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## Wave Newsletter April 2014

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### April 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 Study Visit from Moldova, 7-9 April 2014



Organized by WAVE, together with the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Austrian Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, the WAVE Study Visit (7-9 of April 2014) saw the participation of a group of 12 professionals from the Republic of Moldova. Over the three-day visit, the participants were presented the work of the Austrian Women's Shelter AÖF, the Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre Vienna and the Network of Austrian Counselling Centres for Women and Girls, and

were provided an overview of service provision for women survivors of violence and their children in Austria. The delegation also visited the Ministry of Interior, Criminal Police Unit, and the Men's Counseling Center, where they received information on police procedures concerning cases of violence against women, as well as information on available programmes for men perpetrators of violence against women.

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

The 10th annual conference of the European Network on Gender and Violence (ENGV) took place on 21-23 April 2014 in Malta. [ENGV](#) [4] brings together scholars and professionals working in the field of violence against women, gender-based violence and other related issues to share recent work and information about developments in the field.

The [2014 conference in Malta](#) [5] welcomed numerous scholars and professionals presenting on various topics ranging from gender, violence and prevention; health, mental health and help-seeking; data collection and networking; to policy impacts; and finally responding to abuse (specialist sector, health care sector, criminal justice and education system). The conference in Malta was conducted in collaboration with the Department of Gender Studies, Faculty for Social Wellbeing at the University of Malta and with support from the Commission on Domestic Violence, Ministry of the Family and Social Solidarity of Malta and the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality, Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties of Malta.

### WAVE holds a workshop on "Data collection focused on administrative data collection on gender-based violence against women" in Ljubljana (Slovenia), 23-24 April 2014

On 23rd and 24th April, 2014, WAVE's manager Maria Rösslhumer held a workshop on "Data collection focused on administrative data collection on gender-based violence against women" in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

The workshop formed part of the 'Coordinated Efforts – Toward new European standards in protection of women from gender-based violence' project. Launched in 2013, the project is led in cooperation with three WAVE Focal Points from two Western Balkan States (Macedonia and Serbia) and Slovenia, one organization from Bosnia and Herzegovina, one organization from Croatia, and with the European Women's Lobby (EWL) as an associate partner.

One of the focuses of the project is the realization of democracy, Human Rights and social inclusion;



as well as the harmonization with the values promoted by the European Union and to the further promotion of the Council of European Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention).

The Istanbul Convention emphasizes the need for, and makes provisions for, increased data collection and statistics on the different forms of violence against women (art. 11, §1a), among others.

### **The Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies (MIGS) takes part in the 'Empowering Care' project**



The Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies (MIGS), WAVE Focal Point in Cyprus, is taking part in the 'Empowering Care: Empowering girls in residential care against violence against women' [6] project, coordinated by SURT Women's Foundation in Barcelona, Spain, and funded

by the Daphne III Programme of the European Commission. The 'Empowering Care' project has a dual objective:

- to increase knowledge on the prevalence, and characteristics of violence experienced by girls aged 14-18, in residential care and under the legal responsibility of public authorities in the EU;
- to empower young girls to protect themselves and their peers. The main activities of the 2-year project include:

- 1) Qualitative research on the experiences of violence and abuse, and perceptions of gender roles and intimate relationships by girls aged 14-18 in residential care in Catalonia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Italy and Finland.
- 2) Development of an empowerment program designed to enable girls in residential care to engage in affective relationships that are based on gender equality, and pilot test involving 15 girls.
- 3) Development of policy recommendations.
- 4) Development of a handbook for professionals, including guidelines for empowering girls in residential care, and a Finnish online course on the issue.
- 5) Training, dissemination and awareness-raising activities targeting professionals, policy-makers and researchers around Europe.

### **Establishment of the 'European Network of Work with Perpetrators of domestic violence'**

Outcome of the conference taking place on 9-10 April 2014 in Copenhagen, and gathering its founding members, the 'European Network of Work with Perpetrators of domestic violence' [7] (WWP) was established at the beginning of April 2014.

The main objective of the Network is to prevent domestic violence against women and their children, particularly through the promotion of European programs for men perpetrating domestic violence, that take the safety of the survivors as their primary concern, and that work in close cooperation with specialized women services.

The founding conference brought together 18 organizations, including WAVE and several WAVE Focal Points, including the Swedish Association of Women's Shelters and Young Women's Empowerment Centres (SKR), the Estonian Women's Shelters Union, and the Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation. Set during the conference, WWP's board includes three members representing specialized women services: Rosa Logar from WAVE, Eha Reitelmann from the Estonian Women's Shelters Union, and Olga Persson from SKR.

### **'Young People, Alcohol and Sex: What's Consent Got To Do With It?' - a publication by the Rape Crisis Network Ireland (RCNI)**



The Rape Crisis Network Ireland (RCNI) – WAVE Focal Point in Ireland – recently published the results of a qualitative study conducted by the organization among a population of university students. The study, titled 'Young People, Alcohol and Sex: What's Consent Got To Do With It?', looks at young people's understanding of and attitude towards the effects of alcohol consumption and the impact it has on the perception of



consent to sexual activity.

The executive summary of the research, the full report and the policy document published by RNCI are available [here](#) [8].

## WAVE to support the candidacy of Ms. Genoveva Tisheva for the upcoming CEDAW elections

With the upcoming elections for the CEDAW Committee to take place on 26 June 2014, WAVE supports the candidacy of Ms. Genoveva Tisheva, from the Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation (BGRF) – a WAVE Focal Point in Bulgaria. The CEDAW Committee elections will see the selection of 11 new members by state parties to the CEDAW Convention (the 187 countries that have ratified it). Women's organizations and other civil society organizations are encouraged to voice their support to individual candidates by means of discussions with or written letter to UN Missions in Geneva and national ministries of foreign affairs. Supporters are also invited to contact the [International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific](#) [9] (IWRAP AP) to bring attention to candidates they believe would strengthen the implementation and understanding of CEDAW as an instrument for gender equality, if elected.

To find out more about the upcoming CEDAW Committee Elections, click [here](#) [10]. The page contains a list of candidates by country.

## International News

### Andorra becomes the 10th country to ratify the Istanbul Convention – the Convention can now come into force!

April 2014 saw the ratification of the Istanbul Convention by three countries members of the Council of Europe! On the 11th, Spain deposited the ratification instrument at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, becoming the 9th member state to ratify the treaty. On the 22nd of April, the Principality of Andorra ratified the convention, triggering its entry into force on the 1st of August 2014. Denmark became the 11th ratifying country on the following day, April 23rd 2014. The 10th ratification of the Istanbul Convention by the Principality of Andorra marks the entry in a new era of promotion and protection of women's human rights in Europe and beyond! First European treaty on violence against women and domestic violence, the Convention closes the gap in the protection of fundamental human rights of women, by requiring states parties to take active measures to prevent all forms of violence against women, protect its victims, prosecute and punish perpetrators, and to establish comprehensive policies to

### UN Special Rapporteur Rashida Manjoo issues a press statement following her mission to the United Kingdom

At the end of a 16-day mission to the United Kingdom, which took her to London, Leicester, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, Cookstown, Cardiff and Bristol, Ms. Rashida Manjoo, UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, released a [press statement](#) [12] underlining some fundamental issues: the importance of using a holistic approach to end violence against women, since this is rooted in multiple forms of discrimination and inequality; the reduction in the number and quality of specialized support services for women has an impact on the health and safety needs of women and children; the justice system as a whole is not equipped for and responsive to the specific needs of women and girl survivors of violence; women from minority ethnic communities, women belonging to the LGBTQI community, and women with disabilities, refugees and asylum seekers face higher risks. As stated by Ms. Manjoo, and despite positive changes in the last decades, violence against women

### The United Nations publishes a report on sexual violence in conflict situations

*"This grave human rights abuse is as destructive as any bomb or bullet"*. Those were the words stated by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the 25th of April 2014, at the opening of the Security Council's day-long debate on sexual violence in conflict, a crime that inflicts unimaginable suffering on victims, prevents the achievement of peace, and contributes to enduring poverty and insecurity. Mr. Ban's latest report on the issue, which covers 21 countries, makes concrete recommendations to prevent the occurrence of sexual violence in conflict settings to both the concerned States and the wider international community. Compiled by Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Hawa Bangura, the report

coordinate relevant measures. Ratification by remaining member states is now awaited. "I call on all remaining member states to sign and ratify our ground-breaking convention, which is generating great changes already. It provides states parties with a unique opportunity to lift the silence and taboos around all forms of violence against women. (...) And I am hopeful that under the watchful eyes of civil society and national parliaments, states parties will do their utmost to improve the lives of the many women and girls who are sadly subjected to violence, simply because of their gender. And to make sure that they enjoy the most basic of human rights: the right to live free from fear and free from violence" - Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland, 22 April 2014, in a [press statement](#) [11].

remains a major challenge in the United Kingdom, and "*the State has a responsibility to act with due diligence to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls*". The findings of UN Special Rapporteur's mission to the UK will be presented to United Nations in June 2014.

outlines concerning trends - including the acute vulnerability of refugees and internally displaced persons - and the need for justice and assistance for all victims. Ban Ki Moon further emphasized the importance of the Security Council's continued leadership and support, as stakeholders work together to eliminate sexual violence in conflicts. Ms. Bangura brought attention to the fact that most perpetrators of wartime rape are never brought to justice, and that, in reality, it is sadly still largely 'cost-free' to rape a woman, a child or a man in a conflict. To find out more, please [click here](#) [13].

## New Research & Publications

### 'Violence and Harassment against women in the News Media: A Global Picture' – a publication by the International Women's Media Foundation, and the International News Safety Institute

'*Violence and Harassment against Women in the News Media: A Global Picture*' is a joint report recently published by the International Women's Media Foundation and the International News Safety Institute.

The report provides the first comprehensive picture of the dangers faced by many women working in news media around the world. It illustrates the various types of violence and the threats female journalists face, and considers how these affect their ability to carry on their work.

The report identifies trends among reported incidents, and offers suggestions on what individuals and organizations can do to mitigate the dangers of reporting in hostile environments, as well as to guarantee a safe working environment at home.

To read the 40-page publication, [click here](#) [14].

### The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina's Rule of Law Unit publishes 'Combating Impunity for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Progress and Challenges'

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina's Rule of Law Unit recently released a report, looking at the progress the country has made in prosecuting war crimes involving sexual violence. In addition, the Mission recently released a groundbreaking interactive 'warcrimes map'.

The report, entitled 'Combating Impunity for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Progress and Challenges', is available in both Bosnian and English. It focuses on the prosecution (over the 2005-2013 period) of wartime sexual violence crimes committed against an estimated 20.000 women, and countless men and boys during the 1992-1995 conflict in former Yugoslavia. The report also provides information on international jurisprudence on rape and sexual violence, including historical information on the establishment of certain forms of sexual violence as 'war crimes', 'crimes against humanity', and 'genocide' within the Bosnian national legal framework.

In addition to being a useful research tool, the report aims to ensure that lessons learned by Bosnia in prosecuting wartime sexual violence crimes can serve global efforts to stamp out wartime sexual violence worldwide.

The 78-page report is available in [English](#) [15]. To access the interactive OSCE 'warcrimes map', click [here](#) [16].



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- [4] <http://www.engv.org/about.html>
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- [12] <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14514&LangID=E>
- [13] <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47656#.U14eB6JICaB>
- [14] <http://www.iwfmf.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Violence-and-Harassment-against-Women-in-the-News-Media.pdf>
- [15] <http://www.osce.org/bih/117051?download=true>
- [16] <http://www.warcrimesmap.oscebih.org/>
- [17] <http://wavenetwork.createsend1.com/t/t-l-cituil-l-ju/>
- [18] <https://www.globalfundforwomen.org/>
- [19] <http://wavenetwork.createsend1.com/t/t-l-cituil-l-tl/>

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