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June 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

Reminder - 16th WAVE Conference in Vienna, 16-19 November, and the Corinna Seith Award 2014



Save the Date! The 16th Annual WAVE Conference will take place 16-19 November 2014 in Vienna, Austria. The Conference Programme is currently being worked on, and the draft agenda of the conference will be made available as soon as possible. The second day of the Conference, 17th November, will be public and will take place in the Vienna City Hall. Activities and panels of the 16th, 18th and 19th of November will take place at the Fleming's Hotel (Westbahnhof). To register for WAVE Conference 2014, please contact [Vanessa Depeyre](#) [4] from the WAVE Office.

Awarded during the WAVE Conference, the Corinna Seith Award was established in 2011. The prize - 500 Euro - is awarded to the best essay/paper written by a young scholar, who is invited to present her paper at the occasion of the WAVE Conference. In this framework, WAVE has launched a call for papers for the Second edition of the Corinna Seith Award, with the deadline of 31 July 2014. To find out more about the conditions for applying, as well as the criteria used in judging submitted work, go to the [WAVE website](#) [5]. If interested in applying for the Award, please send your paper and a short CV, showing that the formal criteria are fulfilled, to [Iris Golden](#) [6] from the WAVE Office.

WAVE attends the Council of Europe seminar "Tackling the gaps in research and the lack of data disaggregated by sex concerning women's access to justice", 26-27 June

Held at the end of the month, the seminar "Tackling the gaps in research and the lack of data disaggregated by sex concerning women's access to justice" was organized by the Gender Equality Commission (GEC) of the Council of Europe. Framed in the context of international and European standards on research and data collection regarding women's equal access to justice - among which standards set by the [Istanbul Convention](#) [7], the [European Convention on Human Rights](#) [8] and Recommendations from the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe - the seminar aimed at obtaining an overview of women's access to the overall justice system in the areas of civil, criminal and administrative law; mapping out existing regional and international standards and initiatives in research and data collection in the field of women's equal access to justice, including for women survivors of violence; identifying good practices and policies in this field at the national level; identifying and discussing existing gaps in standards and methodologies of research and data disaggregated by sex, including the need for the harmonization of data; and putting forward proposals to address the research and data needs and gaps.

Participants in the seminar included representatives from NGOs, from regional and international organisation working in these fields - EU (FRA, EIGE), UN (CEDAW, UN Women, UNODC) - as well as members of the Gender Equality Commission, National Focal Points and Gender Equality Rapporteurs, and representatives from other CoE bodies, including the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). For more information on the seminar, click [here](#) [9].

Federatie Opvang to organize the 2015 Third World Conference of Women's Shelters

Taking place for the first time in 2008 in Alberta, Canada, where it was hosted by the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, the World Conference of Women's Shelters is a global initiative of the Global Network of Women's Shelters (GNWS) [10] - a network founded as outcome of the First World Conference of Women's Shelters. The Second World Conference of Women's Shelters took place in Washington, D.C., USA, in March 2012, where it was hosted by the U.S. National Network to End Domestic Violence together with GNWS.

Following the success of the First and Second World Conferences, the Global Network of Women's Shelters plans to organize a third edition of the event. Federatie Opvang [11], the Dutch umbrella organization for women's shelters and WAVE Focal Point in the Netherlands, has been tasked with organizing and hosting the Third World Conference of Women's Shelters, which will take place on 3-6 November 2015 in The Hague, Netherlands. While still in discussion, the themes of the event will likely include: empowerment of women; financing and managing women shelters; new approaches in shelters; shelters and agency approach; and dealing with violence in organizations.

**Third
WORLD
CONFERENCE
OF WOMEN'S
SHELTERS**



Federatie Opvang has developed a brochure to advertise the Third World Conference of Women's Shelters, which includes information on past World Conferences, and objectives for the upcoming Conference. The brochure, to be widely disseminated to raise awareness of the event, can be downloaded online - Brochure 3WCWS [12]. To find out more about the World Conference of Women's Shelters, click here [13].

WAVE attends the FRA event 'The role of men in combating violence against women'



On 17 June 2014, WAVE, together with around 15 organizations (including representatives from the White Ribbon campaign), attended the event organized by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) titled 'The role of men in combating violence against women', taking place in Vienna (Austria). The event, organized in light of the FRA's EU-wide survey on violence against women [14], gathered members of key organizations engaging men in the fight against violence against women.

The aim of the FRA-organized event was to discuss findings of the recently published survey with aforementioned stakeholders, and identify concrete follow-up actions by these organizations, based on the FRA report and opinions. The meeting further served to identify promising practices in responses to violence against women. The report of the event will be available on the FRA website [15] soon.

In Azerbaijan, two projects implemented by "Clean World" Public Union

WAVE Focal Point in Azerbaijan "Clean World" Public Union has been implementing several projects in the course of the last months. Started early in November 2013, one project, titled **"National Capacity Building against Domestic Violence"** aims to provide free legal support to women survivors of domestic violence in the country. The project includes several main activities: 1. Identification of survivors of domestic violence; 2. Provision of free legal support to women survivors; 3. Activities related to the application of protection order.

Launched at the beginning of the year, the **"Advocacy campaign for the elimination of discrimination against women"** project includes among its activities: 1. conducting seminars on the

topic of 'Regulations for the work with women survivors of domestic violence' in the different regions; 2. monitoring of criminal prosecutions in cases of forced and early marriages; 3. Making and dissemination of advocacy campaign videos; 4. Further advocacy activities around the issue of the elimination of discrimination against women.

"Clean World" Public Union further conducted a conference on 17 April 2014, providing a platform for stakeholders to discuss the analysis document "Legal basis for administrative and criminal prosecution of perpetrators of domestic violence". The conference gathered representatives from civil society organizations, international organizations, representatives from government authorities, including members of the Parliament, and the media, among others.

To keep updated on activities and projects of "Clean World" Public Union, visit the organization's [website](#) [16].

In Germany, WAVE Focal Point PAPATYA runs the 'Coordination Centre against Abductions and Forced Marriages', together with the online counselling service SIBEL



Run by WAVE Focal Point in Germany PAPATYA since May 2013, the 'Coordination Centre against Abductions and Forced Marriages' is the first central port of call offering assistance in the field, and operating nationwide. The centre, product of the common experience of the secret crisis shelter PAPATYA, and the online counselling service SIBEL

(which offers protection and assistance to young women with a migrant background), aims to provide assistance and support to women and girls at risk of being married off by their parents, and sent to the country of origin against their will. The girls affected usually are of a migrant background, between 14 and 21 years of age, and hold either a German or a foreign passport.

The work of the 'Coordination Centre against Abductions and Forced Marriages' focuses on four areas: prevention - the centre runs awareness-raising seminars and events on the reality of abductions, and it offers girls and women fearing abductions specialized counselling to evaluate their risks and provide them with adapted support; assistance and coordination of assistance after an abduction - if there has been abduction, the centre offers specialized advice to probe the possibilities of a repatriation; assistance after repatriation - the centre offers assistance to survivors in finding appropriate coping strategies, and gives advices with matters linked to becoming anonymous, finding accommodation and protection; extending assistance - the centre is the first to register cases of abduction for the purposes of forced marriage, and to raise awareness about the reality of abduction, which it aims to achieve through increased documentation of the issue.

To find out more about the 'Coordination Centre against Abductions and Forced Marriages', visit [PAPATYA's website](#) [17].

"Women and men as victims and perpetrators of murders related to domestic violence" - a project by Centrum Praw Kobiet

Enabled by a donation from the Open Society Institute in Budapest, and implemented by WAVE Focal Point in Poland Centre for Women's Rights (Centrum Praw Kobiet), the project **"Women and men as victims and perpetrators of murders and other crimes related to violence"** aims to answer two questions: 1. Are there any differences, and if so, what type of differences exist, in the attitude of law enforcement authorities, administration of justice and prison service workers towards women and men who committed murders related to family violence and/or other crimes related to violence against relatives? 2. Do gender stereotypes influence adjudication in murder cases related to domestic violence and the situation of women serving a sentence of imprisonment for this type of crime?

The research looked at reasons for judgment in cases of women and men convictions for murder linked to family violence, psychological and psychiatric opinions available in the files of convicts serving a sentence in selected penitentiaries, and interviews with women and men. The research ultimately shows that women are, overall, more severely punished for violent crimes, and that judges sometimes treat the fact that the victim is a person close to the perpetrator as mitigating circumstance.

To keep updated on activities and projects of Centre for Women's Rights, visit the organization's [website](#) [18].

International News

WHO adopts a new resolution to strengthen health system responses to Gender-Based Violence

At the occasion of last month's World Health Assembly - held in Geneva on 19-24 May 2014 - World Health Organization (WHO) Member States have adopted a resolution on strengthening the role of the health system in addressing violence, in particular violence against women, girls and children. The resolution highlights the severe implications of violence on the health of those experiencing it, including death, disability and physical injuries, important mental health impacts including depression, sexual and reproductive health consequences, as well as social consequences. It further points at the fact that health systems are often not adequately addressing the problem of GBV, and fail to contribute to a comprehensive multi-disciplinary response to the issue.

The resolution makes several recommendations to Member States, including to strengthen the role of health systems in addressing violence, especially against women and girls; develop an effective, comprehensive, national multi-sectoral response to GBV, engaging the health sector alongside other sectors (including education, justice, social services, among others); and promote, establish, support and strengthen standard operating procedures targeted to identify VAW. Read the text of the WHO resolution by clicking [here](#) [19].

Since 2011, WAVE has worked with UNFPA Eastern Europe and central Asia, in cooperation with WAVE Focal Point in Russia Center ANNA (Moscow), to develop and promote a programmatic package to

Nordic Women's Forum: 12-15 June 2014, Malmo, Sweden

Taking place from 12 to 15 June 2014, the regional meeting 'Nordic Women's Forum' ('It's Time for New Action on Women's Rights') gathered close to 20,000 people in Malmo, Sweden. The event, organized by the Women's movement in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, reiterated the determination of the women's movement in the Nordic countries to achieve gender equality, and promote empowerment for women and girls. The forum provided a platform for representatives of the women's movement, politicians, government officials, researchers, representatives of NGOs, activists and representatives of the private and public sector will discuss gender issues, with the aim of bringing the debate on gender equality and women's rights forward.

On the last day of the event, at the Closing Ceremony, the Nordic Ministers of Equality were given a 'Final Document', containing a number of demands and recommendations emanating from the four-day event. Five important demands of this Final Document include: 1. the integration of a gender-perspective in Nordic countries' national, regional and communal budgets; 2. the funding of women's movement organizations by Nordic governments, and cooperation at the Nordic level; 3. women with family links should be granted their own residence permits that are not linked to the man, and deportation of women subjected to violence should be stopped; 4. Nordic governments, employer and trade organizations should work to promote working that considers family life and working environment;

Crowdsourcing rape laws around the world - theguardian.com associates with Equality Now to build a global database of existing rape laws

Joint project of the news website theguardian.com and the British advocacy organization [Equality Now](http://EqualityNow.org) [22], the recently launched initiative aims at gathering information on rape legislations worldwide. Available in a survey that can be found online on theguardian.com, seven questions serve as basis for investigation on the topic: 1. Is rape against the law in the country?; 2. How is rape defined in the laws of the country?; 3. Is rape in marriage against the law?; 4. Does the law forgive rape if the perpetrator marries the victim?; 5. Does the law forgive rape if the perpetrator or perpetrator's family "settles" the case with the victim/victim's family?; 6. Is there a minimum penalty for rape?; 7. If a woman tells the police she has been raped does she risk being charged with an offense herself? - Access the survey page [here](#) [23]. By crowdsourcing rape laws around the world online, the project ultimately aims at building an up-to-date, easily accessible and user-friendly database to be used as an open source of information. The

strengthen the health system response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in the region. Find out more about the WAVE/UNFPA project on the [WAVE website](#) [20].

5. Nordic authorities should support women to assume roles as players, innovators, organizers, teachers, leaders and ambassadors for sustainable development. Read more about the Nordic Women's Forum, its outcomes and related documentation on the [event website](#) [21].

project has so far been met with great response from the public.

Launched in February this year by [theguardian.com](#), the interactive platform '[Women's Rights Country by Country](#)' [24] - which provides country-by-country information on existing legislation on gender equality, violence against women, harassment, abortion, and other aspects of women's human rights, based on World Bank and UN data - had met large success and received important traditional and social media coverage.

New Research & Publications

'Femicide - A global issue that demands action', a publication of ACUNS Vienna

This month, the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS), Vienna Liaison, published its second edition of Femicide: A Global Issue that Demands Action. The publication contains the proceedings of the 2nd Annual symposium on Forced Marriage, Violence against Women and the Istanbul Convention, organized by ACUNS Vienna on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (November 25, 2013), to which WAVE contributed. It also includes recent resolutions, debates and legal instruments from the General Assembly, Security Council, Human Rights Council, the Crime Commission, statements of high-ranking officials as well as country and regional reports by Heinrich Boell Stiftung, experts and academia.

The aim of the publication is to "highlight the most heinous crimes against women and girls, such as early, child and forced marriage, the use of sexual violence as a tactic of war, women's exacerbated vulnerability in armed conflict, pregnancies resulting from rape, as well as structural and domestic violence against migrant women. The importance of civil society including women's organizations to end impunity and to thoroughly investigate and prosecute persons responsible for these serious crimes was explicitly referred to."

The document contains four sections: 1. Recent developments; 2. Resolutions, recent statement and legal instruments; 3. SYMPOSIUM on Forced Marriage, Violence against Migrant Women and the Istanbul Convention; 4. Country and regional reports.

To access the 136-pages document, click [here](#) [25].

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Fatou Bensouda, publishes a Policy Paper on Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes

On June 2014, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Mrs Fatou Bensouda, published a Policy Paper on Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes. The paper will guide the Office of the Prosecutor in its work of combating impunity for sexual and gender-based crimes, promote transparency and clarity, as well as systematic application of the legal framework of the Rome Statute to such crimes. The policy should contribute to ensuring the effective investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender-based crimes, and foster victims' access to justice, through the ICC.

The Policy Paper was presented following a process of extensive consultations, gathering input from staff of the Office of the Prosecutor, the Prosecutor's Special Gender Advisor, and a wide-range of

additional sources, including States Parties, international organisations, civil society, academia and individual experts.

The publication's content includes information on general policy, the regulatory framework of the Rome Statute, investigations and prosecutions, cooperation and institution development, among others. To access the 44-pages document, click [here](#) [26].



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- [5] <http://www.wave-network.org/content/apply-2014-corinna-seith-award>
- [6] <mailto:iris.golden@wave-network.org>
- [7] http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/convention/Convention_210_English.pdf
- [8] http://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention_ENG.pdf
- [9] http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/equality/05conferences/2014ParisSeminarAccessJustice/default_en.asp
- [10] <http://gnws.org/en/>
- [11] <http://www.opvang.nl/>
- [12] http://www.wave-network.org/sites/default/files/3WCWS_brochure.pdf
- [13] <http://gnws.org/en/work/wcws.html>
- [14] http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-vaw-survey-main-results-apr14_en.pdf
- [15] <http://fra.europa.eu/en>
- [16] http://gender-az.org/index_en.shtml
- [17] <http://www.papatya.org/en/abduction.html>
- [18] <http://www.cpk.org.pl/284,about-us.html>
- [19] http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA67/A67_ACONF1Rev1-en.pdf?ua=1&ua=1

- [20] <http://www.wave-network.org/content/unfpawave-%E2%80%93-strengthening-health-system-response-gender-based-violence-eastern-europe-and>
- [21] <http://nf2014.org/en/>
- [22] <http://www.equalitynow.org/>
- [23] <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/ng-interactive/2014/jun/05/help-us-crowdsource-rape-laws-around-the-world>
- [24] <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/ng-interactive/2014/feb/04/womens-rights-country-by-country-interactive>
- [25] [http://www.wave-network.org/sites/default/files/Femicide Publication 2014 FINAL.pdf](http://www.wave-network.org/sites/default/files/Femicide%20Publication%202014%20FINAL.pdf)
- [26] <http://www.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/otp/OTP-Policy-Paper-on-Sexual-and-Gender-Based-Crimes--June-2014.pdf>
- [27] <http://wavenetwork.createsend1.com/t/t-1-cituil-1-ju/>
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- [30] <http://wave-network.org/newsletter/women-against-violence-europe-newsletter>