



Published on *Women Against Violence Europe* (<http://www.wave-network.org>)

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## Wave Newsletter July 2014

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### July 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

### Coming into force of the Istanbul Convention on 1st August!



Adopted on 7 April 2011, the **Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, and Domestic Violence** [4] (**Istanbul Convention**) is coming into force on 1st August 2014. This follows the ratification of the Convention by the 10th member of the Council of Europe, Andorra, on 22 April 2014. The coming into force of the Istanbul Convention is a tremendous accomplishment in the history of the Women's Movement. The

Convention is the first ever truly comprehensive instrument at the European level which addresses violence against women. As of end of July 2014, 13 countries have already ratified the Convention, and 23 have signed it.

The Convention's coming into force is an important step, and strong implementation and commitment of member states is needed to effectively work towards preventing and combating violence against women and their children. The area of specialist victim support for women survivors of violence and their children is expected to experience improvement, if states commit themselves to effectively implement the Istanbul Convention, recognise the value of and sustainably support specialized women's services. WAVE's work in promoting the establishment and improvement of women's services in Europe is long-standing, and WAVE will continue its work to encourage other European states to sign and ratify the Convention. On the occasion of the coming into force of the Istanbul Convention, WAVE has published a Press Release, jointly with the WAVE Focal Points. To read the press release, click [here](#) [5]. In addition, the Council of Europe has issued a Press Release, available on the [Council of Europe website](#) [6] on 1st August, and including many useful links, such as a video message from the Secretary General and quotes to be used.

### **In Italy, allocation of budget funds to combat violence against women to affect support services**

The Italian government recently announced the allocation of a 17 million Euros budget to ending violence against women, for the period 2013-2014, based on the law 119/2013 (the so-called 'Anti-femicide law'). However, a mere 2.260.000 Euros of this budget will be going to financing service providers in the country, while the remaining will be going directly to the Regions, that will then be responsible for its distribution. In addition, the mapping of support services in the country, carried out by the Regions, often included services with little experience, and in some cases excluded shelters part of the national network D.i.Re. Based on this mapping, about 6.000 Euros will be allocated to each service provider for a two years period. The decision clearly contravenes the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, which Italy ratified in 2013, and that underlines the importance of "appropriate financial and human resources for the adequate implementation of integrated policies, measures and programmes to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women covered by the scope of this Convention, including those carried out by non-governmental organisations and civil society" (Art. 8).

On 10 July 2014, activists from the network D.i.Re staged a demonstration and published a press-release destined to the Italian Parliament, advocating for more adequate and transparent funding, clear criteria for State funding and services mapping by the Regions, and the recognition of the unique work and expertise of specialized women's services that have been working in the field for more than 20 years, and have helped a great number of women re-gain autonomy and freedom.

## 15th WAVE Conference and the 2014 Corinna Seith Award

Save the Date! The **16th Annual WAVE Conference** will take place **16-19 November 2014 in Vienna, Austria**. The Conference Programme is currently being established, 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 Depeyr](#) [7]e 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 selected 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 **new extended deadline of 17th August 2014**. To find out more about the conditions for applying, as well as the criteria used in judging submitted work, click [here](#) [8]. 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](#) [9] from the WAVE office.

## Women's Aid National Conference: Ready for the Future-2nd and 3rd July 2014



In 2014, Women's Aid (United Kingdom) is celebrating its 40th Anniversary! On this occasion, the network is organizing a series of events all along the year. Taking place on 2nd and 3rd July at the Aston University Conference Center in Birmingham (UK), the Women's Aid National Conference: Ready for the Future was another key opportunity for services 'to come together to celebrate a movement which

has saved countless lives and set the standard for domestic violence services across the world.' It also provided a platform to develop a shared vision of the support services of the future, and to address current key challenges. The conference further aimed to identify the future needs of domestic violence survivors, and how to meet these needs in the context of a rapidly changing environment and increasingly limited resources.

Issues looked at during the Conference comprised: the identification of survivors' needs, and barriers to addressing domestic violence (economy, funding and culture); commissioning and service delivery models for the future; the future of the women's movement; and survivors and services questions to the Criminal Justice System. Key note speakers included, among others, Norman Baker MP, Minister for Crime Prevention; Alison Saunders, Director of Public Prosecutions; Professor Liz Kelly, Professor of Sexualised Violence, London Metropolitan University; and Professor Marianne Hester, Chair in Gender, Violence and International Policy, University of Bristol.

To find out more about the Conference, click [here](#) [10]. Keep updated on news and activities of Women's Aid UK through the [organization's website](#) [11].

## 'Defining and Profiling Serial Domestic Abuse Perpetrators: An All-Wales Feasibility Review'

Published in July 2014, '**Defining and Profiling Serial Domestic Abuse Perpetrators: An All-Wales Feasibility Review**' is the interim report of the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Cymru partnership-commissioned research aiming at providing empirical evidence about 'serial' and 'high-risk' domestic abuse perpetrators, to inform more consistent and effective multi-agency responses. Ultimately, by developing an agreed profile and a shared definition of serial domestic abuse perpetrators, interventions and services can be targeted more effectively to reduce re-offending and protect victims.

The report presents the findings from phase I of the research, which includes an analysis of the risk

profiles of 6642 domestic abuse perpetrators and qualitative interviews with Police, Probation and third sector agency practitioners across Wales. Phase II of the research, which findings will be published in autumn (September 2014), will involve the gathering of more detailed information on a random sample of perpetrators, in order to better understand the concept of 'serial' perpetration, and how this relates to perpetrators' risk profiles. To access the 51-page document, click [here](#) [12].

### **Women's Wellness Center joins the campaign to sign the petition for women raped in the Kosova war 1998-1999**



Organized under the direction of Deputy Prime Minister Edita Tahiri, the petition campaign **"We demand international Justice for raped women during the last war in Kosovo"** aims to shed the light on the remaining lack of access to justice of women victims of rape during the war in Kosovo, and on the need to bring the perpetrators of the genocide to justice. From 14th to 18th of July, the citizens of Kosova were invited to sign a petition to achieve international justice for the women raped during

the war in Kosova.

In this framework, **Women's Wellness Center**, WAVE Focal Point in Kosova, was active during the five day-campaign, inviting citizens to respond to and sign the petition in mass. Through the petition, women's organisations fighting for the rights of women survivors of atrocities during the genocide, including rape, raised their voices: "the petition will be our voice to address this issue in higher institutions of justice. Our voice must be heard, the voices of nearly 20,000 women raped from Serbian paramilitary." The petition will be submitted to the United Nations, in order to increase awareness of the need for improved mechanisms to address war crimes in Kosovo. This is particularly needed as the latest United Nations report on Kosovo failed to report on rape crimes in the country during the conflict. The campaign received support from the country's central institutions, the municipalities, civil society organizations and other public personalities. More than 100,000 signatures were collected over the five day-campaign.

Find out more about Women's Wellness Center's news, past and ongoing activities and projects by visiting the [organization's website](#) [13].

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

Run by WAVE Focal Point in Germany PAPTAYA 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 PAPTAYA, 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 [PAPTAYA's website](#) [14].

## **International News**

## Sweden and France ratify the Istanbul Convention

In July, Sweden and France both ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). By depositing the ratification instrument at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, on 1st and 4th July respectively, the two countries became the 12th and 13th member States of the Council of Europe to ratify the Istanbul Convention, which is set to come into force on 1st August 2014.

Established in 2011, the Istanbul Convention represents a landmark in efforts at the European level to prevent and combat violence against women, protect its victims and prosecute and punish perpetrators. First of its kind, the very comprehensive Convention-the convention covers most forms of violence against women, with among others, physical, psychological, emotional, economic, and sexual violence, as well as sexual harassment and cyber harassment-has so far been signed by 23 member States of the Council of Europe (Georgia and Romania both signed in June 2014), and ratified by 13.

Set to come into force with the 10th ratification, the Istanbul Convention will officially become effective on 1st August this year, and while this constitutes an important landmark success, much work remains to be done to bring all European countries to sign and ratify it.

## The European Parliament FEMM Committee elects its new Bureau

On 7 July 2014, the European Parliament Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) Committee elected its new Bureau, consisting of a Chair and 4 Vice-Chairs, at the occasion of its constituent meeting, following the election of its members by the European Parliament on 3rd July. The new Bureau, elected for a two-and-a-half year term, is constituted of **Iratxe Garcia Perez** (Chair), **Barbara Matera** (1st Vice-Chair), **Ines Cristina Zuber** (2nd Vice-Chair), **Vilija Blinkeviciute** (3rd Vice-Chair) and **Jana ZITNANSKA** (4th Vice-Chair). Access the complete [list of FEMM Committee members](#) [15].

The European Parliament Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee has been a standing committee of the European Parliament since July 1984. Its main responsibilities include, among others: the definition, promotion and protection of women's rights in the European Union and related Community measures; the promotion of women's rights in third countries; equal opportunities policy, including equality between men and women with regard to labor market opportunities and treatment at work; and the removal of all forms of discrimination based on sex.

To keep updated on the work of the FEMM Committee activities, projects and publications, visit the [European Parliament website](#) [16].

## Recognition and enforcement of foreign civil protection orders-an online questionnaire

The topic of "the recognition of foreign civil protection orders made, for example, in the context of domestic violence cases" has been an item of the work program of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) since 2011. It has been the aim of the Secretariat of the Hague Conference to assess whether a new international treaty, such as new Hague Convention, would be required to guarantee the recognition and enforcement of protection orders across international borders.

In this framework, the Secretariat wishes to collect additional statistical information in the area from non-government organizations and other experts. In so doing, it has developed a **10-questions questionnaire (available in English and French)**, which target groups are invited to complete by September 30, 2014.

Contributions (experiences, statistics, rough estimates) on the **prevalence of cases of domestic violence, other forms of violence against women, and such issues as forced marriage, human trafficking, etc., with a cross-border or global dimension**, will provide a basis for the Secretariat to report to its Member States in March or April 2015, on the need for a new International Convention on the protection of victims.

To access the HCCH  
online questionnaire [EN],  
click [here](#) [17].

## New Research & Publications

### **"Finding the Costs of Freedom-How women and children rebuild their lives after domestic violence"-a publication by Solace Women's Aid**

The organization Solace Women's Aid (UK) published the findings of the three-year project "Finding the Costs of Freedom". The research, conducted in partnership with the Child and Women Abuse Studies Unit (CWASU) at the London Metropolitan University, examined how women and children rebuild their lives after domestic violence. "Whilst crisis interventions for women and children experiencing domestic violence are well developed, little is known about the process of rebuilding lives, including what longer term support needs might be. Women's organizations have lacked the resources to follow up service users. The Research Grants Programme run by the Big Lottery provided an exciting opportunity to do just that."

Over three years (2011-2014), Solace Women's Aid and CWASU tracked 100 women and their children - participants were recruited after their exit from a range of support services provided by Solace - and observed their journey to recovery, through a set of interviews. The research aimed to identify several aspects of survivors' onward journey: What factors support long-term settlement, how do they interrelate and at what points in the process are they particularly important? ; When do obstacles to resettlement occur and how can they be overcome? ; How can community resources best be developed and integrated for long-term support of survivor resettlement and independence? To access the 144-page document, click [here](#) [18]; to find out more about **Solace Women Aid**, click [here](#) [19].

### **Council of Europe report "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 in Council of Europe member states"**

Prepared by Prof. Dr. Carol Hagemann-White, University of Osnabruck (DE), and based on information and data submitted by Gender Equality National Focal Points from 46 Council of Europe member states, the report presents the results for 2013, as well as a comparative analysis of developments since the setting-up of a monitoring framework in 2005. Over nearly a decade, the regular reporting on the implementation of Recommendation Rec (2002)5 has aimed "to present a numerical overview of progress, based on cross-nationally comparable measures in the areas of legislation and policies to prevent and combat violence against women, support services and protection for women who suffer violence, programmes for perpetrators, prevention efforts through public awareness and media, education and training, and in the area of data collection and research."

With the coming into force of the Istanbul Convention on 1st August this year, the Fourth Round of Monitoring also aims to provide an overview of the situation to the group of independent experts (GREVIO), tasked with monitoring the good implementation of the Convention. As such, terminology and concepts used in Focal Points' questionnaire were revised and adapted, to best fit the requirements of the Convention.

To access the 82-page report, click [here](#) [20].



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**Source URL (retrieved on 05/10/2016 - 15:49):** <http://www.wave-network.org/newsletter/wave-newsletter-july-2014-0>

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- [4] [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/about\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/about_en.asp)
- [5] <http://www.wave-network.org/sites/default/files/Press%20release%20-%20Istanbul%20Convention%20coming%20into%20force%20on%201st%20August.pdf>
- [6] <http://hub.coe.int/en/web/coe-portal/press/pressreleases>
- [7] <mailto:vanessa.depeyre@wave-network.org>
- [8] <http://www.wave-network.org/content/apply-2014-corinna-seith-award-deadline-extended-17th-august-2014>
- [9] <mailto:iris.golden@wave-network.org>
- [10] <http://www.womensaid.org.uk/domestic-violence-events.asp?itemid=3240&itemTitle=Women%27s+Aid+National+Conference%3A+Ready+for+the+Future&section=000100010017&sectionTitle=Events+calendar#Programme>
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- [13] <http://www.qmg-ks.com/>
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- [21] <http://wavenetwork.createsend1.com/t/t-l-cituil-l-ju/>
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