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## Wave Newsletter August 2014

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### August 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

### The Istanbul Convention comes into force!



Adopted on 7 April 2011, the **Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)** came into force on 1st August 2014. The entering in force of the Istanbul Convention followed its ratification by the 10th member of the Council of Europe, Andorra, on 22 April 2014. The Convention was since ratified by Denmark, Sweden, France and Malta, and 22 states have signed the document. 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 - if strongly implemented and coming along deep commitment from member states, should enhance the sustainability and autonomy of essential specialized support for women and their children. 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](#) [4]. In addition, the Council of Europe has issued a Press Release, available on the [Council of Europe website](#) [5] on 1st August, and including many useful links, such as a video message from the Secretary General and quotes to be used.

### PICUM Press Release - 'Entry into force of the Istanbul Convention: a vital opportunity to end violence against migrant women'

In frame of the coming into force of the Istanbul Convention, the **Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)** [6] has published a Press Release, jointly with [WAVE](#) [1] and the [European Network of Migrant Women \(ENoMW\)](#) [7].

The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, and Domestic Violence sets out, and calls for the implementation of, legally binding standards to prevent violence against women, protect survivors and punish perpetrators. Requiring state parties to ensure availability of services such as hotlines, shelters, medical assistance, counselling, and legal aid, **the Convention prohibits discrimination on the grounds of migration status (Article 4)**. However, because of their gender, foreign origin, and often dependent or irregular status, migrant women often face particularly high risks of experiencing exploitation and abuse. The entry into force of the Convention, and the monitoring of its implementation in states that have ratified it, by the Group of experts on action against violence against women and domestic violence (GREVIO), will enable greater access to much need specialized support services by migrant women, as well as their protection and support by the State.

To read the joint Press Release, click [here](#) [8].

### Reminder: 16th WAVE Conference, 16-19 November 2014 in Vienna, Austria

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](#) [9] from the WAVE Office. As in past years, the WAVE Annual conference will be attended by a great number of professionals working in the field of preventing and combating violence against women and their children, experts and academics, officials and representatives from International and European institutions, from many countries in Europe and beyond. The event will provide a platform for discussing current issues and further steps to take in furthering the right of women and girls to live lives free from violence.

To find out more about past WAVE Conferences, contents and outcomes, and download Conference reports, visit the [WAVE website](#) [10].

### **CWGL Take Action Kit for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign now available for download**



Originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute, coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) in 1991, the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign is an international initiative that has seen increasing popularity and worldwide participation over the years. Beginning on 25th November, International Day against Violence against Women, and ending on 10th December, International Human Rights Day, the campaign aims to highlight the issue of violence against women as one of the most important and widespread violations of Human Rights. Ahead of the 2014 edition of the 16 Days Campaign, the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) has developed a **16 Days Campaign Take Action Kit** [11], currently available for download in English, and soon to be available in French and Spanish. Hard copies of the Take Action Kit are also available upon request. The Take Action Kit includes the following items: a cover letter to participants; the theme announcement; and Information Sheets on a number of issues, and including a 'Suggested Press Release Template', '16 Days Brochure', and 'CWGL Brochure'. **Note: CWGL is currently looking for volunteers to translate any of the Take Action Kit documents into another language; if interested, contact [16days@cwgl.rutgers.edu](mailto:16days@cwgl.rutgers.edu)** [12]

Find out more about the 16 Days of Activism Campaign 2014 [here](#) [13], follow the campaign and contribute on [Facebook](#) [14] and Twitter [@16DaysCampaign](#) [15], and post your planned actions to the online-based [16 Days Campaign Calendar](#) [16], where you can share your events with other participants.

### **'Pornographic Performances', a briefing paper commissioned by the ERAW Coalition, Imkaan and Object**

Prepared by Dr Maddy Cox, and published in July 2014, the briefing paper '*Pornographic Performances: a review of research on sexualisation and racism in music videos*' provides a review of existing academic research on sexism and racism in music videos. The document was commissioned by the three UK-based organisations [ERAW \(End Violence against Women\) Coalition](#) [17], [Imkaan](#) [18] (WAVE Focal Point in the UK), and [Object](#) [19]. Findings presented in the paper include: the constant portrayal of women as sex objects, and men as the 'characters' with power and dominance; the exoticised and hyper-sexualised portrayal of black women as 'endlessly sexually available' objects, with a focus and fascinated gaze on their bottoms; and the correlation between the viewing of sexualised music videos and tolerance of racist, sexist and even rape tolerant attitudes. In recent years, several internationally famous artists have been criticized by women's groups for their music videos with explicitly racist and sexist content. The most recent example of it was artist Robin Thicke's internationally famous song 'Blurred Lines', which was highly criticized for trivializing and

glamorizing sexual violence and rape. Other examples include Calvin Harris' 'Summer', and Basement Jaxx' 'Never Say Never' music videos.

To read the 8-page briefing paper, click [here](#) [20].

## Scottish Women's Aid's Training Calendar for September 2014-March 2015 now available



**Scottish Women's Aid** - [21]WAVE Focal Points in the United Kingdom - has recently published its calendar of **Trainings for the period September 2014 to March 2015**. Training sessions include, among many others, 'Understanding the Dynamics of Domestic Abuse', 'Working with Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse', 'Honour-based Violence', 'Engaging with Men who Abuse Women Partners', 'Sexual Violence in Relationships', 'Domestic Abuse And Women Subject To Immigration Control', and 'Supporting LGBT People Experiencing Domestic Abuse'. In total, 28 one-day training sessions are offered by Scottish Women's Aid, with a first session on 30 September 2014 in Edinburgh, Scotland.

**Course bookings** can be made via post, telephone and email, or via the Scottish Women's Aid [website](#) [22]. To find out more about the Training sessions' content, dates, booking fees, venues, as well as information on the facilitators leading the sessions, download the [Scottish Women's Aid Training Calendar September 2014-March 2015](#) [23]. And do not forget to help disseminate the information to all interested public!

## In Romania, the informal network 'Breaking the Silence about Sexual Violence' is founded!

Recently founded by the association of several Romanian civil society organizations - Transcena Association, East European Institute for Reproductive Health (IEESR), Front Association, Centrul Parteneriat pentru Egalitate (CPE), E-Romnja Association, Filia Association, AnA Society for Feminist Analyses, Artemis Association, Association for Liberty and Equality of Gender A.L.E.G., as coordinator, and Sensiblu Foundation as collaborator - the network **Breaking the Silence about Sexual Violence** aims at '*introducing on the public agenda the problem of sexual violence, the rights of the victims of such crimes, shortcomings in legislation and in the authorities getting into contact with the victims.*' Meeting on a monthly basis in a series of thematic meetings open to other NGO professionals working at providing support to women at risk of victimization, the network's first work meeting highlighted, among others, the necessity to adapt the current Romanian Law of family violence (L217/2003) to the recently coming into force [Istanbul Convention](#) [24]. Romania recently signed the Convention, and women's organizations are actively working at its ratification by the Government. The activities of the network **Breaking the Silence about Sexual Violence** form part of the project "Breaking the Silence about Sexual Violence: strengthening NGO capacity to integrate sexual violence on the public agenda", running from May 2014 to May 2015.

To find out more about the network, visit the [A.L.E.G. website](#) [25], or contact [Irina Costache](#) [26] (A.L.E.G.).

## International News

### The CEDAW Committee issues a judgment against Spain for failing to provide protection from DV

The CEDAW Committee recently

### France passes a new law to bring gender equality forward

Early in August this year, France passed a sweeping gender equality law, a law brought forth by Minister

### UN Women August mini-campaign on Girls and Young Women, as part of the Beijing20 campaign

issued a judgment against Spain due to the country's failure to provide adequate protection from domestic violence, resulting in death. The case of Angela Gonzalez Carreno v. Spain was filed by the International NGO [Women's Link Worldwide](#) [27] in 2012, after Angela's daughter had been murdered by Angela's former husband during an unsupervised custody visit in 2004. Angela's communication to the Committee **alleged violations by Spain of articles 2 (General obligations), 5 (Stereotyping) and 16 (Equality in marriage and family relations) of CEDAW.**

After two years, since the case was filed, the CEDAW Committee declared Spain responsible for the lack of protection and due diligence towards Angela and her daughter. It also pointed out that, although Spain has developed a legislative framework in order to deal with violence against women, judges, prosecutors, social workers and other public agents often behave in a stereotyped way that discriminates against women. In this respect, the decision taken by the Committee underlines the problems that are still present in the system, encouraging the Spanish state to implement the measures to protect women and children from the aggressors de facto.

For more information about the case and CEDAW judgment, visit the [Women's Link Worldwide website](#) [28].

for Women's Rights Ms Najat Vallaud-Belkacem. The multi-faceted law covers numerous aspects of gender equality, from the workplace to domestic issues. It includes, among others, provisions to provide support for domestic abuse victims, improve women's wages, encourage paternal leave and a more equal division of childcare, increase female representation in politics, and limit stereotypical images of women in the media.

An important change enabled by the law is greater access to abortion, which is now allowed until the twelfth week of pregnancy, without need for justification for terminating the pregnancy. This comes as amendment to the current 1945 French Legislation that gives women the legal right to terminate a pregnancy only if they were in a situation of "distress." The law further bans any attempt to prevent women from obtaining information about abortion services, and costs of abortion will be financed by the government.

*"At a time when women in many parts of the world, including in the United States and Spain, are seeing their rights restricted, violated, and disrespected, France has set an important example for the rest of the globe with its progressive stance toward reproductive health care"* - Lilian Sepulveda, director of the Global Legal Program at the Center for Reproductive Rights. Read more about the news [here](#) [29].

Ahead of the 20th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, UN Women launched the year-long campaign [Beijing20](#) [30], running under the title **"Empowering Women - Empowering Humanity: Picture It!"**. For each month of the year, the campaign features a mini-campaign, each focusing on a sub-theme of gender equality.

In **August**, the **monthly mini-campaign** led by UN Women focused on ***Girls and Young Women***, one of the areas of concern brought forth in the Beijing Platform for Action. The mini-campaign includes information on the topic, including on historical developments and how the issue gained importance at the international level over time, current facts and figures, a contribution by Nnenna Agba on the importance of girls' education for opening the doors to progress in Nigeria, a compilation of pictures illustrating the work conducted by UN Women and other International organizations with girls and young women all over the world, and well as links to importance resources on the topic. The mini-campaign also includes an online quiz on the topic of the 'Girl Child'! The mini-campaign page is available in [English](#) [31], [Spanish](#) [32] and [French](#) [33].

A **social media package**, developed for year-long Beijing20 campaign, is available along with images, [online](#) [34] [dropbox page], and gathers material for all the

monthly mini-campaigns:  
June - Women and the  
Environment, July -  
Women and Decision-  
Making, August - The Girl  
Child, and September -  
Women and the Economy.

## New Research & Publications

### UNECE 'Gender Action Plan – Key to Regional Sustainable Development 2014-2015'

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) recently published the **Gender Action Plan - Key to Regional Sustainable Development 2014-2015**. The document was developed 'to update and put in action the UNECE policy for gender equality and women's empowerment [...] which was initially developed within the Agreed framework for gender mainstreaming in the UNECE adopted in 2001.' The Gender Action Plan 2014-2015 is the second plan for implementation of the UNECE policy on gender equality, and presents the **objectives of the UNECE** and the mandate for gender mainstreaming, as well as a brief explanation as to why there is a need to pursue gender equality and empowerment of women through gender mainstreaming in UNECE activities and work. The document further describes the **UNECE strategic framework for gender mainstreaming**, and it presents the **Action Plan 2014-2015** in details. The **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)** [35] was set up in 1947 by ECOSOC, and is one of the five regional commissions of the UN, with the aim to promote pan-European economic integration. 'The goal of UNECE policy for gender equality and women's empowerment is to support the achievement of equality between women and men, while fostering economic integration at subregional and regional levels, promoting the regional implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, and supporting regional sustainable development in its member countries and subregions.'

To access the 23-page document, click [here](#) [36].

### 'Women's Lives and Challenges: Equality and Empowerment since 2000', a USAid publication

In 2014, the United States Agency for International Development (USAid) published **Women's Lives and Challenges: Equality and Empowerment since 2000**. The report provides an assessment of the progress made towards achieving gender equality and women's empowerment since 2000 and the adoption of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), based on findings from 95 surveys conducted by MEASURE DHS in 47 countries, between 2000 and 2011. The data gathered serves to provide **an accurate picture of women's lives, their status all over the world and changing trends - positive and negative - occurring since the beginning of the millennium**. Findings further lead to conclusions on what and **how much remains to be achieved**, and in what areas there is a particularly pressing need for worldwide efforts. Report findings are organized along three outcomes identified by USAid: "Resources for Empowerment and Equality", "Women's Control of their own Lives", and "Violence in Women's Lives". When available, men's data are also provided, enabling the identification of gender disparities and their dimension. **Report findings** include the following: resources for empowerment are distributed unequally between women and men, but women have made gains in education, employment, health care, and family life; women's control over their own lives shows some encouraging trends, but substantial gender gaps remain; and violence in women's lives remains disturbingly common, and progress has been limited.

To download the 152-page UNAid report, click [here](#) [37].



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[39]

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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/Press%20release%20-%20Istanbul%20Convention%20coming%20into%20force%20on%201st%20August.pdf>
- [5] <http://hub.coe.int/en/web/coe-portal/press/pressreleases>
- [6] <http://picum.org/en>
- [7] <http://www.migrantwomennetwork.org/>
- [8] <http://www.wave-network.org/sites/default/files/JOINT PRESS RELEASE - ENTRY INTO FORCE OF ISTANBUL CONVENTION - 1 August 2014.pdf>
- [9] <mailto:vanessa.depeyre@wave-network.org>
- [10] <http://www.wave-network.org/content/annual-wave-conference>
- [11] <http://16dayscwg.rutgers.edu/2014-campaign/2014-take-action-kit>
- [12] <mailto:16days@cwgl.rutgers.edu>
- [13] <http://16dayscwg.rutgers.edu/2014-campaign/2014-theme-announcement>
- [14] <https://www.facebook.com/16DaysCampaign>
- [15] <https://twitter.com/16DaysCampaign>
- [16] <http://16dayscwg.rutgers.edu/campaign-calendar/submit-an-event>
- [17] <http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/>
- [18] <http://imkaan.org.uk/>
- [19] <http://object.org.uk/>
- [20] [https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/85173313/Pornographic Performances FINAL Aug 2014.pdf](https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/85173313/Pornographic%20Performances%20FINAL%20Aug%202014.pdf)
- [21] <http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/>
- [22] <http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/news-events/training-events>
- [23] [http://www.wave-network.org/sites/default/files/SWA External Training Programme Autumn 2014\\_0.pdf](http://www.wave-network.org/sites/default/files/SWA%20External%20Training%20Programme%20Autumn%202014_0.pdf)
- [24] [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/about\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/about_en.asp)
- [25] <http://aleg-romania.eu/en/category/proiecte/rupem-tacerea-despre-violenta-sexuala/>
- [26] <mailto:irina.costache@aleg-romania.eu>
- [27] <http://www.womenslinkworldwide.org/wlw/new.php>

- [28] [http://www.womenslinkworldwide.org/wlw/new.php?modo=detalle\\_proyectos&tp=proyectos&dc=62&lang=en](http://www.womenslinkworldwide.org/wlw/new.php?modo=detalle_proyectos&tp=proyectos&dc=62&lang=en)
- [29] <http://thinkprogress.org/health/2014/08/06/3468135/france-gender-equality-law/>
- [30] <http://beijing20.unwomen.org/>
- [31] <http://beijing20.unwomen.org/en/in-focus/girl-child>
- [32] <http://beijing20.unwomen.org/es/in-focus/girl-child>
- [33] <http://beijing20.unwomen.org/fr/in-focus/girl-child>
- [34] <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8a3s55xrdymw5rs/AAAUJo6lelZd7AVt4ZCgDCdXa>
- [35] <http://www.unece.org/termsreferenceandrulesofprocedureoftheunece.html>
- [36] [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/publication/UNECE\\_Gender\\_Action\\_Plan\\_2014-2015\\_final.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/publication/UNECE_Gender_Action_Plan_2014-2015_final.pdf)
- [37] [http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Womens Lives and Challenges.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Womens_Lives_and_Challenges.pdf)
- [38] <http://wavenetwork.createsend1.com/t/t-l-cituil-l-ju/>
- [39] <https://www.globalfundforwomen.org/>
- [40] <http://wavenetwork.createsend1.com/t/t-l-cituil-l-tl/>
- [41] <http://wave-network.org/newsletter/women-against-violence-europe-newsletter>