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### May-June 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 WAVE Members 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

### 10-11 June 2015: WAVE Advisory Board Meeting (WAVE CoCo) in Vienna



From 10 to 11 June 2015, 37 WAVE CoCo Delegates and Co-Delegates from 35 European countries, as well as the WAVE office team, met in Vienna for the **annual WAVE CoCo Meeting**. The group worked in plenary sessions as well as in group working sessions, and discussed a great variety of topics. These included reports on new developments in WAVE members countries (achievements and challenges regarding the protection against violence against women); the work on a "blue print" for a WAVE campaign to improve the system of specialist women services to support women survivors of violence and their children; discussion on current issues such as the **WAVE Conference 2015**, and work on the WAVE Report 2015. Other

issues such as the protection of children against domestic violence, the implementation of the EU victim's directive, the role of the WAVE CoCo and issues around "high risk cases" were also discussed in frame of open space working groups.

### In Malta, awareness raising meetings carried out by the Commission on Domestic Violence

During the scholastic year, from October 2014 to May 2015, the **Commission on Domestic Violence** [4] (WAVE Member in Malta), together with the **Domestic Violence Unit and Men's Service within Agenzija Appogg** (Malta's national psycho-social service provider), carried out a number of awareness raising meetings with psycho-social professionals in all State Schools' colleges. This initiative was implemented in collaboration with the Directorate for Educational Services, with the purpose of **raising awareness of domestic violence and provide information** to professionals who, through their work, can come across cases of children witnessing domestic violence, as well as cases of secondary school students experiencing dating violence. This initiative will be extended in Catholic Church Schools and Independent Schools in the near future.

### Promoting 'Gender Equality Awareness against Intimate Partner Violence' - a project run by The European Anti-Violence Network (EAVN) in Greece

The **GEAR against IPV approach** (Gender Equality Awareness Raising against Intimate Partner Violence) is a coordinated action of **primary and secondary prevention of IPV in adolescents' relationships** through interventions in the school or in other settings, that are **guided by specially designed educational material** and are aimed at secondary school students' awareness raising and empowerment by specially trained teachers. GEAR against IPV consists a **precise fulfillment of the requirements set by Article 14 of the Istanbul Convention** [5]. The action was recently **selected as one of the 12 most successful practices** [6] in the Call of European Institute for the Mediterranean (IEMed [7]) for "Good practices in advocacy and policy dialogue for the promotion of the role of women in society in the Euro-Mediterranean region". A brief description of the philosophy and main activities can be found in the project's leaflets in **English** [8] and in partners' languages (**CY** [9]-**EL**- [10]**ES** [11]-**HR** [12]-**RO** [13]). For more information, please visit the **project's website** [14].



### Multicultural awareness campaign - Stop domestic violence!

During the months of April and May 2015, WAVE Member in Romania **ANAI'S Association** [15] and Saatchi & Saatchi Dubai joined forces and launched the **multicultural awareness campaign - Stop domestic violence!** The





campaign aims at raising awareness of domestic violence without using the shocking and violent images usually encountered in these types of campaigns, images that make the victims feel ashamed and humiliated. The posters were placed in magazines and online advertorials. A study by the DFWAC - Dubai Foundation for Women and Children, covering Europe, USA and the Middle East, shows an alarming figure of 86.4% of women, who

do not disclose experiences of abuse. Women often cover up injuries from domestic violence by saying "I fell down the stairs" or "I hit my head against the closet." Lack of disclosure is often grounded in the fear of public humiliation, the hope that the abuse will not happen again, as well as the feeling of guilt and responsibility women feel for the abuse. The campaign was nominated at the **Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity 2015**, which took place between 21st -27th of June.

### **WAVE at the annual conference of the European Network on Gender and Violence (ENGV) in Lisbon, 6-8 May 2015**

The 11th annual conference of the European Network on Gender and Violence (ENGV) [16] took place on 6-8 May 2015 in Lisbon, Portugal. ENGV brings together scholars and professionals working in the field of violence against women, gender-based violence and other related issues to share recent work and information about developments in the field. The 2015 Conference in Portugal welcomed numerous scholars and professionals presenting on various topics ranging from current research in Portugal, new perspectives, service provision, gender in theory and policy, and old and new challenges for policy and intervention. On this occasion, WAVE presented the findings of its research "Supporting the sustainability and autonomy of women's organizations providing services in Eastern Europe for women and children survivors of domestic violence [17]", conducted in 2014 with funding from the OAK Foundation, as well as the WAVE Report 2014 [18]. The conference in Portugal was conducted in collaboration with the Faculty for Social Sciences and Humanities at the University of Lisbon and with support from the Lisbon Municipality, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, and the Foundation for Science and Technology, among others.

### **Women's Aid National Conference, 1-2 July 2015**



On 1st and 2nd July 2015, WAVE member Organization in the United Kingdom Women's Aid [19] will be hosting its **national conference** titled 'Change that Lasts' [20] in Conference Aston, Birmingham, UK. The conference is an annual event which aims to bring together specialist providers of domestic and sexual violence services and professionals working in the violence against women sector in England. This year's event will address Women's Aid new needs-led approach, as well as how state responses to domestic violence can be reframed. Additionally, workshops will be offered on a range of topics including financial abuse and supporting male victims of violence. Keynote speeches will be delivered

from Coercive Control expert Evan Stark [21] and Director of Public Prosecutions Alison Saunders [22]. More information about the conference, including costs and a daily program, can be found here [20]; to register for the conference, click here [23].

### **A.L.E.G Romania launches two campaigns to address the issue of sexual violence**



While the 2014 FRA Survey on VAW indicates that 30% of women in Romania have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a partner or non-partner since age 15, sexual violence in particular remains mostly invisible at a policy level, and when it comes to access to justice and services for survivors, enabling impunity for perpetrators. To break away from silence, awareness at all levels, top-down actions at the policy level - including the designing of survivor-oriented policies - and the development of specialized services and prevention campaigns at the community level, are most needed! With funding from EEA Grants, A.L.E.G. Romania [24] recently initiated two projects targeting sexual violence. 'Breaking the Silence on Sexual Violence' [25] is a project which aims to develop the first network of NGOs with a

focus on the issue; 'My Body My Own - Sexual Violence among Youth: Raising Awareness and Counseling Center' [26] is a project which aims to develop a pilot center that offers support to survivors and educational programs (prevention) in local communities. Both projects were developed and implemented in partnership with Stigamot [27] in Iceland.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Women's Court seeking justice: "Feminist approach to justice" Conference

The conference 'Women's Court: Feminist approach to justice' took place from 7 to 10 May 2015 at the Bosnian Cultural Center in Sarajevo, and looked at results of four years (2011-2015) of activities carried out in preparation on the Women's Court, involving the creation of a "women network of solidarity of witnesses, activists, therapists, experts and artists coming from all the successor states of the former Yugoslavia". The program included women's testimonies on topics such as: sexual violence in war, militaristic violence and women's resistance, social and economic violence, and ethnic violence. The 'Women's Court: Feminist approach to justice' [28] is an initiative started in 2010 by seven organizations in countries of the Former Yugoslavia, with the aim to provide: 'a space for the women's voices and for their testimonies of the injustices they have experienced during the war and the peace time', 'a space for the women's testimonies of violence, in both private and public sphere' and 'a space for the testimonies of the organized women's resistance'.

### Public Consultation on the EU Strategy on Gender Equality

The European Commission has launched a public consultation on the new EU strategy on gender equality. The survey addresses different topics, such as women in the labor market, caring activities, violence against women and EU policy making. The public consultation on "Equality between women and men in the EU", which started on the 21st of April 2015, aims to collect the views of a broad public in the context of the preparation of the Commission's policy on gender equality for the post-2015 agenda. The consultation is open until the 21 July 2015; targets groups for the consultation include Member States; social partner organizations; civil society organizations with an interest in gender equality issues, violence against women, and/or social issues; equality bodies; and other organizations or individuals. For more information on the consultation, including reference documents - [Strategy for equality between women and men 2010-2015](#) [29]; [Report on equality between women and men \(2014\)](#) [30] - and the link to the questionnaire, visit the [European Commission website](#) [31].

### 4th May 2015 - First meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention and election of the GREVIO

The [Committee of the Parties](#) [32] to the Istanbul Convention held its very first meeting on 4th May 2015 in Strasbourg. At this meeting, the Committee elected the first ten members of GREVIO [33]. The role of GREVIO will be to monitor the implementation of the Istanbul Convention by its States Parties; it will develop evaluation reports on legislative and policy 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 acts of violence covered by the Convention, it may initiate a special inquiry procedure. Members of the GREVIO will be serving a term of four years as independent experts and will meet for the first time in the fall. It is with great pleasure that WAVE is sharing the list of GREVIO members, proudly including two WAVE Board Members, Marceline Naudi and Rosa Logar, and WAVE member Françoise Brié: [Feride Acar](#) [34](Turkish), [Biljana Brankovic](#) (Serbian), [Francoise Brie](#) [35](French), [Helena Maria Carvalho Martins Leitao](#) [36] (Portuguese), [Gemma Gallego](#) [37] (Spanish), [Simona Lanzoni](#) [38](Italian), [Rosa Logar](#) [39] (Austrian), [Iris Luarasi](#) [40](Albanian), [Marceline Naudi](#) [41] (Maltese), [Vesna Ratkovic](#) [42](Montenegrin).

## NEW RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

### RCNI National Rape Crisis Statistics 2014 Report is out!



On the 9th of June 2015, [Rape Crisis Network Ireland](#) [43] released its "National Rape Crisis Statistics" report, at the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin. This comprehensive report pulls together information gathered using RCNI's unique Data and Knowledge Collection System from survivors of sexual violence who presented to 14 Rape Crisis Centres across Ireland in 2014. The research demonstrates that there are a "number of common abuse patterns which repeatedly emerge among survivors attending RCCs for counseling and support". This data analysis provides a solid evidence base to build strategic and cost effective responses to sexual violence and ensure that survivors receive the appropriate care and services that they need. The report also highlights that the vast majority of perpetrators are males (99%), while

15% of perpetrators of sexual violence against survivors attending RCCs in 2014 were under the age of 18. To download the 40-page report, click [here](#) [44].

## "Femicide: Targeting of Women in Conflict" - Volume III, published by ACUNS Vienna



The Vienna Liaison Office of the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) [45] released the third volume of its Femicide Publication, released annually since the first symposium on Femicide in Vienna, in November 2012. This publication contains proceedings of the 3rd Annual symposium (Targeting of Women in War), organized by ACUNS Vienna on the occasion of the International Day of the Elimination of Violence against Women, on 25 November 2014. A series of recommendations point out at the inefficiency of existing legal instruments in addressing this global problem. The publication explores the topic of 'Targeting women in Conflict' in depth, through a series of strong statements delivered by Secretary-General, the Director of UN Women, the Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, a prosecutor from the International Tribunal for former Yugoslavia and reports from other UN bodies, as well as academic articles addressing the cross-cutting topics of violence against women, femicide and sexual violence. Access the ACUNS publication [here](#) [46].

## Council of Europe: Handbook on Case Law of LGBT Rights as Human Rights



On May 7th, 2015 the Council of Europe released a new publication titled "Case law of the European Court of Human Rights relating to discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity" [47]. This publication outlines LGBT rights within the context of the European Convention on Human Rights [48] and how it relates to the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, when addressing issues regarding discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The report was authored by Dr. Frederic Edel. Edel describes the case law both in terms of relevant articles and also specific issues that affect LGBT people's basic human rights, including the protection against different forms of violence. The release of the publication marks the upcoming International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia, celebrated on May 17. The handbook is designed human rights professionals, researchers and students. It is available [online](#) [47] in English. For more information on the Council of Europe's Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Unit, click [here](#) [49].



[50]



[51]



[52]



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Focal Points Newsletter [56]

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**Links:**

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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] <https://socialdialogue.gov.mt/en/Commission on Domestic Violence/Pages/Overview.aspx>
- [5] [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/about\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/about_en.asp)
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