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### March-April 2015

*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!*

**As of January 2015, the WAVE newsletter has become a bi-monthly edition, published every second month.** In this 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 at the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, 9-20 March 2015



The **59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** took place in New York on **9-20 March 2015**. As each year, the session provided a global platform for exchange and networking for thousands of women's organizations working on furthering women's rights all across the world. This year, the session's main focus was on *'the Beijing Platform for Action, including current challenges that affect its implementation and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of*

*women.'* The WAVE network was well represented in New York, with members from Focal Points including [Vilnius Women's House](#) [4] (Lithuania), [The Haven Wolverhampton](#) [5] (UK), [Federatie Opvang](#) [6] (the Netherlands), [Fundacion ASPACIA](#) [7] (Spain), [D.i.Re](#) [8] (Italy), Gender Perspectives (Belarus), among others. On 11 March, WAVE hosted two NGO parallel events on the topics of 'progresses and challenges in the field of combating VAW since Beijing 1995' and 'femicide'. **We would like to warmly thank everyone attending our events in New York!** Find out more about the [session](#) [9] and its two outcome documents: [Political Declaration](#) [10] and [Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women](#) [11].

### "Ukraine needs greater support in addressing gender-based violence", findings of the OSCE three-day mission to Ukraine highlight

On the 25th of March 2015, OSCE Senior Gender Adviser, **Ambassador Misolava Beham** accompanied by international expert **Rosa Logar, President of WAVE**, met with government stakeholders and representatives of CSOs and the international community in Kyiv. The meeting formed part of a **three-day assessment mission to Ukraine**, which revealed the urgent need to enhance the capacities of the country to adequately address the issue of gender-based violence (GBV). Findings also evidenced the dramatic impacts of the recent crisis on the prevalence of domestic violence, with an increasing number of women experiencing physical and conflict-related sexual violence. As highlighted by Rosa Logar, these findings further support the need for a strengthened women's movement in the country, in order to eliminate GBV against women and girls. The OSCE aims to maintain its efforts to promote the ratification of the [Istanbul Convention](#) [12], while findings should also support the work of the [OSCE Project Coordinator](#) [13] in Ukraine, as well as the [OSCE Special Monitoring Mission](#) [14]'s activities on the ground. Find out more about the assessment mission in the OSCE [Press Release](#) [15].

### WAVE takes part in the event 'When Weapons Speak' on women in armed conflicts, organized by the Austrian Parliament on 12 March 2015

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2015, WAVE participated in the event 'Wenn Waffen Sprechen' (When Weapons Speak) on the issue of **women in armed conflicts**.



The event was convened by the President of the National Council at the Austrian Parliament, Doris Bures, and the spokeswomen for women's affairs and equality of all political parties represented in the Austrian Parliament, with the purpose to strengthen women's voice in armed conflict, increase solidarity between them, and discuss ways to provide them with meaningful support. WAVE was represented by Network Manager **Maria Roesslhuber**, who presented the letter of support to women's NGOs in Ukraine, drafted on the occasion of the 16th WAVE Conference (November 2015) in Vienna. Other representatives of the WAVE Network included **Maryna Rudenko** from the Women's Information Consultative Centre [16](Ukraine), who reported on the current situation in Ukraine, and **Lepa Mladjenovic** from **Counseling for Lesbians** (Serbia), who provided a personal input on how the women's movement historically supported women during the war in former Yugoslavia, with a focus on how lived solidarity can make a difference.



## Forum on the Future of Gender Equality in the European Union, 20-21 April 2015



*"Projections estimate that, at the current rate of change, it will take almost 30 years to reach the EU's target of 75% of women in employment, over 70 years to make equal pay a reality, over 20 years to achieve gender balance on the boards of Europe's largest publicly listed companies and almost 40 years to ensure that housework is equally shared between women and men."* On 20th and 21st April 2015, WAVE attended the **Forum on the Future of Gender Equality in the European Union**, convened by the European Commission in

Brussels. The forum provided the platform for two days of interactive discussions with various stakeholders, on achieving gender equality in the European Union. The dialogue translated into defined priority areas for political action for the coming years. Find out more about the Forum on the European Commission [website](#) [17]; check out the pictures of the even on [Facebook](#) [18]!

## Study Visit from Poland on effective multi-agency cooperation to prevent and combat domestic violence and gender-based violence

From Monday 13th to Wednesday 15th April 2015, WAVE welcomed a delegation from Poland, visiting for a study visit organized in the framework of the project **"Polish family-free from violence"**. The project has been implemented by the Polish Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, in cooperation with the Council of Europe. The visiting delegation was composed of 11 participants from local government units and various Polish institutions and NGOs. **Ms Paula Krol**, Project Advisor of the Violence against Women Unit, Directorate General of Democracy of the Council of Europe, was also present and acted as coordinator of the study visit. The aim of the visit was to provide participants with an insight of how key institutions and specialized services work in the field of violence against women in Vienna, and exchange of information on best practices in the field.

## 'Coordinated Efforts: Toward New European Standards in Protection of Women from Gender-based Violence' - update and project results



Since 2012, WAVE, in cooperation with WAVE Focal Points from Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia, one organization from Bosnia and Herzegovina, one organization from Croatia, and with the European Women's Lobby (EWL) as an associate partner, has been working on the implementation of the project 'Coordinated Efforts: toward New European Standards in Protection of Women from Gender-based violence'; the project was funded by EuropeAid. With a **main objective** to contribute to the finding of comprehensive legal and policy solutions for the protection of women from GBV,

and a **specific objective** to increase capacities of women's organizations and networks in the



countries, the project also seeks to promote the 2011 [Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, and Domestic Violence](#) [19]. A **summary information** document presenting the overall and specific objectives of the project, expected results and main groups of activities, is available [online](#) [20]. In addition, findings and progresses of the project have been compiled in the following [project results summary document](#) [21].

### 'Supporting the sustainability and autonomy of women's organizations providing services in Eastern Europe for women and children survivors of domestic violence', a 2014 WAVE research project



In 2014, WAVE carried out the research titled '**Supporting the sustainability and autonomy of women's organizations providing services in Eastern Europe for women and children survivors of domestic violence**', with funding from the [OAK Foundation](#) [22]. The aim of the research was to collect evidence to develop a framework that best enables the autonomy and sustainability of specialized women's services, with focus on six Eastern European countries: **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia**. The research also provided a platform for understanding the developments in the women's movement, and actions undertaken by women's organizations to establish and strengthen the framework. Women's organizations in the chosen countries continue to face challenges to maintaining autonomy and sustainability; part of the findings indicate that improving and establishing national frameworks to institute cooperation with, and respect for, the work of women's organizations is a complex task that is sometimes a result of arising opportunities or achievements based on lengthy and cumulative efforts and activities. **Findings of the research have the potential to serve as guidance for developing or improving existing frameworks that support the work of women's NGOs and their cooperation with the state.** The 2014 WAVE research report is available online ([Summary](#) [23], [Full Report](#) [24]).

## International News

### 8th March 2015, WAVE Focal Points celebrate International Women's Day across Europe!

International Women's Day (IWD) was recently celebrated all around the world with enthusiasm and hope for a better society, with less violence against women and more gender equality! WAVE Focal Points lead several initiatives to celebrate this special day: [Gender Alliance for Development Center](#) [25] (Albania) published an [online statement](#) [26] to commemorate IWD, and made suggestions to various parties in the Albanian society on ways to contribute to women's rights; [Women's Aid England](#) [27] (UK) celebrated IWD by announcing its new [initiatives](#) [28] in cooperation with other organizations, on issues ranging from domestic violence to sexism in football; [Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland](#) [29] (UK) took part in the program of

### 21 candidates nominated for the GREVIO committee

Nine months after the coming into force of the Istanbul Convention, a total of 21 candidates have been nominated for [GREVIO](#) [34] membership by 12 Parties to the Convention. Set to become operational in 2015, GREVIO is the **independent expert body** responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in ratifying countries. The elections of the 10 GREVIO members will take place during the first meeting of the [Committee of the Parties](#) [35], beginning on 4 May 2015 in Strasbourg. The role of the GREVIO will be to develop evaluation reports on legislative and other measures taken by the Parties to implement the provisions of the Convention. In cases where action is required to prevent a serious, massive or persistent pattern of any

### Finland becomes the 17th state to ratify the Istanbul Convention!

On **17th April 2015**, Finland joined the list of Member States of the Council of Europe that have ratified the [Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women](#) [19], and Domestic Violence, or Istanbul Convention. Finland became the **17th State Party** to the Convention, which came into force on 1st August 2014, and will come into force in the country on 1st August this year. The convention represents an important step in the fight against all forms of violence against women in Europe,

events ('[No Peace without Women](#) [30]') published by the collective [Reclaim the Agenda](#) [31] - as part of the program, the organization celebrated 20 years anniversary of its helpline with an event of the 5th of March; in Austria, the [Austrian Women's Shelter Network](#) [32], in cooperation with VHS Wiener Urania, held an interactive program [33] on methods and approaches to ending IPV, and a workshop organized in frame of the "**GewaltFREI LEBEN - Du & Ich**" campaign, including contributions from experts and from the National Youth Council.

acts of violence covered by the Convention, GREVIO will also be able to initiate a special inquiry procedure. In addition, it will be able to adopt general recommendations on themes and concepts of the Convention. The **list of candidates** who have been nominated for GREVIO membership is available from the Council of Europe [website](#) [36].

including physical and psychological violence, stalking, sexual harassment, sexual violence and rape. With a strong focus on preventing violence against women and domestic violence, on protecting all victims of violence and providing them with specialized support, and on prosecuting and punishing perpetrators of such crimes, the convention is a legally binding instrument that compels the ratifying states to take drastic measures to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence. The convention leaves no doubt: there can be no real equality between women and men if women experience gender-based violence on a large-scale and state agencies and institutions turn a blind eye.

## New Research & Publications

### 'European Women's Voice: Women's Economic Independence in Times of Austerity', a 2015 European's Women Lobby publication



Published at the beginning of the year, **European Women's Voice: Women's Economic Independence in Times of Austerity** looks at the impacts of austerity measures on women's economic independence. Austerity has proven to have a strong and particular impact on women's employment, health, income, pensions and work-life balance in general; measures have also shown to be failing citizens, in particular women. To tackle current inequalities, '*we need a caring economy, a feminist economy, a gender-sensitive economy*'. The publication echoes that caution, and gives a voice to women in Europe and in the Global South to develop an international cross-cutting strategy on women's

rights, of particular importance in face of the new post-2015 Sustainable Goals framework on women and girls. The edition is a follow-up to the 2012 EWL study on '[The Price of Austerity: The Impact on Women's Rights and Gender Equality in Europe](#) [37]'. Access the 2015 EWL publication [here](#) [38].

### WAVE REPORT 2014 now available!



The **WAVE Report 2014**, titled '**Specialized Women's Support Services and New Tools for Combating Gender-based Violence in Europe**', provides a mapping of available services for women survivors of violence in 46 European countries, with a focus on national women's helplines, women's shelters, and women's centers. It takes an in-depth look at funding sources for women's specialized support services, and provides concrete recommendations for stakeholders and policymakers to improve standards of service provision. In



In addition, the WAVE Report 2014 highlights new tools in the fight against gender-based violence in Europe and the European Union, with a particular focus on four groundbreaking documents: the **2014 FRA study 'Violence against Women: and EU-wide survey'**, the **Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence**, the **European Union Victim's Directive**, and the **European Union Protection Orders**. The report serves as a monitoring tool to be used by relevant stakeholders, including government, NGO and academic experts, to provide information on relevant standards, highlight gaps in service provision, and call for improvements. Access the **WAVE Report 2014** [39]!

### 'Handbook on Effective Prosecution Responses to Violence against Women and Girls', a UNODC publication



The **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** [40] in cooperation with the **Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ)** [41], with funding from the Government of Thailand, published the **'Handbook on Effective Prosecution Responses to Violence against Women and Girls'** in August 2014. The handbook aims to *'assist prosecutors in their duty to uphold the rule of law, firmly protecting human rights and serving their community with impartiality and fairness in cases involving violence against women and girls.'* Given the diversity of prosecution structures and approaches, the Handbook aims to focus on general prosecutorial powers and functions. The publication includes **three parts**: one covering current reflections and theories/research on violence against women and girls, the second one talking about the role of a prosecutor in cases involving violence against women and girls, and the last one exploring some of the institutional approaches that a prosecution agency can consider. Access the **UNODC'S Handbook on effective prosecution responses to violence against women and girls**. [42]

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- [4] <http://www.vmotnam.lt/>
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- [6] <http://www.opvang.nl/>
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- [8] <http://www.direcontrolaviolenza.it/>
- [9] <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw59-2015>
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- [11] [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2015/L.5](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2015/L.5)
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- [19] [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/default_en.asp)
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- [25] <http://www.gadc.org.al/>
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- [27] <http://www.womensaid.org.uk/>
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