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## Wave Newsletter September 2014

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### September 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

### **16th WAVE Conference, 16-19 November 2014 in Vienna, Austria – Preliminary programme now available!**



Only one month to go before the **16th WAVE Conference**, which will take place in Vienna, Austria, on 16-19 November 2014! The first day of the conference, 16th November, will be dedicated to the WAVE Board Meeting (Board Members only), followed by a welcome drink at the Fleming's Hotel (one of the two conference venues) where all participants in the conference are kindly invited. The second day of the Conference, 17th November, will be public and will take place in the Vienna City Hall. The evening will be dedicated to celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the WAVE Network all together! Activities and panels of the remaining two days of the conference, 18th and 19th of November, will take place at the Fleming's Hotel (Westbahnhof), and will include issues such as combating violence against women in Europe in times of political and economic crisis, experiences of survivors and future perspectives on measures of protection and support.

For more detailed information on the content of the 16th WAVE Conference, have a look at the [preliminary conference programme](#) [4]!

### **Third World Conference of Women's Shelters (WCWS) in The Hague, 3-5 November 2015, Save the Date!**

Taking place for the first time in 2008 in Alberta, Canada, where it was hosted by the [Alberta Council of Women's Shelters](#) [5], the **World Conference of Women's Shelters (WCWS)** is a global initiative of the [Global Network of Women's Shelters \(GNWS\)](#) [6]. Following the success of the First and Second World Conferences (2012, Washington, D.C., USA), the Global Network of Women's Shelters plans to organize a third edition of the event. [Federatie Opvang](#) [7], the Dutch umbrella organization for women's shelters, has been tasked with organizing and hosting the **Third World Conference of Women's Shelters**, which will take place on 3-5 November 2015 in The Hague, Netherlands. After months of hard work, Federatie Opvang has managed to involve several Dutch Ministries that are willing to support the upcoming event. The program of conference is currently being elaborated, and the organization now needs support finding sponsors for the event! **Do you have contact with sponsors that would interested in sponsoring the 3rd World Conference of Women's Shelters?** If so, contact Federatie Opvang at [3WCWS@opvang.nl](mailto:3WCWS@opvang.nl) [8].

The 3WCWS Brochure, introducing the event, is available [online](#) [9].

### **WAVE/UNFPA project on 'Strengthening Health System Response to Gender-based Violence in Eastern Europe and Central Asia' – Resource Package in English and Russian now available!**

Since 2011, in partnership with [UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia](#) [10], and in cooperation with WAVE Focal Point in Russia (Moscow) [Centre ANNA](#) [11], WAVE has developed and promoted a **programmatic package to strengthen the health system response to gender based violence (GBV) in Eastern Europe and Central Asia**. Health services are essential in identifying and responding to gender-based violence;

however, a systematic approach is still often missing. The WAVE/UNFPA project aims to provide essential tools for professionals in the health sector, service providers and policy-makers (with a focus on Eastern Europe and Central Asia), to better respond to GBV. The package includes background information and practical tools in the following areas: 1) Programming for integration of GBV within the Health System; 2) Training Programme for Health Care Providers; 3) Creating Referral Pathways integrated into health care; 4) Monitoring and Evaluation.

The Package, available in [English](#) [12] and [Russian](#) [13] from the [project website](#) [14], is composed of a 'Part I: Guidance for health care professionals', a 'Part II: Training package for health care professionals', as well as several Annexes.

### **Women's Aid (UK) launches its 'SOS Campaign: save refuges, save lives' – spread the information!**



Women's Aid – one of WAVE Focal Point in the United Kingdom – recently launched the 'SOS Campaign: safe refuges, save lives', to raise awareness of the massive funding cuts that have come threatening the sustainability of its nation-wide network of refuges, and the sustainability of the much needed women's shelters located the UK, emphasizing the vital role shelters play in society. **Between 2010 and 2014, the number of specialist services for women survivors of violence in the UK has decreased from 187 to 155.** The campaign constitutes a call on the government to Save Our Services (SOS) 'by committing to preserving the national network of specialist refuges by exploring a new model of national refuge funding and commissioning'.

What role can you play in supporting the Women's Aid Campaign? 1) Sign their Petition [online](#) [15]; 2) Send your SOS signal (**find out more on the [campaign page](#) [16]**); 3 Tweet your support; 4) Pass on the information!

### **"Live Free from Domestic Violence as a Basic Right for every Woman" – a project led by Center for Support and Development of Civic Initiatives 'Resonance', Moldova**

Launched in October 2013, with financial support from the Government of Sweden, '**Live Free from Domestic Violence as a Basic Right for every Woman**' has been successfully implemented by WAVE Focal Point in the Autonomous Region of Transnistria (Moldova) [Center 'Resonance'](#) [17] over the last year. The project includes three main elements: 1) awareness-raising on domestic violence and available protection measures and services for women survivors, through regional campaigning; 2) capacity-building of women's NGOs working at combating DV in Transnistria, including the creation of a network of women's NGOs, training and study visits, and as a 16 Days campaign; 3) training of mass media journalists, with the aim of improving their capacity to create positive and informed public opinion on the issue of domestic violence.

Last month (10-11 August 2014), the organization led a second training session for Mass Media, titled '**Gender and the Media: gender-sensitive journalism**', which aimed at showing journalists the crucial role they can play in forming correct, gender-sensitive public opinion by creating materials that motivate the reader to reflect on the prevailing societal attitudes of men and women and their social roles.

### **In Romania, A.L.E.G. organizes the Gender Equality Festival on 19-21 September 2014**



This month, from 19-21 September 2014, WAVE Focal Point in Romania **A.L.E.G.** [18] organized and led the **Gender Equality Festival**, which took place in the city of Sibiu. As part of the event, the organization raised money for the support center for victims of gender-based violence (part of A.L.E.G.) by selling muffins – each muffin carried messages and spice-up actions meant to fight gender stereotypes that lead to GBV and discrimination (A.L.E.G.'s

**Emancipated Muffin Factory** - 19th September). Other activities undertaken during the festival included the **Human Library** (20th September), the **Invisible Theatre** (20th September), the screening of two films: **I am the master of my body!**/Corpul meu îmi aparține! (19th September), a film directed and produced by A.L.E.G., and **Happy Happy**/Cumplit de fericită (21st September), and the **Interactive Map of Urban Discrimination** (19th September).

Find out more about A.L.E.G.'s Gender Equality Festival, and its different activities [here](#) [19]. Keep updated on the organization's actions and projects through the [A.L.E.G.'s website](#) [18], and by following them on [Facebook](#) [20]!

## 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign, less than two months to go!

Each year since 1991, starting on 25th November (International Day against Violence against Women) and ending on 10th December (International Human Rights Day), the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign** [21] raises awareness of violence against women as one of the most important and widespread violations of Human Rights, affecting one in three women worldwide. Ahead of the 2014 edition of the 16 Days Campaign, the [Center for Women's Global Leadership \(CWGL\)](#) [22] has developed a **16 Days Campaign Take Action Kit**, available for download in **English, French and Spanish**. The Take Action Kit includes: 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'.

Find out more about the 16 Days of Activism Campaign 2014 [here](#) [23], follow the campaign and contribute on Facebook and Twitter [@16DaysCampaign](#), and post your planned actions to the online-based [16 Days Campaign Calendar](#) [24], where you can share your events with other participants. This year again, let us all work together to make the 16 Days of Activism a worldwide success!

## International News

### 'Development and Institutionalization of Multisectoral Mechanisms to Counteract Domestic Violence' - a UNFPA Conference in Minsk, 24-25 September 2014

On 24-25 September 2014, the UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) Office in Belarus hosted the International Conference

**'Development and Institutionalization of Multisectoral Mechanisms to Counteract Domestic Violence'**, in Minsk (Belarus). Carried out in frame of the international technical assistance projects to counteract domestic violence in the context of increased gender equality in the Republic of Belarus, the two-day conference gathered close to 150 participants from the different sectors involved in the response to VAW in Belarus, as well as International professionals working

### In Czech Republic, the creation of a Chamber of Experts on Gender Equality

Announced recently, the creation of a **Chamber of Experts on Gender Equality** in Czech Republic aims to bring together professionals from academia and various specialized fields of practice, to focus on issues related to gender equality, in view of providing expertise and guidance to be used by the Government or ministries in this area. The Chamber of Experts, project of the [Czech Women's Lobby \(CWL\)](#) [25] for which it received funding through Norway grant, should start functioning in about a year (end 2015). Its creation will be coordinated by Sociological Institute of the Academy of Sciences, the Faculty of Humanities at Charles University in Prague, and the Faculty of Social Studies at Masaryk University in Brno. After several

### Celebrating the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention in Rome, 19 September 2014

Following the entry into force of the [Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, and Domestic Violence](#) [27]

on 1st August 2014, the Council of Europe, together with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chamber of Deputies of Italy, held a conference in Rome on September 19th, 2014, to celebrate the historical landmark. Titled **'Safe from fear, safe from violence – celebrating**



in relevant fields. The conference provided a platform for participants – representatives from State authorities, International and European institutions, women's NGOs and civil society organizations – to compare and discuss international and national experience in establishing comprehensive multisectoral cooperation in counteracting domestic violence and providing support to women survivors.

Issues addressed at the conference included legal mechanisms (in Belarus and worldwide) to counteract DV, the role of women's NGOs and national and international networks, and experiences of multisectoral cooperation in the field.

months of preparation, the Chamber should include experts on issues including women's access to the labor market, LGBT rights, migration, minorities, violence and sexual harassment, women's rights and work-life balance.

The Czech Women's Lobby was awarded Norwegian funding for the project **'We Defend Women's Rights'**, which has included the creation of the Chamber of Experts on Gender Equality, advocacy for legislative measures supporting birth assistants, an awareness raising campaign on gender equality and women's political participation, and the holding of the country's second Women's Congress. Find out more [here](#) [26].

**the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention'**, the conference highlighted the importance of the Istanbul Convention in filling the gap in the protection of women from Gender-Based Violence, while also providing a platform for participants – these included representatives from government structures and institutions at decision-making level, parliaments and local authorities from CoE member states, other regional and international organizations, NGOs and CSOs, as well as the media – to exchange experiences, knowhow and to do networking.

Outcome of the Conference, a [Joint Declaration](#) [28] was delivered by Ministers and State Secretaries from State Parties to the Istanbul Convention, to demonstrate political will to implement the provisions of the Convention, and urge other CoE to sign and ratify it. Find out more about the event (including pictures of the conference) on the [Council of Europe website](#) [29].

## New Research & Publications

### Regional Tools to Fight Violence Against Women - The Belém do Pará and Istanbul Conventions

Published in February 2014 by the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Council of Europe, the document **'Regional Tools to Fight Violence Against Women – The Belem do Para and Istanbul Conventions'** aims 'to contribute to strategies and actions developed between the Organization of the American States and the Council of Europe in order to advance the agenda for women's equality.' In addition to providing the complete texts of both conventions, the document looks at several themes and outcomes of the [Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women](#) [30] – political will to fight VAW, the convention and its follow-up mechanism, the extent of VAW in the Americas, and progress made in the implementation of Belem do Para – and of the [CoE Convention on Preventing and Combating](#)

**Violence against Women, and Domestic Violence** [31] – Istanbul Convention as global tool to prevent and combat VAW, purpose and content of the convention, 12 steps to comply with the convention, as well as some features of the Istanbul Convention (i.e. FGM).

The 115-page document is available in [English](#) [32] and [Spanish](#) [33].

### **Abortion Policies and Reproductive Health around the World – a UN DESA publication**

Published in 2014, the UN DESA (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs) report '**Abortion Policies and Reproductive Health around the World**' provides information on changes in legislation for abortion and related reproductive health policies in 197 countries – these include the 193 Member States of the United Nations, 2 Observer States (the Holy See and the State of Palestine) and 2 non-Member States (Cook Islands and Niue) – between 1996 and 2013. Based primarily on the [World Population Policies Database](#) [34], and drawing on information from the UNPD [World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision](#) [35], the [ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Survey](#) [36], and other selected sources, the report provides not only updated information on relevant policies and trends across the world, but also includes latest available information on government programmes related to reproductive health and their outcomes.

To access the 52-page document, click [here](#) [37].



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Bacherplatz 10 / 6  
1050 Vienna, Austria  
phone: +43 0154 827 20  
fax: +43 0 154 827 202 7  
e-mail: [office@wave-network.org](mailto:office@wave-network.org)  
ZVR:601608559

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- [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\\_Conference\\_Programme\\_Preliminary\\_Draft\\_0.pdf](http://www.wave-network.org/sites/default/files/WAVE_Conference_Programme_Preliminary_Draft_0.pdf)
- [5] <https://www.acws.ca/>

- [6] <http://www.gnws.org/en/work/wcws.html>
- [7] <http://www.opvang.nl/>
- [8] <mailto:3WCWS@opvang.nl>
- [9] [http://www.wave-network.org/sites/default/files/3WCWS brochure.pdf](http://www.wave-network.org/sites/default/files/3WCWS%20brochure.pdf)
- [10] <http://eeca.unfpa.org/>
- [11] <http://www.wave-network.org/organizations/anna-national-center-prevention-violence>
- [12] [http://www.health-genderviolence.org/sites/default/files/download/WAVE-UNFPA Report EN.pdf](http://www.health-genderviolence.org/sites/default/files/download/WAVE-UNFPA%20Report%20EN.pdf)
- [13] [http://www.health-genderviolence.org/sites/default/files/download/WAVE-UNFPA Report RU.pdf](http://www.health-genderviolence.org/sites/default/files/download/WAVE-UNFPA%20Report%20RU.pdf)
- [14] <http://www.health-genderviolence.org/>
- [15] <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/sos-save-refuges-save-lives>
- [16] <http://www.womensaid.org.uk/page.asp?section=0001000100100022&sectionTitle=SOS>
- [17] <http://www.wave-network.org/organizations/center-support-and-development-civic-initiatives-resonance>
- [18] <http://aleg-romania.eu/en/>
- [19] <http://aleg-romania.eu/en/festivalul-egalitatii-de-gen-19-21-septembrie-2014/>
- [20] <https://www.facebook.com/alegromania>
- [21] <http://16dayscwg.rutgers.edu/about/campaign-profile>
- [22] <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/>
- [23] <http://16dayscwg.rutgers.edu/2014-campaign/2014-theme-announcement>
- [24] <http://16dayscwg.rutgers.edu/campaign-calendar/submit-an-event>
- [25] <http://www.czlobby.cz/en/about-us/>
- [26] <http://www.romea.cz/en/news/czech/czech-chamber-of-experts-on-gender-equality-being-created>
- [27] [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/about\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/about_en.asp)
- [28] <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/Seminars/Rome2014/IC-Declaration-Rome-Final-EN.pdf>
- [29] [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/Seminars/Rome2014/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/Seminars/Rome2014/default_en.asp)
- [30] <http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/treaties/a-61.html>
- [31] [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/convention/Convention 210 English.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/convention/Convention%20210%20English.pdf)
- [32] <http://www.oas.org/es/mesecvi/docs/MESECVI-CoE-CSWPub-EN.pdf>
- [33] <http://www.oas.org/es/mesecvi/docs/MESECVI-CoE-CSWPub-ES.pdf>
- [34] [http://esa.un.org/PopPolicy/about\\_database.aspx](http://esa.un.org/PopPolicy/about_database.aspx)
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- [38] <http://wavenetwork.createsend1.com/t/t-1-cituil-1-ju/>
- [39] <https://www.globalfundforwomen.org/>
- [40] <http://wavenetwork.createsend1.com/t/t-1-cituil-1-tl/>
- [41] <http://wave-network.org/newsletter/women-against-violence-europe-newsletter>