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[Home](#) > Wave Newsletter May 2014

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## Wave Newsletter May 2014

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### May 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!

**On 24 May 2014, WAVE adopted the new status of formal network, by becoming its own legal entity. We would like to thank all the Focal Points for their wonderful work, and for their support in taking this new important step into the WAVE history!**

All the best from the WAVE team in Vienna!





## WAVE NEWS

### WAVE Country Report 2013 now online!



The WAVE Country Report 2013 brings the experiences of women survivors of violence together with measuring the available services for women survivors of violence in 46 European countries. The report provides stories from women survivors, who have shared their information about their experiences of violence and seeking help. The mapping of women's services in Europe includes information on available women's helplines, shelters, centres and centres for survivors of sexual violence. Services available to women survivors of violence has been the main theme of previous WAVE Country Reports (2008-2012) and continues to be a topic in the WAVE Country Report 2013.

The report serves as a monitoring tool for use by relevant stakeholders, including government, NGO and academic experts to provide information on the standards in service provision, pointing to gaps in practice and calling for improvements. Access the [WAVE Country Report 2013](#) [4].

### WAVE welcomes three new Focal Points to the Network

In May 2014, WAVE was happy to welcome three new members to its network. **Foundation United Women Banja Luka** became Focal Point for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The organization's main activities include public awareness, provision of women's shelter and helpline, training, research, prevention, counseling and legal assistance. More information on Foundation United Women Banja Luka and its ongoing activities is available on the [WAVE website](#) [5] and on the organization's [website](#) [6]. **Center for support and development of civic initiatives 'Resonance'** became Focal Point for Moldova (Transnistrian region), its main activities including public awareness, training, research, prevention, networking, provision of database of women's help organizations, counseling, provision of helpline, multi-agency cooperation and legal assistance. Find out more about the organization on the [WAVE website](#) [7] and on the organization's [website](#) [8]. **Women's Law Center** became a third WAVE Focal Point for Moldova. The organization's main activities include legal assistance, training, research, public awareness, prevention, networking, provision of database of women's help organizations, crisis support and counseling. More information on the new WAVE Focal Point is available on the [WAVE website](#) [9].

### WAVE welcomes applications for the 2014 Corinna Seith Award

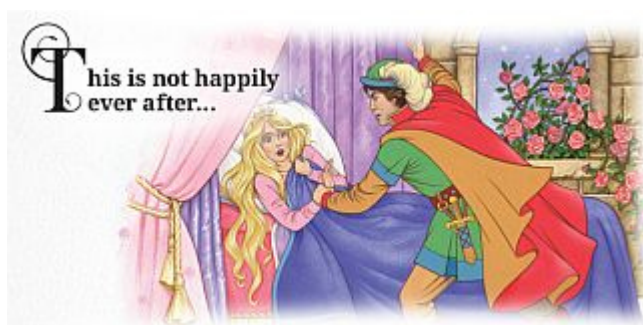
Corinna Seith was a remarkable woman - a passionate feminist, committed member of WAVE, original researcher and women's self-defense teacher. She died far too young in December 2010, before she had the chance to integrate her research on violence against women and inequality within the academy in Switzerland. At the 2011 WAVE conference, it



was decided to create a prize in her honor, to be awarded each year. This year, ahead of the 16th WAVE Conference (to take place in Vienna in November 2014), WAVE is welcoming contributions and researches in the framework of the 2014 Corinna Seith Award. The prize - 500 Euros - will be awarded to the best essay/paper written by a young scholar, who will be invited to present her paper at the WAVE Conference 2014 in Vienna. The conditions for applying, and information on the criteria used to assess applications, are available on the [WAVE website](#) [10]. We encourage everyone to widely share this information. If interested in applying for the 2014 Corinna Seith Award, please send your paper and a short CV, showing that the formal criteria are fulfilled, to [Iris Golden](#) [11] (WAVE office), by 31 July 2014.



### **'Not Happily Ever After', a campaign by the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre and Women's Aid**



Launched on May 8th by the Dublin Rape Crisis Center and Women's Aid - one of WAVE Focal Points in Ireland - the "Not Happily Ever After" national public awareness campaign aims to highlight the crime of sexual violence and rape within relationships, a crime reported by only 6% of women in Ireland, based on a recent survey. As explained by Ellen O'Malley Dunlop, CEO of the Dublin Rape Crisis Center:

"The campaign plays on the fairy-tale notion of 'happily-ever-after' to call attention to sexual violence within relationships, questioning the common misconception that sexual violence is mainly perpetrated by strangers." Through survivors' stories contributed by women who sought help at support services, the campaign aims to highlight the issue of sexual violence, which often fails to be identified as a crime when occurring within a relationship, to help women overcoming the fear and shame associated with the crime, and highlight the support that is available.

Running until the 2nd of June 2014, the 'Not Happily Ever After' public awareness campaign comprises national outdoor, radio and digital advertising. To find out more about the campaign, click [here](#) [12]. To access to campaign page, click [here](#) [13].

### **WAVE calls for solidarity with our colleagues in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia**

As a result of the devastating flooding in the area of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia, the WAVE Focal Points in the region have been severely affected: several shelters had to be evacuated, the buildings and furniture have been destroyed, and shelter clients have no alternative places to stay. Financial support will be essential for reparation work, as there is no expectation for governments to assist in covering the costs. Financial support would also be utilized to support women clients, who find themselves in difficult situation because of the flooding. As solidarity means not only to fight together to achieve our feminist goals, but also to support each other in times of need, the WAVE Office is organizing a donation in order to help our colleagues in the Balkans recover from this catastrophe.

Our aim is to collect money through our initiative 'SAVE - Sisters against Violence Europe' and transfer the funds in a lump payment to our Focal Points in the three countries, who needs this support. All the information about the SAVE- bank account and on how to donate are available on our website, please follow the [link](#) [14].

## '4th International Conference on Survivors of Rape (ICSOR)' - a conference to be held by Associacao de Mulheres contra a Violencia (AMCV) and Rape Crisis Network Ireland (RCNI), in November 2014



Organized by WAVE Focal Points in Portugal and Ireland, Associacao de Mulheres contra a Violencia (AMCV) and Rape Crisis Network Ireland (RCNI), the '4th International Conference on Survivors of Rape: Rape, Survivors, Policies and Support Systems, a European Challenge' will take place in Lisbon, Portugal, on 20-22 November 2014.

This fourth edition of the ICSOR will aim "to contribute to: the improvement of the knowledge of the impact of Rape on Survivors and the work of the experts, researches and support systems; introduce the issue related with the

fulfillment of the State's due diligence obligations to prevent Human Rights violations, specifically rape; and to challenge the EU institutions and European policy makers to be engaged in a common European approach, to provide comparable data collection on rape and to implement, effectively, policies measures that really prevent and combat sexual violence and rape." The conference is open to all professionals, NGO workers, researchers, policymakers, professionals and interested public. More information on the event and on registration and attendance are available [here](#) [15].

## 'Violence against Women in the context of Political Transformations and Economic crisis in the Euro-Mediterranean Region', a presentation of the EMHRN project findings

On 7th May 2014, the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS), WAVE Focal Point in Cyprus, held a presentation titled 'Violence against Women in the context of Political Transformation and Economic crisis in the Euro-Mediterranean Region', together with the Center for European and International Affairs, and the Cyprus Center for Intercultural Studies (CCIS) of the University of Nicosia. The presentation aimed to introduce the results of, and lead a discussion on, the report "Violence against women in the context of political transformation and economic crisis in the Euro-Mediterranean region - Trends and Recommendations toward Equality and Justice", published by the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN). Guest speakers at the event included Erato Kozakou-Markoullis, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Dr Maria Hadjipavlou, Associate Professor at the University of Cyprus, Nicosia.

The report, published by EMHRN in March this year, looks at the increase of violence against women in the Euro-Mediterranean region in recent years, showcasing key patterns of violence against women, through case studies from Egypt, Syria, Tunisia, Libya, France, Cyprus and Spain. It further underlines the alarming increase and severity of sexual violence in countries such as Libya, Syria and Egypt, mounting to sexual terrorism. To access the 63-page document, click [here](#) [16].

## International News

### UN Women Beijing +20 Campaign

On the 22nd of May, UN Women launched an important campaign to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. A year of activities taking place all around the world will aim to mobilize governments and citizens alike to picture a world where gender equality is a reality, and to join a global conversation on empowering women to empower humanity. The

### The French State found guilty of 'gross negligence' following the murder of a woman by her former partner

On 23 March 2007, Audrey Vella died in hospital following being severely beaten and stabbed by her former partner. Two years later, the perpetrator was sentenced to 25 years in jail, a sentence confirmed in September 2011. The story, however, does not end up there, as the drama could have been prevented. For the first time, the

### In Belgium, women's organizations are working amid important elections to foster the women's human rights agenda

While a number of important elections took place in Belgium at the end of May, including the European elections, National Parliament elections, but also elections of the

1995 Beijing Women's Conference gathered an unprecedented 17,000 participants, while 30,000 representatives attended the NGO Forum. Next year, in 2015, the United Nations will assess progress of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action over the past 20 years, based on national reports which are currently being prepared by UN Member States. "The Beijing Platform for Action is an unfulfilled promise to women and girls," says UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. "Our goal is straightforward: renewed commitment, strengthened action and increased resources to realize gender equality, women's empowerment and the human rights of women and girls." Over the past two decades, much progress has been made in the field of women's legal rights, educational achievements, and participation in public life. However, much remains to be done to address other issues such as gender wage gaps and unequal employment opportunities, low representation of women in leadership, in public office and in the private sector, child marriage, rampant violence and other violations of women's and girls' Human Rights. Information on the UN campaign, and the events organized over the year all over the world, are available [here](#) [17].

Republic of France was found guilty of gross negligence for failing to effectively respond to the many reports of violence, staking and threats presented by the victim to the police authorities, between 2006 and 2007. Investigations will later show the extent of the abuse, including stalking, with a recorded 352 calls by the former partner, between October 2006 and March 2007. Despite Ms. Vella's reports of abuse, these remained consistently unnoticed and no further action was taken by the local authorities. "If there was just one chance to save her, this wasn't taken", noted the judges from the Paris Grand Instance Court. "This was gross negligence", they added, "which has helped to maintain a sense of impunity for the woman's former partner, causing him to repeat violent acts that became increasingly serious, culminating in the act of the murder". The French State was sentenced to pay 150,000 EUR to the victim's family. On the same day, the Val-d'Oise Tribunal was sentencing to 20 years in jail a man guilty of murdering his wife by 47 knife stabs in the street, in July 2011.

Parliaments of the Regions, Communities and Provinces, a major reshuffling of seats, alliances and policy content is to be expected in the upcoming months. In this important electoral context, women's movements have been very active at several levels. While the two national federations, CFFB (Conseil des Femmes Francophones de Belgique) and NVR (Nederlandstalig Vrouwenraad), worked jointly to issue a memorandum on combating sexual violence that was submitted to all democratic parties, the women's organization Vie Feminine also came forward with the vindication of a Ministry for Women's Rights. The last years have seen a watering down of the issue of gender inequalities, and decreased funding for women's organizations that increasingly have to compete for resources with other minorities. The new feminist strategy is therefore to demand a proactive and specific policy, with the necessary human and financial resources available to ensure that women actually have access to their already existing rights, and this on the highest political level available. The women's rights portfolio has to be separated from diversity issues and equal opportunities for other minorities, and has to tackle sexism and structural inequality in all domains, especially in the

face of the actual economic crisis and austerity policies. While major Belgium women's organizations support the memorandum, top female politicians from all democratic parties have pledged to support the motion after the elections. Combatting violence against women is one of the foremost priorities of the new Minister of Women's Rights.

## New Research & Publications

### **The World Bank Group publishes a report titled "Voice and Agency: Empowering Women and Girls for Shared Prosperity"**

This month, the World Bank Group published a new report titled 'Voice and Agency: Empowering Women and Girls for Shared Prosperity', highlighting the correlation between low education levels of girls and higher risks of early and child marriage, domestic violence, poverty, and lack of say over household spending or their own healthcare, resulting in critical harm for them, their children, and communities. The report distills vast data and hundreds of hundreds of studies, shedding a new light on the constraints faced by women and girls all over the world, from gender-based violence to unequal legal provisions preventing them from owning property, and making decisions about their own lives. Despite certain advances in important aspects of women's and girls' lives, important challenges remain, violating women's most basic rights and intensified by poverty and lack of education. Key findings of the report show that gender-based violence is a global phenomenon, and that in most countries there is no place that is less safe for a woman than her own home. With one in three women worldwide experiencing violence in the lifetime, or 700 million women, this proportion is close to the whole population of Sub-Saharan Africa. The report also highlights the importance and urgency of effective political action, and the need for more and better data, and the development of core gender indicators. To find out more about the World Bank Group report, click [here](#) [18]. To access the 226-page document, click [here](#) [19].

### **'Achieving Transformative Feminist Leadership - A Toolkit for Organisations and Movements' - a publication by CREA**

Written by Srilatha Batliwala and Michel Friedman, and recently published by the feminist human rights organization CREA, the publication '**Achieving Transformative Feminist Leadership - A Toolkit for Organisations and Movements**' aims to "help individuals and organisations dedicated to advancing a feminist social change agenda - an agenda based on the belief that all development and social justice must be rooted in gender and social equality", and fits in the continuity of previous works, including CREA's *Feminist Leadership for Social Transformation - Clearing the Conceptual Cloud* [20] publication [20] (on which it is largely based), and in the main objective of the organization to strengthen feminist leadership of women and grassroots organizations. The Toolkit targets feminist organizations working at fostering human rights and social justice, as well as organizations that have programs that focus on women, or are led and staffed, wholly or in part, by women, to enable them to: examine and analyze their own specific organizational setting and the nature of its leadership at different levels; understand how their individual self and that of others is shaping their practice of leadership; and think about how they may want to deal with these issues in order to bring their individual and organisational leadership practices closer to the principles of transformative feminist leadership. To access the 132-page Toolkit, click [here](#) [21].



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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.wave-network.org/sites/default/files/WAVE%20Country%20Report%202013%20Final%20Version.pdf>
- [5] <http://www.wave-network.org/organizations/foundation-united-women-banja-luka>
- [6] <http://www.unitedwomenbl.org/>
- [7] <http://www.wave-network.org/organizations/center-support-and-development-civic-initiatives-resonance>
- [8] <http://www.resonancengo.org/en>
- [9] <http://www.wave-network.org/organizations/women%E2%80%99s-law-centre>
- [10] <http://www.wave-network.org/content/apply-2014-corinna-seith-award>
- [11] <mailto:iris.golden@wave-network.org>
- [12] <http://www.womensaid.ie/newsevents/news/2014/05/08/not-happily-ever-after-national-helpline-agencies/>
- [13] <http://www.nothappilyeverafter.ie/>
- [14] <http://www.wave-network.org/content/save-sisters-against-violence-europe>
- [15] [http://icsor2014.exordo.com/data/message\\_attachments/166/ICSoR\\_2014\\_EN.pdf](http://icsor2014.exordo.com/data/message_attachments/166/ICSoR_2014_EN.pdf)
- [16] [http://www.euromedrights.org/eng/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/VAW-report\\_final\\_en.pdf](http://www.euromedrights.org/eng/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/VAW-report_final_en.pdf)
- [17] <http://beijing20.unwomen.org/en/>
- [18] <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2014/05/14/education-key-role-women-girls-communities-report>
- [19] [http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/Gender/Voice\\_and\\_agency\\_LOWRES.pdf](http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/Gender/Voice_and_agency_LOWRES.pdf)
- [20] <http://www.uc.edu/content/dam/uc/ucwc/docs/CREA.pdf>
- [21] [http://www.creaworld.org/sites/default/files/Final Feminist Leadership Manual 14-4-14\\_0.pdf](http://www.creaworld.org/sites/default/files/Final Feminist Leadership Manual 14-4-14_0.pdf)

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

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

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

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