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[Home](#) > Wave Newsletter October 2014

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## Wave Newsletter October 2014

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### October 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, November 16-19, 2014 in Vienna, Austria – Finalized program now available!



The **16th WAVE conference** is just around the corner! It will be taking place in Vienna, Austria, on **November 16-19, 2014!** The first day of the conference, November 16, will be dedicated to the WAVE Board Meeting (Board Members only) and will be followed by a welcome drink at the Fleming's Hotel (one of the two conference venues) which all participants in the conference are kindly invited to attend. The second day of the conference, November 17, will be open to the 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 during the remaining two days of the conference, November 18 and 19, will take place at the Fleming's Hotel (Westbahnhof), and will cover 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 [Finalized conference program](#) [4]!

### Spanish Shadow Report 2008-2013 to be presented to CEDAW Committee on November 10th

Women and feminist NGOs, as well as Human Rights NGOs will gather in **Geneva** on November 10th to present the new **Shadow Report 2008-2013**, reviewing the implementation of the different areas of the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women** in Spain. The report has been worked on by over 50 NGOs in the last two years, and has been signed by more than 250 women, human rights individuals, and Spanish feminist NGOs in order to denounce the financial cuts and the human rights violations against women in the Spanish state.

You also can find all the information on the **Shadow Report Platform** [blog](#) [5] with an English translation of the Shadow Report.

### Fourth International Conference on Survivors of Rape in Lisbon, November 20-22, 2014

The [Associação de Mulheres contra a Violência](#) [6] (AMCV- Association of Women against Violence) is collaborating with the [Rape Crises Network Ireland](#) [7] (RCNI) to organize the **IV International Conference on Survivors of Rape (ICSOR)**. The theme of this conference is Rape, Survivors, Policies and Support Systems, a European Challenge. ICSOR organizes these biannual conferences in order to bring professionals of all backgrounds together to share



information and develop good strategies and practices that center on the needs of survivors.

This fall's conference will also tackle the issue of states' obligation of due diligence to prevent human rights abuses, specifically rape. The conference will take place in [Fundacao Calouste Gulbenkian](#) [8] in Lisbon.

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



The first World Conference of Women's Shelters (WCWS) took place in 2008 in Alberta, Canada, where it was hosted by the [Alberta Council of Women's Shelters](#) [9]. The conference is an initiative of the [Global Network of Women's Shelters \(GNWS\)](#) [10]. 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](#) [11], 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 November 3-5, 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 conference program is currently being elaborated, and the organization now needs support finding sponsors for the event!

**Do you have contact with sponsors that would be interested in sponsoring the 3rd World Conference of Women's Shelters?** If so, contact Federatie Opvang at [3WCWS@opvang.nl](mailto:3WCWS@opvang.nl) [12]. The 3WCWS Brochure, introducing the event, is available online.

### **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign, just a month 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](#) [13] 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](#) [14] (CWGL) 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, follow the campaign and contribute on Facebook and Twitter @16DaysCampaign, and post your planned actions to the online-based [16 Days Campaign Calendar](#) [15], 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!

### **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](#) [16], WAVE has developed and promoted a resource 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.

The Resource Package, available in [English](#) [17] and [Russian](#) [18] from the [project website](#) [19], 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.

### **The Women's Aid National Training Center continues to offer Courses for Diplomas and Certificates**

Currently the **Women's Aid National Training Centre** is running the 'Award and Certificate in Tackling and Preventing Domestic/Sexual Violence/Abuse' course, in addition to a number of other CPD courses, such as: courses for facilitators of support groups for adult and child survivors of domestic abuse; Domestic Abuse and Teenage Relationships; Supporting Survivors from the European Economic Area; McKenzie Friend; Domestic Abuse and the Impact on Children and Young People; Bespoke Training; half-day workshops on Clare's Law and Coercive Control. Furthermore, **the Centre is offering a certificate and diploma in 'Tackling and Preventing Domestic Violence'**, with dates running from October 2014 to March 2015.

For more information on the courses and training, please visit the Women's Aid [website](#) [20].

## **International News**

### **The Inaugural one-day Conference of the Violence and Interpersonal Aggression (VIA) Research Group, Coventry University, October 24, 2014**

On October 24, 2014, **Coventry University** will be hosting an event from 9:00 to 5:00, **presenting research on family violence, interpersonal aggression, workplace violence, sexual violence, and youth violence**. In addition, the conference will also have several parallel workshops, which will allow participants to discuss the following topics more in depth: "the Developing violence prevention strategies in higher education", "Incorporating change into risk assessment" and "Who's hurting who? Adult and child services and domestic violence." **Professor Devon Polaschek** will present the keynote address, entitled "Reducing violence and crime after prison: Rehabilitation, reintegration, or both?" The conference is free of cost to attend. For more information or to register for the event, click [here](#) [21].

### **In the UK, a new report urges officials to treat the online abuse of women and girls more robustly**

The report, "**New Technology: Same Old Problems**," outlines the ways in which women and girls may face sexual harassment on social media sites, such as Twitter, and calls on police to treat these instances of abuse as seriously as they would abuse that occurs offline. The report is based on a roundtable organized by the **End Violence Against Women Coalition** [22] and the Guardian, and included 20 lawyers, academics, support workers, and journalists. The reports calls on the government to require schools teach respectful and consensual relationships and asks social media firms to close avenues for abuse. The full report can be found [here](#) [23].

### **Turkey's new political party, Kadin Partisi (Women's Party)**

A plethora of domestic abuse cases are coming to light in Turkey, as women feel more able to bring forward cases, and activists are seeking ways to prevent and address the violence. One way in which women activists hope to combat the violence is through **the formation of a Women's Party in Turkey**, Kadin Partisi. **Bengal Yazgan** applied on June 26 to the interior ministry for recognition of **Kadin Partisi**. The party platform is to "fight against gender discrimination and inequality in society, as well as discrimination based on religion, language, ethnicity and sexual orientation, and fight against military and civil coups and hate speech." The hope is that the party will lead to the appointment of more women officials to address abuse and that new laws will be put in place promoting equality. If the

party is able to garner enough support and funds, it could participate in parliamentary elections in 2015.

## New Research & Publications

### Protection for children - Has legal reform in Austria gone far enough?

The **Domestic Violence Intervention Centre Vienna** has released a report, "**Parents' rights or child protection? Experience concerning the new Act on Family Matters in view of domestic violence,**" which presents an initial evaluation of the effects of an amendment to **Austria's Act Modifying Family Matters and Name Changes**. During deliberations on the amendment, the Domestic Violence Intervention Centre and other victim's right groups lobbied for the law to prevent abusive guardians from obtaining custody of children. An initial evaluation shows that despite the change to the law, children still often remain in the custody of abusive parents. The report discusses the ways in which domestic violence affects children and youths, analyses the effects of the legal change, and then proposes ways in which legal protections for children and young people could be improved.

### "Street Harassment, Know Your Rights"

Studies show that the majority of women around the world encounter street harassment, and it can affect the safety and well-being of all women and girls. This guide, released by Thomson Reuters Foundation's pro bono service, TrustLaw, outlines laws and policies relating to street harassment around the globe including the following European countries: Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, and Turkey. This guide can be a good resource for finding out what legal recourse there is against street harassment in different countries. Significant barriers to prosecuting street harassment still exist in many countries. A link to the full report can be found [here](#) [24].



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- [3] <https://www.facebook.com/pages/WAVE-Network/100277033374347?ref=ts&fref=ts>
- [4] [http://www.wave-network.org/sites/default/files/WAVE%20Conference%20Programme\\_20%20Anniversary%202014.pdf](http://www.wave-network.org/sites/default/files/WAVE%20Conference%20Programme_20%20Anniversary%202014.pdf)
- [5] <http://cedawsombraesp.wordpress.com/>
- [6] <http://www.amcv.org.pt/>
- [7] <http://www.rcni.ie/>
- [8] <http://www.gulbenkian.pt/Institucional/en/Homepage>
- [9] <https://www.acws.ca/>
- [10] <http://www.gnws.org/en/work/wcws.html>
- [11] <http://www.opvang.nl/>
- [12] <mailto:3WCWS@opvang.nl>
- [13] <http://16dayscwg.rutgers.edu/about/campaign-profile>
- [14] <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/>
- [15] <http://16dayscwg.rutgers.edu/campaign-calendar/submit-an-event>
- [16] <http://eeca.unfpa.org/>
- [17] <http://www.health-genderviolence.org/sites/default/files/download/WAVE-UNFPA%20Report%20EN.pdf>
- [18] <http://www.health-genderviolence.org/sites/default/files/download/WAVE-UNFPA%20Report%20RU.pdf>
- [19] <http://www.health-genderviolence.org/>
- [20] <http://nationaltrainingcentre.org.uk/>
- [21] <http://www.coventry.ac.uk/events/viaconference>
- [22] <http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/>
- [23] [http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/data/files/Report\\_New\\_Technology\\_Same\\_Old\\_Problems.pdf](http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/data/files/Report_New_Technology_Same_Old_Problems.pdf)
- [24] <http://www.trust.org/publication/?id=7ea3c510-0595-40c4-ab35-f3208f28b0b0>
- [25] <http://wavenetwork.createsend1.com/t/t-1-cituil-1-ju/>
- [26] <https://www.globalfundforwomen.org/>
- [27] <http://wavenetwork.createsend1.com/t/t-1-cituil-1-tl/>
- [28] <http://wave-network.org/newsletter/women-against-violence-europe-newsletter>