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## WAVE Newsletter December 2014

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### December 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!**

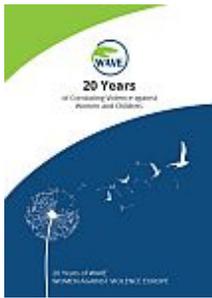
All the best from the WAVE team in Vienna!





## WAVE NEWS

### WAVE 20th Anniversary Brochure - celebrating 20 years of promotion of the rights of women to live free from violence!



At the occasion of the **20th Anniversary of the Network**, WAVE has brought together information on the History of the network, its milestones and many successes, as well as projects and publications carried out over the years! The Brochure, largely distributed at the occasion of the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the WAVE Network (taking place during the 16th WAVE Annual Conference [4]e in Vienna, 16-19th November 2014), is now available for download from our website [1]! The Brochure includes the following elements: Introduction to WAVE (Goals and main activities); a Short History of the Network (Conferences and Milestones); the list of WAVE Publications (from the manual *Away From Violence*, to the annual WAVE Country Reports), information on the Right to Live Free from Violence, and the state of Specialized Support Services in Europe; Messages by the Founders and Supporters of WAVE; the list of WAVE Focal Points in 46 European Countries; and the WAVE List of Women's Helplines in 46 European countries (2013). Download the WAVE 20th Anniversary Brochure [5]!

### Global Technical Consultation on Essential Social Sector Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence, 2-4 December 2014, Mexico

On 2-4 December 2014, WAVE attended a **consultation meeting on social sector services for women and girls survivors of violence, organized by UNFPA and UN Women and taking place in Mexico**. The consultation gathered around 30 experts from women's NGOs and UN agencies from all over the world. During the 3-day event, the participants discussed the role of social services in the protection and support of women and girls survivors, as well as the core element of these services. Further areas and issues addressed at the consultation included children rights, risk assessment and management, the role of men in supporting women's and girls' safety, and tools for effective implementation of standards, among others. The meeting was carried out with the aim to establish global standards and principles for the work of social services for women and girls victims of violence. Based on results of the global consultation, the UNFPA jointly with UN Women will develop global guidelines and standards to lobby the Governments.

### 10th December 2014: end of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign

The 10th of December 2014, International Human Rights Day, marked the end of another successful global 16 Days of Activism Campaign. All along the two weeks of the campaign, actions were carried out by women organisations, activist groups, and coalitions all across Europe and the world. **WAVE Focal Points in 46 European countries joined in the global activism movement with a number of events**, documented through various social media and online platforms. In Georgia, where official statistics for 2014 indicate that 24 women were killed as



a consequence of violence, **Fund "Sukhumi"** [6] led several actions in eight cities, gathering activists, representatives of NGOs, teachers, youth, and journalists. In Belgium, **Garance ASBL** [7] organised an information day with the City of Namur (Capital of the Walloon Region) to increase

violence prevention knowledge among the general public, as well as a series of workshops (physical self-defence for women and girls, verbal self-defence for women, "the handbag", exploratory marches...) and an evening event on street harassment. More information on WAVE Focal Points activities to follow!

## WAVE Focal Points' activities during 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign 2014 - continued!



At the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign 2014, the **Federation Nationale Solidarite Femmes (FNSF)** [8] launched a new TV spot to raise awareness of VAW and its impact on children in France (the TV spot is available on [youtube](#) [9]); while in Switzerland, the short campaign video titled "[It began as a love story](#)" [10] was also released. Launched on 25th November by **Fundacion ASPACIA** [11], the campaign [Draw the Line](#) [12] was

trending on Twitter during the 16 Days of Activism in Spain! Each day during the campaign, **Women's Aid** [13] in Ireland remembered the [Stolen Lives](#) [14] of women and children victims of domestic violence on their campaign blog; while **Welsh Women's Aid** [15] delivered daily authentic stories of incredible women working at the organization, in the blog '[A Day in the Life](#)' [16], as well as powerful testimonies through the blog '[Stories of Hope and Survival](#)'. [17] The memory of women victims of VAW was further celebrated by the **Women's Rights Center** [18] in Armenia, through a public action devoted to remembrance of victims and the pushing for the adoption of a Draft Law on Domestic Violence Prevention in the country. For more information on the many activities carried out by the WAVE Focal Points during the campaign, come visit us on [Facebook](#) [19]!

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

Since 2011, in partnership with [UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia](#) [20], 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](#) [21] and [Russian](#) [22] from the project [website](#) [23], includes a 'Part I: Guidance for health care professionals', a 'Part II: Training package for health care professionals', as well as several Annexes.

## 'Presentation of study on the capacity of services supporting women survivors of domestic violence in Moldova' conference, 17-18 December 2014 in Chisinau, Moldova



In 2014, WAVE conducted a study together with WAVE Focal Point in Moldova [Women's Law Center](#) [24], to measure the capacity of services in Moldova to support women survivors of violence and their children; the study looked at 14 service centers, including maternity centers, shelters and other services. The event brought together partners from government institutions - these included the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, the Ministry

of Interior, the National Council for Accreditation of Social Services, and local authorities - and the civil society, as well as Ms. Barbara Stelmaszek from WAVE in Vienna. During the conference, the findings and recommendations of the study were presented, with the results that in Moldova, in the future, the focus will be placed on establishing the specialization of women's services through

elaborating and adopting specialized standards for women's service provision. More information on the event is available (Romanian) on the following [website](#) [25].

### New FRA reports and language versions available online!

The [European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights \(FRA\)](#) [26] recently made available the official 40-page summary report of the **2014 FRA violence against women survey** results in 22 EU languages, including [Hungarian](#) [27], [Czech](#) [28], [Bulgarian](#) [29], [Greek](#) [30], [Estonian](#) [31], and others. All language versions of the summary report can be accessed [online](#) [32]. The interactive data explorer on the violence against women survey results is now also available in French and German, in addition to English, and can be found [online](#) [33]. In addition, FRA also published the report 'Discrimination against and living conditions of Roma women in 11 EU Member States'. The report, analysing the results concerning Roma women from an earlier FRA survey, based on a request by the European Parliament to the FRA to carry out this analysis, is available on the [FRA website](#) [34].

## International News

### 'The Istanbul Convention – A tool to End Female Genital Mutilation'

On the occasion of International Day on Ending Violence against Women (25th November) this year, the Council of Europe has released, jointly with Amnesty International, a **guide to put female genital mutilation (FGM) on the political agenda, as well as to promote the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)** recently coming into force on 1st August 2014. The guide aims to help governments understand how to utilize the Istanbul Convention as a tool to end FGM, and support NGOs and the civil society provide examples of actions to take to fight the practice. The guide includes "best practices", such as women who have been affected within their community speaking out against FGM's negative effects on their health, and further addresses ways in which the Istanbul Convention can be used to better prevent, investigate and prosecute FGM, and to protect and support women and girls victims.

The 62-page publication is available in [English](#) [35].

### Roundtable on the Istanbul Convention as a tool to end female genital mutilation (FGM), taking place in Paris on 15 December 2014

A round table on the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, and on female genital mutilation (FGM) was held on 15 December 2014 in Paris. Organized by the French Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Women's Rights, the Council of Europe (CoE), the Amnesty International ["End FGM" European Campaign](#) [36] and the [GAMS National Federation](#) [37], the event brought together a wide range of French Government representatives, to discuss the added value of the Istanbul Convention in the area of combating female genital mutilation in France. Landmark document in the combat against VAW, the Istanbul Convention is also the first treaty acknowledging the practice of FGM in Europe, and the need to combat the phenomenon globally and systematically. The Council of Europe and Amnesty International's guide on the use of the Convention as a tool to end FGM was presented on this occasion. Find out more about the event on the CoE [website](#) [38] (information available in French).

### In Greece, the Government threatens to close all support structures for women survivors of violence, 'due the economic crisis'

In December 2014, the Greek Government informed of its decision to close down all the support structures for women survivors of violence, using the economic crisis as the excuse. Many of the current support services for women survivors of violence were established recently, and after years of intense efforts by women's organizations. To counter this decision, the [European Anti-Violence Network \(EAVN\)](#) [39] has launched the Campaign **'16 Weeks of Activism against the Closure of Support Structures for Abused Women'**, on 10th December, a symbolic date that marks the end of the annual 16 Days of Activism Campaign, and the International Human Rights Day, "to remind us all that life free of violence is a right for all, not only for all males, but also for all females!"

The Campaign includes an **online petition [40]**, addressed to the Greek Minister of the Interior, which we encourage everyone to sign!

## New Research & Publications

### **Our Right to Safety: Women Human Rights Defender's Holistic Approach to Protection**

Re-launched in 2014 by AWID and the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition (WHRD-IC), ***Our Right to Safety: Women Human Rights Defenders' Holistic Approach to Protection*** provides "a reflection on the complex situations of women defenders who face threats and violations as a result of their work defending human rights." The publication aims to emphasize that both the violence experienced by women human rights defenders, and the impact that it has on their lives and work of activism, calls for the adoption of protection mechanisms to address the different needs and realities of WHRDs. The investigation also moves away from the concept of protection as focusing solely on physical integrity, and towards one that further addresses the need for an enabling environment for WHRDs to carry out their work safely. Areas covered include 'Risk factors and violations of WHRDs', but also 'State obligations to protect WHRDs' and existing 'Regional and international protection mechanisms'. The 50-page publication is available in [English](#) [41], [Arabic](#) [42], [Spanish](#) [43] and [French](#) [44].

### **'Global status report on violence prevention 2014' - a joint publication by WHO, UNDP and UNODC**

Jointly published by WHO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the ***Global status report on violence prevention 2014*** reviews the current status of violence prevention efforts in countries, and calls for an increase in violence prevention programmes, stronger legislation and enforcement of laws relevant for violence prevention, and enhanced services for survivors of violence. Based on data from 133 countries (covering 88% of the world's population), it is "the first report of its kind to assess national efforts to address interpersonal violence, namely child maltreatment, youth violence, intimate partner and sexual violence, and elder abuse." Main areas of the publication include background information on the incidence of and dynamics behind interpersonal violence, state of the problem and global findings, and recommendations for stronger and better implemented legislations on interpersonal violence; individual country profiles are also made available.

The full 292-page Report is available in [English](#) [45], and Executive Summaries are available in [Arabic](#) [46], [Chinese](#) [47], [English](#) [48], [French](#) [49], [Russian](#) [50] and [Spanish](#) [51].



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- [4] <http://www.wave-network.org/content/16th-wave-conference-vienna-16-17-19-november-final-version-programme-available-online>
- [5] [http://www.wave-network.org/sites/default/files/20-years-brochure\\_19dec14.pdf](http://www.wave-network.org/sites/default/files/20-years-brochure_19dec14.pdf)
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- [9] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fxznevRIFhg&feature=youtu.be>
- [10] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=etOVrjqYQW0>
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- [18] <https://www.facebook.com/womens.rights.center.ngo>
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- [42] <http://www.awid.org/Library/Our-Right-to-Safety-Arabic>
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