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### March 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 Annual Report 2013



The Annual Report 2013 published by WAVE is now available [here](#) [4]. The current report covers the period from January to December 2013, which was a very productive and successful year for WAVE. The overall focus of WAVE's work was especially on promoting the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the so-called "Istanbul Convention"), on supporting our network's women's organizations, working in the field of violence against migrant women, on health sector responses to Violence against Women and on the quality of service provision. We would like to express our warmest thanks to all our donors and supporters and also to all our Focal Points and experts for supporting the WAVE team.

### WAVE participation at the second Civil Society Seminar on Human Rights in the frame of the Political Dialogue between the EU and Mexico

On the 17th of March 2014, the second Civil Society Seminar on Human Rights in the frame of the Political Dialogue between the EU and Mexico 14 took place at the Jacques Delors Building in Brussels. WAVE had the opportunity to participate at this seminar as one of 32 European and Mexican civil society organizations. The seminar was hosted and organized by the European Union (EEAS-European External Action Service) in Cooperation with the Amnesty International European Institutions Office in Brussels and aimed to contribute to the official human rights dialogue at governmental level. It was an opportunity for discussion and exchange of experiences and expertise between European and Mexican CSOs on how to enhance the protection and promotion of human rights in both geographic areas. One of the three thematic sessions focused on the issue of Violence against Women and Girls. The session was chaired by Patricia Jimenez, from the Heinrich Boell Foundation (Brussels) and began with a short presentation of the situation in Mexico (Zulma Mendez from *Red Mesa de Mujeres de Ciudad Juarez*) on one side, and in Europe, (Irene Rosales from EWL) on the other. The presentations were preliminarily coordinated between the NGOs and highlighted that in the light of the new data available in the recently published FRA Survey on Violence against women, there is still a lot of efforts to be made by the EU and EU member states in the fight against violence against women. Together with the present NGOs, WAVE raised the need to conform to International and European Standards, above all, the Istanbul Convention, and to provide a sufficient number of specialized women services. On the 18th of March 2014, the conclusions and recommendations, both to the European Union and Mexico, elaborated by the Civil Society Seminar were presented in the frame of the fourth bilateral High-Level Dialogue on Human Rights between the EU and Mexico.

### WAVE at the 58th edition of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

This month, members of the WAVE Network attended the 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), taking place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, from the 10th to the 21st of March 2014. This year, the priority theme of the session was "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium

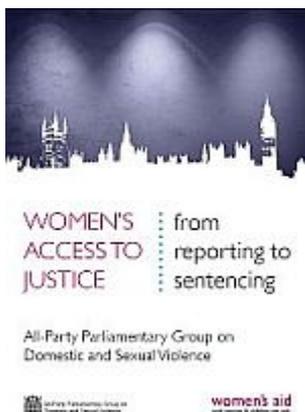


Development Goals for women and girls". Hundreds of ECOSOC-accredited NGOs, from all regions of the world, participated in the many side events that took place in margin of the official negotiations. Members from WAVE Focal



Points in Bulgaria, Georgia, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom attended the session. On the 12th of March, WAVE co-hosted a parallel event titled "Rape: a global culture", together with the Swedish Association of Women's Shelters and Young Women's Empowerment Centres (SKR), Focal Point in Sweden. Panelists included Olga Persson, SKR Secretary-General; Barbara Tardon, Head of Advocacy and Public Awareness, ASPACIA; and Marion Lesur, from the WAVE office. On the 21st of March, the CSW adopted agreed conclusions on the priority themes, emphasizing the need to address issues of women empowerment, VAW, and unpaid labor, among others, in the post-2015 global development agenda. Read the [Agreed conclusions CSW58: Advance unedited version](#) [5]. Resolutions adopted at CSW58 are available on the [UN Women website](#) [6].

### Women's Aid: sign the All Party Parliamentary Group and Women's Aid Survivors Charter



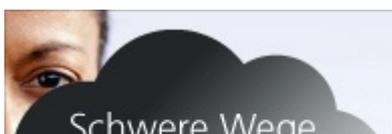
In the UK, the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Domestic and Sexual Violence released in March a report revealing that the criminal justice system continues to fail women when they experience domestic violence. The report is an inquiry into women survivors' access to justice, which received both written and oral evidence from 90 organisations and nearly 50 survivors of domestic violence. WAVE Focal Point Women's Aid is urging every criminal justice agency and government department to sign the joint All Party Group and Women's Aid Survivor's Charter, and urges to implement the report's recommendations, to ensure that women and children are not being left at the mercy of perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence.

The report recommendations include the need for the government to collect data, to train police officers and justice officials and to raise domestic violence awareness, to review the current legislation, to implement a victim-centred approach. In this way, the victims could be guaranteed not only access to justice, but to a life free from violence, victimization and abusive behaviour. To read the 64-page report, click [here](#) [7].

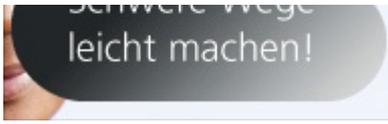
### FRA Survey - 'Violence against women across the EU: Abuse at home, work, in public and online'

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](#) [8] or contact FRA at [conferences@fra.europa.eu](mailto:conferences@fra.europa.eu) [9]. 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](mailto:media@fra.europa.eu) [10].

### 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](#) [11]

### 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](#) [12].

## International News

### HEFORSHE-A UN Women Campaign for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

In occasion of the International Women's Day, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women launched the new equality branding campaign 'HeForShe' in which men all over the

### UN Women to establish new Regional Office in Istanbul

At the beginning of March, UN Women signed an agreement with the government of Turkey to set a its new Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia in Istanbul. This step is part of the ongoing broader process to create a new regional infrastructure of UN

### 2016: European Year to End Violence against Women

The European Women's Lobby launched a petition calling on the current and future Presidents of the European Commission to establish 2016 as European Year to End

world are encouraged to speak out against the inequalities faced by women and girls. It is no secret that women have traditionally led the charge when it comes to ending gender inequality. But to truly achieve change and reach gender parity, men need to play an active role. HeForShe is about flipping the paradigm of 'women's rights' on its head-raising awareness that it is an issue not for women alone to solve, but a moral, social and economic imperative for humanity. To know more about the campaign and take part in it, please have a look at the [website](#) [13].

Women, with the aim to decentralize authority and oversee competencies at the regional level. This new office will merge UN Women's former Sub-regional Offices for South-Eastern Europe (Bratislava/Slovakia, was closed down in January 2014) and Central Asia (Almaty/Kazakhstan, was transformed into multi-country office) into a new bigger Regional Office. From the speech of UN Women's Executive Director: "In Istanbul, UN Women will be co-located with regional offices of key sister agencies like UNDP and UNFPA. Furthermore, Istanbul's strategic location at the center of the region, Turkey's key position as an emerging donor and center for South-South cooperation, along with the presence of a vibrant civil society and private sector presence, make Istanbul an ideal choice. We are proud to have our regional office in a country, which is an increasingly important player in regional and global dialogues. I look forward to an era of strong collaboration on the achievement of women's rights and gender equality both in Turkey and in the European and Central Asia region." To read more about the news, click [here](#) [14].

Violence against Women and girls.

The EU must raise awareness on the issue and affirm its political commitment to end violence against women. By establishing a European Year to end violence against women and girls, the EU would play a leading role in raising awareness on violence against women, and at the same time propose concrete measures to act against the perpetuation of violence against women. Please sign the [petition](#) [15] and share it.

## New Research & Publications

### **ANALYTICAL STUDY OF THE RESULTS of the Fourth Round of Monitoring the Implementation of Recommendation Rec (2002)5 on the Protection of Women against Violence-Council of Europe**

The fourth report on the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2002)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the protection of women against violence presents the results for 2013, as well as a comparative analysis of developments since the set up of a monitoring framework in 2005. The document aims to present a quantitative overview of progress based on cross-national comparable measures in the areas of legislation and policies to prevent and combat violence against women, support services and protection for women who experience violence, programmes for perpetrators, prevention efforts through public awareness and media, education and training, and in the area of data collection and research.

The Recommendation is now being superseded by the legally-binding Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), which was opened for signature in Istanbul in May 2011, and will enter into force following ten ratifications. The fourth round of monitoring Rec(2002)5 aims to provide the new process of monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention with an initial overview of the situations in all Council of Europe members. The Council of Europe monitoring report states that "although data and calculations differ somewhat from those used [in the Council of Europe report], they are internally consistent and thus provide a clear picture of unequal provision across Europe", showing especially that majority of shelters are to

be found in older EU member states with the biggest gaps in non-EU countries. To read the 82-page document, please click [here](#) [16].

### **Our Right to Safety: Women Human Rights Defenders' Holistic Approach to Protection**

AWID (Association for Women's Rights in Development), in collaboration with the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition, has developed a new publication in an effort to assess the various mechanisms that have been developed to provide protection to Women Human Rights Defenders at risk, including initiatives developed by national governments, and regional and international human rights bodies.

The variety of risks and violations that WHRDs face requires the adoption of differential support programs and gender-specific protection measures, taking into account the contexts in which women defenders live and work as well as other conditions and identities present in the diversity of WHRDs. WHRDs themselves have emphasized the need to advance an integrated concept of security that takes into account the historical, cultural, political and social contexts in which they live. That is, a concept of protection that takes into account how WHRDs differently experience human rights violations because of their gender and other economic, social, and cultural factors.

The publication is available at the following [link](#) [17].



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[19]

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- [4] [http://wave-network.org/sites/default/files/WAVE\\_Jahresbericht\\_130314\\_0.pdf](http://wave-network.org/sites/default/files/WAVE_Jahresbericht_130314_0.pdf)
- [5] <http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/CSW/58/CSW58-agreedconclusions-advanceduneditedversion.pdf>
- [6] <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw58-2014/session-outcomes>
- [7] <http://www.womensaid.org.uk/page.asp?section=0001000100100029&>

[amp;sectionTitle=APPG+on+Domestic+and+Sexual+Violence](#)

[8] <http://fra.europa.eu/en/vaw-2014>

[9] <mailto:conferences@fra.europa.eu>

[10] <mailto:media@fra.europa.eu>

[11] [http://www.schwerewegeleichtmachen.de/cms/front\\_content.php?idcat=4&idart=5&lang=1](http://www.schwerewegeleichtmachen.de/cms/front_content.php?idcat=4&idart=5&lang=1)

[12] <http://imkaan.org.uk/>

[13] <http://www.heforshe.org/>

[14] <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2014/3/ed-statement-at-turkish-mission>

[15] <http://www.change.org/petitions/european-commission-president-barroso-establish-now-a-european-year-to-end-violence-against-women-and-girls>

[16] <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence>

[/Docs/Analytical%20Study%20ENG.pdf](#)

[17] <http://awid.org/AWID-s-Publications/Women-Human-Rights-Defenders/Our-Right-to-Safety-Women-Human-Rights-Defenders-Holistic-Approach-to-Protection>

[18] <http://wavenetwork.createsend1.com/t/t-1-cituil-1-ju/>

[19] <https://www.globalfundforwomen.org/>

[20] <http://wavenetwork.createsend1.com/t/t-1-cituil-1-tl/>

[21] <http://wave-network.org/newsletter/women-against-violence-europe-newsletter>