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January 2014

WAVE is the only European network focusing solely on the elimination of violence against women and children. We hope that you will join us in supporting our work and take part in advocating for the human rights of women throughout Europe and worldwide!

In this month's newsletter you will find WAVE Network news as well as information about events taking place on a European level and new publications in the field of violence against women and gender equality.

Support WAVE's Public Presence and Outreach

In addition to lobbying, attending conference, as well as conducting press work and regularly disseminating information, in the last few years, WAVE has been focusing on social media as a way to get out the message and promote involvement of others in the women's rights movement. If you haven't already done so, please become a [friend of WAVE](#) [2] and [like our page](#) [3] and spread the word to others! Thank you for your support!

All the best from the WAVE team in Vienna!





WAVE NEWS

WAVE Focal Point ASPACIA wins the first prize of the Young Advertising Journalism Awards for its campaign against rape



In January, WAVE Focal Point in Spain ASPACIA (Asociación para la convivencia) received the first prize of the Young Advertising Journalism Awards (in the Advertising category) for its campaign #NomeansNo: sexual violence is also gender-based violence. The Awards, granted by the Youth Institute of the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality, aimed at encouraging initiatives to address the issue of gender-based violence using different communication and advertising methods. Among the different categories were Print Journalism, Digital Journalism, Journalism and Media (Radio and

Television), Graphic, Short Film, and Advertising. Delivering a powerful message in an original format, ASPACIA's #NomeansNo campaign video is a call to all members of the society, to bring awareness to the issue of sexual violence as a form of violence predominantly affecting women and girls, and to break the silence that too often surrounds the victims of sexual abuse. ASPACIA's campaign video is available on [youtube](#) [4].

The WAVE Network takes part in the European mobilization against the Spanish anti-abortion bill

In the framework of the Europe-wide mobilization against the anti-abortion bill put forward by the current conservative government in Spain, the WAVE Network has been showing its support by disseminating information on the various events and initiatives taking place across Europe through its social media. The network also recently took part in a Protest Mail-action, and it encourages everyone to contribute to its dissemination by forwarding the following [message](#) [5] to members of the Spanish government, embassies and consulates, as well as members of the Spanish delegations to international and European Institutions.

Members of the WAVE Network to attend the 58th CSW in March 2014, in New York

For the second consecutive year, members of the WAVE Network will be attending the CSW meeting, taking place in New York. This year's fifty-eight session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place from the 10th to the 21st of March 2014 at the United Nations Headquarters. The delegation will include members from WAVE Focal Points in the United Kingdom (The Haven Wolverhampton), Macedonia (National Council for Gender Equality), Italy (D.I.Re), Armenia (Women's Rights Centre), the Netherlands (Federatie Opvang), Montenegro (SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Niksic), Spain (Asociación para la Convivencia ASPACIA), as well as from the Global Network of Women's Shelters. The delegation will also include members of the WAVE office in Vienna. The priority theme of this year's Commission on the Status of Women will be the 'Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls'. The review theme will be on 'Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work'.



FRA Survey - 'Violence against women across the EU: Abuse at home, work, in public and online'



On 5 March, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights



(FRA) will present the findings from the world's largest survey on violence against women at the high-level conference "Violence against women across the EU: Abuse at home, work, in public and online".

The event will take place at the Council of the European Union in Brussels. The survey findings draw on face-to-face interviews with 42,000 women across the EU's 28 Member States. Women were asked about their experiences of physical, sexual and psychological violence, childhood victimisation, sexual harassment and stalking, including new media for abuse such as the internet. Hosted by FRA and the Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the EU, the conference will bring together decision makers and practitioners to discuss the findings and their importance for EU and national policy makers. About 250 representatives from EU institutions and bodies, international organisations, national governments and parliaments, national human rights bodies and civil society are expected to attend. For those who cannot attend but would like to follow the proceedings, the entire half-day event will be streamed live. For more information please consult the [conference website](#) [6] or contact FRA at conferences@fra.europa.eu [7]. A press briefing ahead of the official launch of the survey findings will take place on 4 March at 15h also at the Council. For further information, please contact media@fra.europa.eu [8].

Ongoing: 'ISIGN: Implementation of the Convention against violence towards women'

Launched in November 2013 at the onset of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, the 'Isign' campaign has garnered visibility in the different countries where it has been implemented, including in Austria. The campaign forms part of the 'Coordinated Efforts: Toward new European standards in protection of women from gender-based violence' project, coordinated by WAVE Focal Point for Serbia, the Autonomous Women's Center (AWL). Are taking part in the campaign: two WAVE Focal points from Macedonia (the National Council for Gender Equality - NCGE) and Slovenia (the Association SOS Helpline for Women and Children), one organization from Bosnia and Herzegovina (United Women Banja Luka - UWBL), one from Croatia (the Center for Women Victims of War: ROSA). The European Women's Lobby (EWL) is also an associate partner. One of the main



focuses of the 'Coordinated Efforts' project is the realization of democracy, Human Rights, social inclusion and thus, the harmonization with the values promoted by the European Union and to further promote the Council of European Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention). Support the 'ISIGN' campaign! Go on the [campaign website](#) [9] and sign to support the implementation of the Istanbul Convention! Change is only possible if we work together!

'Raped and Deported: female victims of sexual violence with an irregular migrant status' – the campaign launched by ASPACIA in Spain



WAVE Focal Point in Spain ASPACIA (Asociación para la convivencia) recently launched its campaign 'Raped and Deported: female victims of sexual violence with an irregular migrant status'. The campaign aims at shedding the light on the painful situation of undocumented migrant women who are survivors of sexual violence in Spain. It also aims at contributing to the effective protection of all victims of sexual violence, regardless of their legal status. It further sends an urgent call to the Spanish government to make the fight against sexual violence a priority

within a gender-based framework. Information on the campaign are available in English on the campaign website at <http://violadasyexpulsadas.org/english.html> [10]. These include an executive summary of the campaign, with information on the general obstacles faced by undocumented migrant women survivors of sexual violence, as well as recommendations from ASPACIA. The website also includes a video-documentary, subtitled in English.

'The Silence in Her Eyes' - the Romanian band Taxi's video campaign against violence against women, supported by WAVE

This month, to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the Romanian band Taxi launched its campaign against violence against women with the song 'The Silence in Her Eyes'. WAVE's

Focal Point in Romania, A.L.E.G., is also a sponsor of the campaign. The project was largely applauded in Romania and the song's video, available online on YouTube, has gathered around 300.000 views in the first three days. To watch the campaign video on YouTube, please click [here](#) [11].

International News

In Scotland, forced marriage is to become a criminal offence

The Scottish Parliament recently backed a legislative consent motion allowing UK legislation criminalizing forced marriage to be applicable in Scotland. Forced marriage is currently and still not recognized as a criminal offense in Scotland, where courts can nonetheless issue protection orders to those at risk (the breach of which can lead to a two-year prison sentence). The Westminster legislation will make it a criminal offense for a person 'to use violence, threats or any other form of coercion to force another person into marriage - with this offence having a maximum custodial sentence of seven years'. Without criminalizing forced marriage, Scotland risks failing to comply with the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, as the Convention requires states to make the practice a criminal offense. To read the whole article, click [here](#) [12].

The General Council of Andorra ratifies the Istanbul Convention

On 23rd January, the General Council of the Principality of Andorra approved the ratification of the Istanbul Convention. The instrument of ratification will soon be deposited at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, from which moment on Andorra will become the eighth member state of the Council of Europe to have both signed and ratified the convention. Adopted in 2011, the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (or Istanbul Convention) requires the ratification of 10 states members of the Council of Europe to come into force. With seven countries ratifying the convention last year, the Principality of Andorra will bring the number of ratifications to nine. When enforced, the Istanbul Convention will provide for state obligations to prevent gender-based violence, protect and support victims, prosecute and punish perpetrators.

In Spain, the restrictions on abortion rights brought forth by Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy meet important opposition

Recently presented by the conservative government of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, the bill on restricted abortion rights has been meeting important resistance from the society in Spain, but also in several European cities where protests and supporting initiatives have been organized in the last weeks. The bill, which restricts abortion only to cases of rape or grave danger posed to the health of the mother, as determined by two independent medical professionals, is the most important step back taken by the conservative government in terms of social and reproductive rights of women. Mobilisation and support protests have been organized all across Europe, with initiatives such as European-level petitions to the Spanish government, protests in front of the Spanish embassies in Paris and Brussels, as well as important media and social media mobilisation. Left-wing parties of the European Parliament have also joined forces to oppose the restrictions in the Spanish law.

New Research & Publications

ARROW publishes the ARROW Resource Kit (ARK), based on lessons learnt by the organization over the past 20 years

The Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW) recently published the ARROW Resource Kit (ARK). The publication is 'a compilation of some of ARROW's most effective governance and management tools and resources that have been developed by the organization over the past 20 years'. It compiles information on the organization's history, development and lessons learnt, and aims at providing a condensed account of what has worked, and why, the challenges faced and how they were overcome, what tools were used to strengthen and support its work as a regional women's network. The Resource Kit is intended for professionals working in women's and sexual and reproductive health and rights movements, as well as for leaders and managers working in women's movement or movement-based organisations. The publication may also be useful for scholars and organizational development practitioners interested to learn

about 'one women's NGO journey towards more effective organisational governance and management'.
Download the [ARROW Resource Kit](#) [13] (ARK).

'Neglect, Abuse and Violence against Older Women', a new publication by the UN-DESA

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), together with its focal point on ageing in the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD), recently published a document titled 'Neglect, Abuse and Violence against Older Women'. The publication aims at presenting an overview of the current state of knowledge about abuse of older women. Different forms of abuse are looked at, including neglect, physical, sexual and psychological abuse, financial abuse and exploitation and self-neglect. The publication also discusses the challenges associated to establishing prevalence rates on abuse of older women; it identifies risk factors and provides a summary of study findings on the consequences of abuse. Furthermore, it provides an overview of preventive measures (plus findings on their effectiveness) for addressing the issue, and it examines the main approaches to combatting violence against older women, as well as key interventions (policies and programmes) and their effectiveness. Download the 60-pages [UN-DESA document](#) [14].



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Links:

- [1] <http://www.wave-network.org/>
- [2] <https://www.facebook.com/WAVE.network?fref=ts>
- [3] <https://www.facebook.com/pages/WAVE-Network/100277033374347?ref=ts&fref=ts>
- [4] <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Wz7OBshaHI&feature=youtu.be>
- [5] <http://www.wave-network.org/sites/default/files/Protest%20Mail-action.pdf>
- [6] <http://fra.europa.eu/en/vaw-2014>
- [7] <mailto:conferences@fra.europa.eu>
- [8] <mailto:media@fra.europa.eu>
- [9] <http://www.potpisujem.org>
- [10] <http://violadasyexpulsadas.org/english.html>
- [11] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKmuUDQdcXc>

- [12] <http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/holyrood-backs-forced-marriage-law-1.182450>
- [13] <http://arrow.org.my/download/ARK4web-small2.pdf>
- [14] <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/ageing/neglect-abuse-violence-older-women.pdf>
- [15] <http://wavenetwork.createsend1.com/t/t-1-cituil-1-ju/>
- [16] <http://wavenetwork.createsend1.com/t/t-1-cituil-1-tl/>
- [17] <http://wave-network.org/newsletter/women-against-violence-europe-newsletter>