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February 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

Fundamental Rights Agency Survey-Violence against Women across the EU: Abuse at home, work, in public and online' - findings presented in Vienna, Austria



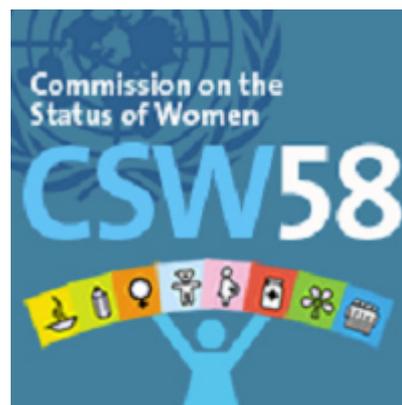
Following a presentation at the Council of the EU at the Justus Lipsius building of the Council of the EU, the FRA survey was also presented in Vienna to share the results of the biggest survey on gender-based violence ever carried out in Europe. The presentation occurred at the House of the European Union on the 6th of March with the participation of Joanna Goodey (Head of Freedoms and Justice Department at FRA), Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek (Minister of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs), Ulrike Lunacek (Head of Delegation of the Austrian Greens in the European Parliament), Rosa Logar (Executive Director of the Domestic Abuse Intervention Program Vienna), and Maria Roesslhuber (Executive Director of the Austrian Autonomous Women's Shelters). For more information about the program, click [here](#) [4]

WAVE Focal Points SAFE Ireland and Rape Crisis Network Ireland organize a seminar for the launch of the FRA EU-wide survey on Violence against Women

On the 5th of March, SAFE Ireland in association with the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, the National Women's Council of Ireland and Rape Crisis Network Ireland, co-hosted a seminar coinciding with the launch of the FRA Survey. This seminar included the presentation of findings from this groundbreaking EU study combined with emerging Irish research on violence against women, and an initial analysis of the data on the prevalence and nature of violence against women in Ireland. For more information, please click [here](#) [5]

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

Members of the WAVE Network are currently attending the CSW meeting, taking place in New York. This year's fifty-eight session of the Commission on the Status of Women is taking place from the 10th to the 21st of March 2014 at the United Nations Headquarters. The delegation includes 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 Opgang), Montenegro (SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Niksic), Spain (Asociacion para la Convivencia ASPACIA), as well as from the Global Network of Women's Shelters. The delegation also includes staff of the WAVE office in Vienna. The priority theme of this year's Commission on the Status on 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'.



One Billion Rising Campaign in Austria



ONE BILLION RISING FOR JUSTICE is a global call to women survivors of violence and others to gather in community outside places representing justice or simply public places where



women deserve to feel safe but too often do not. It is a call to survivors to break the silence and release their stories politically, spiritually and why

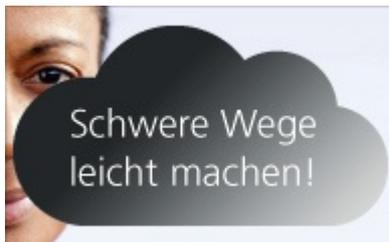
not? outrageously through art, dance, marches, ritual, song, spoken word, testimonies or whatever they feel is right. The aim is to pay attention to the fact that violence against women is a violation of human rights affecting society. To know more about the campaign, visit the website of [One Billion Rising](#) [6] This year, for the second time (after the first gathering in 2013), the NGO Austrian Autonomous Women's Shelters (AOEF) contributed to the campaign by organizing an event with musicians, singers, dancers and speakers, who danced in front of the Austrian Parliament on the 14th of February 2014. Moreover, in celebration of the world-wide V-Day, the song titled 'Why?' was recorded written by singer-songwriter Maria Stern, to also serve as Austria's contribution to the One Billion Rising campaign around the world. The music/text of the song was donated to AOEF by Maria Stern. The audio recording and the video clip of the song were presented at the Austrian Parliament on V-day 2014, you can find it [here](#) [7].

One Billion Rising Campaign - WAVE Focal Points Rise for Justice

Many of our Focal Points took part in the campaign as well, organizing various events to raise awareness and stand against gender-based violence.

Some of the initiatives are the following: in Georgia about 150 people joined the activism, danced, performed and sang during the activities carried out by the WAVE Focal Point Cultural-Humanitarian Fund Sukhumi Kutaisi, that also organized 12 meetings in 6 schools of Western Georgia. In Portugal, the campaign was co-organized by Lisbon V-Day with Lisbon Municipality and with the support of members of the Portuguese National Parliament, the governmental entity for gender equality and the numerous NGOs, among which was the WAVE Focal Point UMAR - Associacao de Mulheres Contra a Violencia. In the UK, staff and volunteers from The Haven Wolverhampton had a stand within a local shopping centre and invited people (women and men) to write their definition of What love is ... and What love is not ... on pink heart shaped pieces of paper. A press release was sent out to the local media and the initiative received coverage in newspapers and a radio channel. Information on different initiatives around the world can be seen on the website of [One Billion Rising](#) [8].

Conclusion of the German Campaign 'Schwere Wege leicht machen'



From March to November 2013, the network organizations of German women's shelter ZIF (Zentrale Informationsstelle Autonomer Frauenhaeuser) and FHK e.V. (Frauenhauskoordination e.V.) carried out a nationwide campaign called 'Schwere Wege leicht machen' : translated as 'Make a difficult path easier', which was aimed at politicians participating in the upcoming national elections to improve access to services for women survivors of violence. The main point of the campaign was to ensure that action would be taken to change the often difficult and lengthy process women survivors of violence must go

through before receiving placement at a women's shelter, calling on the state to take on the financial support of women's shelters as a legal obligation to ensure properly equipped, well trained and expert personnel working with women and their children.

Throughout the campaign, signatures from women's shelters and all other supporters were collected on post cards as well as paper and online lists and then delivered to the Parliament and the government with the following text: 'Violence against women is the most common human rights violation worldwide'. On the 13th of March 2014, WAVE Focal Point (Zentrale Informationsstelle Autonomer Frauenhaeuser) ZIF is holding a conference on the conclusion of this campaign at the House of Democracy and Human Rights of Berlin. During this occasion, the signatures collected during the campaign will be symbolically delivered to the Federal Minister of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. For more information on the campaign, visit the website of the [campaign](#) [9]

IMKAAN launches 'IMKAAN Accredited Quality Standards'

On the 10th of March IMKAAN launched the IAQS (IMKAAN Accredited Quality Standards), a quality framework for specialist black and minority ethnic (BME) women's organisations. The standards are focused on forced marriage, female genital mutilation and 'honour-based' violence and are also applicable to other

forms of violence against women and girls. The IAQS aim to improve the quality of life for BME women and girls affected by violence and inequality, and support specialist BME women's organisations to strengthen practice, and articulate their effectiveness and specialism within a quality framework. The IAQS cover nine core principles:

- Knowledge
- Needs assessment
- Woman-centred
- Ethno-cultural relevance
- Case management and support
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Integrated approaches
- Accountability and governance

Equality, intersectional and human rights approaches are embedded throughout the principles, outcomes and measurements of the IAQS. The quality standards will support continuous improvement within the violence against women and girls sector and assist in highlighting expertise, along with sustaining the growth and preservation of specialist BME women services. For more information on IMKAAN and the quality standards, click [here](#) [10].

International News

Procedures within the UN System dealing with women's Human Rights violations

There are several avenues for bringing individual complaints relating to discrimination against women to the United Nations bodies. First, it is possible to send a complaint to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women or another treaty body, such as the Human Rights Committee, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council or the Commission on the Status of Women. Generally, complaints should include a detailed factual account of the violation and all supporting documentation. To read the procedures in details, click [here](#) [11]

Taking action against violence and discrimination affecting migrant women and girls

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) developed a factsheet about violence against migrant women and trafficking, available [here](#) [12]. IOM points out that, even though many migrant women do not encounter violence and benefit from migration, for some of the 105 million international migrant women worldwide (UN DESA, 2009), violence and discrimination can appear at the very start of the migration process. Women's motivation to migrate may be influenced by situations where discrimination, for example in the labour market, is prevalent. Prejudice against certain groups of women, such as single mothers, wives, widows and LGBTI individuals, can also act as a push factor. Moreover, on arrival in the country of destination, violence and discrimination continue to be part of the lives of many migrant women as they experience dual vulnerability to violence. This is primarily due to their status as women, reflecting gender inequalities existing in both origin and destination societies, as

Violence against women costs Italy EUR 17 billion per year

According to Intervita development figures quoted by Ansa, Italy directly spends an estimated EUR 2.3 billion on social services related to violence against women, while more than EUR 14 billion can be attributed to other costs such as prevention measures.

In 2012, Italian authorities invested EUR 6.3 million in prevention measures, ANSA said. However, the same year 124 women were murdered, according to the national statistics agency ISTAT.

There were a number of high-profile attacks against women and girls in 2013, such as a school aged girl who was allegedly burnt alive by her boyfriend and a series of acid attacks against women.

The high rate of violence against women has been attributed by some experts as a problem of Italian culture, with attacks on women accepted as a societal norm. More information is available [here](#) [13]

well as their status as foreigners.
Often, these two main causes of vulnerability intersect with additional risk factors.

New Research & Publications

EP Report - best practices for rape prevention and for assisting women victims of rape

In November 2013 a report was published with information on worldwide best practices for rape prevention commissioned by the European Parliament Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality.

The study reviews international literature and offers selected examples of promising practices. It addresses the comprehensive range of policies in the fields of gender equality; law and justice; economy, development and social inclusion; culture, education and media; and health. It presents a wide-ranging set of examples of best practice and concludes with a series of recommendations, based on the social scientific evidence presented in the study.

The report is available [here](#) [14].

Council of Europe - Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017

On 6th of November 2013, the Committee of Ministers officially adopted the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy for 2014-2017, which was prepared under the supervision of the Gender Equality Commission. The overall goal of the Strategy is to achieve the advancement and empowerment of women and the effective implementation of gender equality in Council of Europe Member states through activities around five strategic objectives:

- 1) combating Gender Stereotype and Sexism;
- 2) preventing and combating Violence against Women;
- 3) guaranteeing Equal Access of Women to Justice;
- 4) achieving Balanced Participation of Women and Men in Political and Public Decision-Making;
- 5) achieving Gender Mainstreaming in all policies and measures.

The Strategy also refers to the image and participation of women in media. Council of Europe action will focus on identifying practical measures to promote a positive and non-stereotyped image of women and men in the media, abolish women's image of inferiority and submission as well as stereotypes about men's masculinity, further balanced participation of women and men in decision-making positions in the media, in particular in management, programming and regulatory bodies.

To read the document, click [here](#) [15].



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- [4] <http://www.aofe.at/index.php/news/160-einladung-zur-praesentation-der-neuen-eu-studie-zu-gewalt-gegen-frauen>
- [5] <http://www.rcni.ie/launch-eu-agency-fundamental-rights-fra-vaw-eu-wide-survey/>
- [6] <http://www.onebillionrising.org>
- [7] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPabbC5GeZE>
- [8] <http://www.onebillionrising.org/events/#!/0/0/1/>
- [9] http://www.schwerewegeleichtmachen.de/cms/front_content.php?idcat=4&idart=5&lang=1
- [10] <http://imkaan.org.uk/>
- [11] <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/WGWomen/Pages/Differentproceduresdealingwithwomen.aspx>
- [12] <http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/what-we-do/iom-and-gender/key-documents/taking-action-against-violence-a.html>
- [13] <http://www.thelocal.it/20140220/violence-against-women-costs-italy-billions>
- [14] http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2013/493025/IPOL-FEMM_ET%282013%29493025_EN.pdf
- [15] http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/equality/02_GenderEqualityProgramme/Council%20of%20Europe%20Gender%20Equality%20Strategy%202014-2017.pdf
- [16] <http://wavenetwork.createsend1.com/t/t-1-cituil-1-ju/>
- [17] <http://wavenetwork.createsend1.com/t/t-1-cituil-1-tl/>
- [18] <http://wave-network.org/newsletter/women-against-violence-europe-newsletter>