the **NGO Interactive Roundtable Event and the UN ECE Beijing+15 Regional Review Meeting**. In spring 2010 the 15 year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BfA) will be conducted at the conference on the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations in New York City. The BfA is crucial for the global promotion of women's equality and its review demands careful preparation.

Therefore, the Economic Commission of Europe (ECE) holds a preparatory conference at the United Nations in Geneva every five years. There the document is discussed among member states and delegates from national ministries for equality also give a brief overview of which challenges their countries face and which progress they have made.

Prior to this two-day ECE conference an interactive roundtable event by women's NGOs was organized by the NGO CSW Geneva Committee. The meeting took place from October 30<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>. Every women's NGO from the ECE region can register and send delegates to participate. The overall aim of this meeting is to ensure the transfer of knowledge among NGOs, to build partnerships and to join forces for lobbying.

We wish for the good cooperation with the United Nations to be continued on the next level at the CSW 2010 in New York.

### DAPHNE – OPERATING GRANT 2009

The WAVE Network Activities 2009 were founded by the EU-Commission, the Daphne III Programme 2007-2013 and co-financed by national federal ministries and the Municipality of Vienna.

Due to those grants, WAVE was able to conduct several crucial network activities like updating the database,

organizing the annual WAVE conference, empowering and training cooperating women organizations. Some of these activities will be presented in detail, given they haven't been mentioned in this report before.

Concerning the aim of empowering services for women survivors of domestic violence, WAVE conducted several trainings for feminist NGOs, and two study visits to the WAVE office in Vienna / Austria:

Three tailor-made trainings/capacity building seminars have been held in 3 of the EU -countries. Topics like quality services for women and children victims of violence, multi agency cooperation and training for professionals were covered.

Ute Rösemann, an experienced trainer and a long-time colleague at the Women's Counselling Centre Gladbeck in Germany, Rosa Logar, WAVE-founder and international expert on VAW in Vienna/Austria and Miriam Schär, an expert on United Nations documentation, CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) and CRC (Convention on the Right of the Child) provided the four trainings for different target groups with diverse main focuses and designs, according to the needs of the four participating countries.

The following four **trainings** were planned in Cyprus, Malta, Spain and Slovakia – countries which participated in this year's trainings. Unfortunately, due to a shortage of participants and before the Christmas holiday period, the training in Slovakia could not take place.

### 1. TRAIN THE TRAINER SEMINAR FOR DIFFERENT PROFESSIONALS (CYPRUS)

This seminar was held by Ute Rösemann and took place in Cyprus from 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2009.

The target groups were staff members of institutions combating violence against women who want to learn how to conduct trainings for the police, judicial officers and personnel of youth welfare offices, for persons working in the field of health care, and in the area of education.

The content are focused on didactical knowledge on trainings, scheduling, structuring and design of trainings, how to assemble trainings, what contents to be covered, empowerment of arguments supporting the work on violence against women and children, adjustment and improvement of already existing trainings for different occupational groups, if required, building on present experiences in these areas.

### 2. NETWORKING AND PROGRAMS FOR PERPETRATORS (MALTA)

This seminar was held by Ute Rösemann and took place in Malta from 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2009

The target groups were members of Women-NGOs together with members of governmental organizations, community politicians and other interested persons who want to install a learning program for perpetrators in their community.

The Training was focused on the following questions: What are the prerequisites for perpetrator programs, what is the framework they have to work within, why do women's NGOs have to be involved, are there standards for working with violent men? Introduction of different approaches of programmes, in depth introduction of the DAIP-approach.

### 3. PRO-ACTIVE SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY FOR WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE IN SPAIN

This seminar was held by Rosa Logar and took place in Spain from 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Target groups: women's organisations providing or planning to provide pro-active support to women survivors of violence and their children.



## WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

Content: information on experience with pro-active support (=support that is offered to women actively by contacting them) in Austria; learning about methods and developing skills in pro-active counselling.

### 4. THE UN CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW) AND ITS ROLE IN THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE (SLOVAKIA)

This seminar should have been held by Miriam Schär in Slovakia on the 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2009. Unfortunately, due to a shortage of participants and the Christmas holiday period the training in Slovakia could not take place!

Austrian women's NGOs brought two women's cases before the CEDAW Committee who were murdered by their husbands. The seminar informs about the process, the decisions and the impact of the decisions and is also providing trainings on how to use CEDAW and the Optional Protocol in the work against gender-based violence against women.



Two **study visits** to the WAVE office in Austria/Vienna took place. WAVE organized those events and invited partner organizations and members of different institutions to Austria. Study Visits to other focal points residing in other countries than Austria are, of course, possible and encouraged by the WAVE office. Delegations from Hungary and Estonia participated at this year's study visits.

#### STUDY VISIT HUNGARY:

The study visit of the Hungarian delegation took place from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2009.

The programme for the study visit of the Hungarian delegation with 14 Participations, organized by WAVE in co-operation with Hungarian Focal Point NANE included the following, divided into the 3 days:

##### Day 1:

Within the visit at the office of the Austrian Women's Shelter Network, Austria the WAVE network and Austria's National Women's Helpline against Violence were presented.

Among other issues the study visit focussed on the quality and quantity standards of women's shelters in Austria and Europe, comparing the different standards and quantities and introducing methods for improving standards.

##### Day 2:

One women's shelter within Vienna was visited and introduced by an expert working at the women's shelter. Subsequently at the Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre Vienna, both the institution and the Austrian Protection Laws against violence were introduced to the participants.

##### Day 3:

The White Ribbon and Men Counselling Centre in Vienna welcomed our delegates and introduced their Anti-Violence-Programmes for perpetrators.

The participants were supposed to hand in questions/issues of interest before the study visit took place to assure that the needs of the participants in relation with their respective work fields could be considered and included in the study visit's programme.

Much effort was spent on designing enough space for raising questions coming from the Hungarian participants and discussions building mutual understanding and learning. The languages used during the study visits were Hungarian, English and German.

## STUDY VISIT ESTONIA:

The study visit of the Estonian delegation took place from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2009. The programme for the study visit was divided into 3 days:

### Day 1:

Within the meeting at the Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre Vienna, both the institution and the Austrian Protection Laws against violence were introduced to the participants. In addition Austrian training programmes aiming towards trainings for the police and perpetrators were shown to the Estonian delegation and the participants were educated about such training programmes. Subsequently, at the office of the Austrian Women's Shelter Network, Austria the WAVE network and Austria's National Women's Helpline against Violence, three sub-organisations of the Austrian Women's Shelter Network (its Information Centre, the Women's Helpline and the WAVE Office) were presented to the guests.

### Day 2:

At the Austrian Ministry of Justice, Departments of Penal Legislation and Civil Legislation, a meeting was held by experts explaining the Penal/Criminal Law and the Civil Law in Case of Domestic Violence in Austria.

At the following location of the study visit, a policy station, the Austrian protection law against violence was explained. Additionally, the police reported about its practical work with victims of violence.

### Day 3:

Subsequently, the Austrian Ministry of Justice, Department of Education, welcomed our guests. The campaign "16-days of Activism against Gender based Violence" accompanying the International day against Violence against Women (25<sup>th</sup> of November) was introduced, strategies explained and discussed. The study visit also accepted the invitation to the press conference related to the exhibition "Behind the facade" (dealing with domestic violence, violence within the family)

## GENDERWORKS - PROGRESS: A NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH OXFAM IN GREAT BRITAIN

From December 2007 to December 2009 three European partner organizations Oxfam GB (UK), Lamoro (Italy) and WAVE (Austria) will carry out a PROGRESS project together funded by the European Commission: „GenderWorks: Mainstreaming and Communicating Gender Equality in Anti Poverty and Inclusion Strategies“.

The official start of this two years project was Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> 2007.

The general aim of the project is to strengthen a gender mainstreaming and women's perspective in the discussion about poverty and social inclusion within the European Union as well as on national level in Austria, Italy and the UK. Concerning this, one goal is also to include a gender perspective into the Nation Action Plans (NAPs) 2008-09 on social inclusion and an aim of WAVE/AÖF is especially to highlight the high poverty risk of women affected by violence and their children.

Domestic violence and violence against women is a matter of social inclusion and social protection, but it is not mentioned in most NAPs. At the same time domestic violence and poverty are often overlap with one another in various ways: Women who have to leave their home often run the high risk of retiring into poverty, homelessness, situations for single parent women being especially difficult and access to the job market often difficult. Especially women experiencing multiple forms of discrimination and violence, like migrant or elderly women for instance are seriously affected by poverty.





## WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE



Domestic violence should therefore be mentioned in the NAPs. Social protection for women is to be ensured preventively, in situation of crisis (e.g. through legislation, like banning orders, support of women's shelters in order that services can be provided for free during crisis) as well as afterwards (housing, transition apartments, access to social welfare, to the health care system and labour market, etc.). This support should be given to every woman affected by violence. The topic of DV should be connected to budget lines within the NAPs.

In order to highlight the situation of women affected by violence and poverty in Austria and on a European level, AÖF/WAVE has carried out the following activities within the GenderWorks Project in 2009:

- WAVE has collected expertise regarding the topic of violence against women and poverty by the facilitation of six national expert meetings in order to share good practice examples and lessons learned regarding violence against women and poverty as well as
- to publish a report on VAW and poverty: Report on the Poverty Risks of Women Affected by Violence and their Children in Austria. The Report was introduced and presented within the frame of an event of AURORA - (EU-Project Progress) in Graz/ Austria on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2009.
- the expert meetings also aimed at influencing the NAP and its implementation in Austria regarding gender mainstreaming, women's issues and violence against women. This was done by writing policy papers concerning the NAP and getting involved in the drafting and implementation of the NAP on social inclusion
- WAVE exchanged the expertise on violence against women and poverty on three international practice exchange meetings (IPE Vienna, IPE Asti: 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> February 2009, IPE Glasgow, 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2009).
- WAVE organised a workshop at the WAVE Conference 2009 on the issue of Violence Against Women and poverty. In this way, the WAVE Network was informed about the 2010 European Year against poverty and social exclusion. WAVE Focal Points were encouraged to carry out activities in order to raise awareness on VAW and poverty and on the importance to support and establish independent women's NGO working in this field. Additionally, it was agreed that VAW and poverty will be a main issue to be discussed also at the WAVE Conference 2010 which will take place in Warsaw / Poland in 2010.
- WAVE participated at the GenderWorks lobbying activity at the EU-Parliament in Brussels from 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2009, thereby highlighting the issue on Violence Against Women and Poverty. The visit at the European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN) and the information exchange regarding the activities of EAPN carried out within the European year 2010 against poverty and social exclusion is used by WAVE to actively contribute to this year.
- WAVE was also involved in the creation of the DVD of the GenderWorks Tool Kit. There WAVE introduces the very successful Austrian exhibition "Behind the Facade". On the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2009, WAVE representatives also participated in the GenderWorks Roadshow in London at the Women's Library, (London Metropolitan University), where the GenderWorks Tool Kit was officially presented.

During the project, WAVE distributed all learning, findings, products and results of the GenderWorks project within the WAVE network. Additionally, WAVE Focal Points and WAVE experts have been also actively involved into the project such as Casa Delle Donne from Italy.

## **BILATERAL PROJECT MACEDONIA – PREVENTION AND ELIMINATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN MACEDONIA DECEMBER 2007 - DECEMBER 2009**

Macedonia as a non-EU-member state has ratified the CEDAW Convention and its additional protocol. Despite the fact that there is a legislation on DV in place, the grave economic and social situation of the citizens, the presently high rate of unemployment, the deeply embedded patriarchal values and the incomplete functional system for the protection of DV, victims still pose an increased risk of its existence to a great extent.

WAVE was approached by the Austrian Ministry of Social Affairs and asked to manage a two-year-project with the title “End domestic violence in Macedonia” with a special focus on the prevention of domestic violence and evaluation of the current situation of women’s shelters in Macedonia as well as improving the interministerial cooperation and implementation of the national action plan on domestic violence. The official start of the project is December 1<sup>st</sup> 2007, with a Kick Off meeting including all stakeholders involved in the project in January 2008. The official implementing partners of the project are the Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of the Republic of Macedonia, ESE and the WAVE network. In 2008, WAVE experts (Dr. Birgitt Haller, Institute of Conflict Research (IKF), Maria Rösslhumer, Regina Webhofer) participated in 4 meetings for the preparation of a joint protocol within the inter-ministerial workgroups. According to the Shelter Visit in Nov. 2008, a questionnaire for the evaluation of existing shelters in Macedonia was compiled by WAVE in February 2009.



As further project miles, three training seminars for relevant professional groups have been carried out. The 1st training was held by Maria Rösslhumer and Regina Webhofer in Skopje from 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2009. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2009 a press conference was organised to announce the opening of the ESE counselling centre for women survivors of violence another project activity of “End domestic violence in Macedonia”. The conference was addressed by Mr. Dgelaj Bajrami, Minister of Labour and Social Policy of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Further speakers at the press conference were: H.E. Alois Kraut, the Ambassador of Austria in R.M., representatives from ESE Jasminka Friscik and Maria Rösslhumer from WAVE from Austria as main implementing partners of this initiative.



The 2nd training for professionals was held by Austrian Expert Raina Ruschmann (Samara) in Ohrid from 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2009, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> training was held by the Austrian Expert Sandra Messner in Stip from 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2009. The training seminar for shelter staff was carried out by Maria Rösslhumer and took place in Skopje on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2009.

Within the project “End domestic violence in Macedonia” two additional project activities were organised and carried out by WAVE. Firstly, on the initiative of WAVE and supported by Mag. Gero Stuller (Sozialattaché of the Austrian Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection of Croatia and Macedonia) the rental charges of the Crisis Centre Hope in Skopje are now covered by the Municipality of Gazi Baba. Secondly, supported by the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns - Der Österreichische Städtebund and by Mag. Harald Fugger from the Austrian Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, WAVE organized and carried out a 3 day Study Visit for experts from Macedonia working in the field of domestic violence. Part of the agenda were: visit at the Austrian



## WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

Women Shelter Network, the Austrian Women's Helpline and WAVE, visiting a Viennese Women Shelter, a Police station, the Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre Vienna, White Ribbon Austria, and getting an introduction on the Austrian perpetrator program at the Men's Counselling Centre.

### **PROTRAIN –**

#### **IMPROVING MULTI-PROFESSIONAL AND HEALTH CARE TRAINING IN EUROPE – BUILDING ON GOOD PRACTICE IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION, 2007-2009**

The project started in 2007 and continues until 2009. It aims at strengthening violence prevention by developing a framework multi-sectoral training programme based on promising practice and designed for key professionals involved in domestic violence prevention and/or services. The programme will offer a specific training module for health care professionals. Tasks:

- (1) develop good practice criteria for multi professional training
- (2) map training materials for health care providers, primarily train-the-trainer and multi-professional programmes
- (3) review and analyse material, identify promising and verified good practice
- (4) develop new directions for multi-professional training, emphasising modules for the health care sector
- (5) pilot test the programme/programme tests in existing community level networks in 7 EU countries and evaluate it
- (6) revise, peer review and disseminate the programme for adaption, especially in countries where training concepts and material are unavailable.

The project's expected results are:

a) good practice criteria catalogue of European training programmes on DV, b) an inventory of existing training materials/programmes for health care professionals/train-the-trainer and multi-professional programmes, c) a framework for a multi-professional training programme, including a specific module for health care professionals and a peer reviewed model for future adaptation and replication in EU-countries, d) a final programme presentation in English and the translation of its essential framework in 6 languages for download on the website and on CD-Rom.

### **COOPERATION WITH TURKEY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF “EUROPEAN INSTRUMENT FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS” (EIDHR) TURKEY PROGRAMME 2009**

#### **PROJECT ON BUILDING BRIDGES FOR PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ON GOOD PRACTICE IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION, 2007-2009**

The application by Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation for the 'Project on Building Bridges for Prevention of Violence Against Women' has been approved by the Delegation of the European Commission to Turkey under the 'European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) Turkey Programme 2009' in November 2009. This project has received funding within the framework of Europe Aid. The duration of the Project is 14 months.

In this Project WAVE has been a partner of Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation together with Izmir Women Solidarity Association and Van Women's Association since November 2009. The project has two main objectives; increasing



the support that women receive from the shelters in Turkey and expanding the sharing of information and experience among the solidarity centres, Social Services and Child Protection Agency and the relevant units of the municipalities. The main activities of the project are the following:

-  Organizing training of trainers (ToT) programmes for social workers and volunteers together with WAVE, Turkish Psychological Association and Turkish Association of Social Workers,
-  Strengthening the consultancy and shelter services of Mor Çatı, Van Women's Association and İzmir Women Solidarity Association,
-  Publishing bulletins, monitoring reports and preparing a website to share the practices related to the struggle against violence towards women,
-  Organizing an international symposium.

WAVE will support the project partners mainly in capacity building activities. WAVE will provide experts on DV like trainers in training of trainers programmes for social workers and volunteers and produce training materials and publications on DV by its experts. WAVE will also provide support for organizing an international symposium in Istanbul by the participation of officials of ministries, governors, shelter and counselling centres personnel, experts on DV, academics, media representatives and students in this field. In this regard, WAVE's support will be in terms of developing the conceptual framework of the symposium and identifying the key note speakers who are prominent experts in the field of DV. WAVE will also contribute to the Project by sharing the best practices of European countries and providing information about the international developments and activities in the field of DV.

## **WAVE COOPERATES WITHIN EU-RUSSIA PROGRAMME – TEAATA 2008-2009**

This project is concerned with the empowerment of and awareness-raising among young Russian women in order to eliminate violence against women.

In Russia the rate of gender-based violence is very high. One out of four young women have experienced sexual violence or attempted rape and one out of three woman suffer from physical violence by their husbands. Although the Russian government signed the CEDAW Convention and Russia's constitution stipulates equal rights of women and men, Russian women are facing severe violations of their rights. Therefore it is very important that women know their rights, build self-confidence and insist on equal opportunities and their right to a life free of violence.

The general goal of the TEAATA-project funded by the European Commission is to empower young women, encourage commitment in the field of VAW and awaken their interest in broader women's issues in order to strengthen the women's movement in Russia. The TEAATA project will be carried out by ANNA in co-operation with WAVE in 2009 and 2010. 90 female students from three Russian cities will be trained in Empowerment Schools to enable them to take an active role in building civil society. Women Student Task Force Groups will be created where they act as multipliers and involve other young women in efforts to eliminate VAW. With the support of ANNA and WAVE this Task Force Groups will organise and conduct educational campaigns and design a website on the issue of gender-based violence.

In a study trip to Austria a group of young women learned more about Europe's best practice models in the field of VAW. They will have the possibility to establish links with young European women as well.

## JOIN THE NET

JoinTheNet (IV) All Over Europe - Dissemination of material for education and training on health symptoms caused by violence (PTSD).

This is already the 4th successful project proposed by the Therapeutische Frauenberatung e.V. Göttingen dealing with the therapeutic aspects of post traumatic stress symptoms. The focus of this particular project is to disseminate and adapt the already successful material for PTSD into 6 further languages and train a total of 1600 people. Moreover, an international network for PTSD is started, which will be linked to the WAVE network. Moreover, specialized trauma services will be researched by the network and included into the WAVE database for services.

At the first project conference on May 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 2009 in Göttingen, Julia Girardi of WAVE is going to hold a workshop on networking. The next and final meeting of this project is going to be in Ljubljana January 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 2010. Topics will be to finalize the homepage, and to discuss the next steps. Once the homepage is finished, it will be linked from the starting page of the WAVE website.

## ALREADY EXISTING AND HIGHLY REQUESTED WAVE PRODUCTS COULD BE REPRINTED AND REPRODUCED

-  WAVE-Manual: Bridging Gaps – From good intentions to good cooperation – Manual for effective multi-agency cooperation in tackling domestic violence - (Daphne Program 2004).
-  WAVE-Manual: Away from Violence – Guidelines for setting up and running a women’s shelter - (Daphne Program 2004); English and German version.
-  IMPROVE-WAVE-Training Manual for improving quality Services for Victims of Domestic Violence - (Improve: Daphne Program 2006).
-  WAVE-Training Manual on CDs: Improve – Quality Services For Victims of Domestic Violence (Improve: Daphne Program 2006).
-  WAVE-Information Folder.
-  Country Report 2008
-  Country Report 2009



## DELEGATIONS & STUDY VISITS TO THE WAVE OFFICE

Study Visit from Macedonia: 5. - 9. July 2009

Delegation from Serbia: 8. - 9. September 2009

Study Visit from Australia 13. - 14. October 2009

Delegation from Russia: 7. July 2009

Delegation from Tajikistan: 22. July

Delegation from Bulgaria, Romania, Albania: 6. November 09

Delegation from Turkey: 20. November 09

Study Visit from Hungary: 21. - 23. October 2009

Study Visit from Estonia: 23. - 25. November 2009

Delegation from China: 2. December 2009



## TRAININGS

 Malta: 24.,25.,26. November 2009

 Spain: 19.,20.,21. November 2009

 Cyprus: 9., 10., 11. November 2009

 Slovakia: had to be cancelled

## PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

**UN CSW Conference** in New York in February and March 2009

**GenderWorks Meeting in Asti/Italy:** 26. - 27. February 2009, IPE (International Practice Exchange)

**GenderWorks Meeting in Glasgow:** 30. - 29. June 2009, IPE (International Practice Exchange - Policy Influencing and Lobbying in a European Context)

**GenderWorks Meeting in Brussels:** 10. - 12. November 2009; Lobbying activity at the EU-Parliament on Violence Against Women and Poverty, visit at the European Anti Poverty Network, etc.

**GenderWorks Meeting in London:** 19. November 2009; Roadshow London, The Women's Library, London Metropolitan University, Presentation of GenderWorks Tool Kitt

**GenderWorks Presentation in Graz/Austria:** 26. November 2009; Presentation of the Report on the Poverty Risks of Women Affected by Violence and their Children in Austria within the frame of an event of AURORA - (EU-Project Progress)



## WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

Seminar in Malta on “**Integrated Approach to Domestic Violence**”, organized by the Commission on Domestic Violence, 20. November 2009

**ECE-Conference in Geneva**, Switzerland: 30. October - 3. November 2009

**EU-Presidency in Stockholm**, Sweden: 9. November 2009

**OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Gender Equality with a Focus on Violence Against Women:** 5. - 6. November 2009 in Vienna

**Conference in Valencia/Spain:** The Conference with the title “**Europe Against Gender Violence**” Organized by the City Government of Valencia 25. November 2009

## SAVE – SISTERS AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

Solidarity Account for Women’s Shelters Initiatives in Eastern Europe

At the specialist symposium, „30 Years Women’s Shelters Movement in Europe“, on 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2002, financial support for the colleagues in the Eastern European neighbouring states was initiated by staff members of Austrian women’s shelters.

### THE GOAL OF **SAVE**

SAVE supports service and counselling centres that help women and children affected by violence. SAVE tries to offer support until public authorities in these states assume their responsibility and guarantee financial support themselves for these establishments.

### WE HELP BECAUSE:

-  Violence against women and children is a human rights violation
-  Violence represents a severe threat to physical and psychological health
-  Violence against women and children affect everyone
-  Women’s organizations, above all in Eastern- and South Eastern Europe, still do not receive any governmental financial support, although they efficiently and professionally combat violence against women and children.

IN 2009, THE WAVE SAVE DONATIONS WERE AWARDED TO THE NGO WOMEN’S HOTLINE IN LITHUANIA.  
**THANKS TO ALL DONORS!**

The Association of Autonomous Austrian Women’s Shelters, in concern to this, has established an account for financial support:

**SAVE – Sisters Against Violence Europe**

Bank Austria/CA

BLZ (Bank Code Number): 12000

Account No.: 00610782047

In the name of Association Autonomous Austrian Women’s Shelters/SAVE

Contact and monitoring of the Account: Tel. +43/1/548 27 20 or Tel. +43/1/5440820



**WAVE Network & European Info Centre Against Violence**

**Bacherplatz 10 / 4, 1050 Vienna, Austria**

**phone: +43-(0)1-5482720**

**fax: +43-(0)1-5482720-27**

**ZVR:187612774**

**e-mail: [office@wave-network.org](mailto:office@wave-network.org)**

**[www.wave-network.org](http://www.wave-network.org)**

**WAVE**