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July-August 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

17th WAVE Network Conference - 2nd November 2015, in The Hague, Netherlands



The 17th WAVE Network Conference is coming up! Taking place on the 2nd of November in The Hague, the Netherlands, the conference will be on the theme of "**Women's Collective Power to Stop Violence**", and will aim to strengthen the WAVE Network - **please note: this year, the WAVE conference is open to network members only**. Issues addressed will include current opportunities and challenges, as well as future perspectives, in the field of violence prevention, and good practice examples to strengthen the network's activities. Moreover, WAVE is happy to announce the presence of UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women Ms. Dubravka Simonovic at the event. **Recently appointed, WAVE**

would like to warmly congratulate Ms. Simonovic for her new position, and looks forward to future collaboration! The WAVE Conference will be followed by the 3rd World Conference of Women's Shelters, which we are excited to attend! If you are a WAVE member and you haven't signed up for the 17th WAVE Conference yet, [register now](#) [4]!

3rd World Conference of Women's Shelters in The Hague

The Dutch Foundation of Women's Shelters and its partners are organizing the 3rd World Conference of Women's Shelters (3WCWS), to be held from **3rd-6th of November 2015 in The Hague - The Netherlands**. Although previous conferences were very successful, continuous action is crucial: **violence against women and children continues on a large scale** and is perhaps the largest crime against humanity of all times. The World Conference for women's shelters in The Netherlands is meant to provide incentive for parties to come together, exchange knowledge and experience, strengthen existing alliances and promote new ones. After having received over 1000 intention registrations from 105 countries, the definite registration was opened some weeks ago! **Interested? Register now** [5] via the **3WCWS website**! Get more information on the 3WCWS from the event's [website](#) [6]!

Apply for the Corinna Seith Award! Deadline: 21st September 2015

Corinna Seith was a remarkable woman - a passionate feminist, committed member of WAVE, original researcher and women's self-defense teacher. She died far too young in December 2010, before she had the chance to integrate her research on violence against women and inequality within the academy in Switzerland. At the 2011 WAVE conference it was decided to create a prize in her honor to be awarded each year. Last year, Hilde Jacobsen, a young academic from Norway, was the winner of the award. This year again, we are happy to announce the **3rd Corinna Seith Award**! All WAVE Members are kindly asked to publicize the prize through activist and academic feminist networks in their own countries.



The prize - 500 Euro - will be awarded to the **best essay/paper written by a young scholar**. Please send your paper and a short CV, showing that the formal criteria are fulfilled, to iris.golden@wave-network.org [7]. Deadline for submission is **21st September 2015**; check the conditions of application [here](#) [8].

EIGE launches the Gender Equality Index 2015, together with the European Commission



The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), together with the European Commission, has launched the **2015 Gender Equality Index** [9]. The index measures levels of progress in the following areas: work, time, money knowledge, power, health, and violence and cross-cutting inequalities. In comparison to 2012, **progress has gradually been made on gender equality across the European Union**, especially in the domain of power. But while 10 members



managed to narrow the gap between men and women, the gap has increased in five other countries of the EU. Vera Jourova, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality said, "Progress towards gender equality in the Member States is real, but important gaps remain. I am committed to tackling the remaining gender gaps in Europe. The gender equality index developed by EIGE is a valuable instrument to measure progress achieved by Member States on the way to gender equality." The 2015 Index also comprises updates on the **domain of violence** since it provides a **composite indicator of direct violence against women**, based on the data on violence against women collected by FRA through the EU-wide Survey on Violence against Women. [10]

WAVE at the COST ACTION IS1206 Training School (TS) in Rome, 20-24 July 2015

On 20-24 July 2015, WAVE President Ms. Rosa Logar attended the **COST ACTION IS1206 Training School (TS): "Research into policy and practice: Innovation and Sustainability in Femicide and Femicide Prevention"** in Rome. Topics addressed included psychopathology and violence against women, intervention and prevention of Femicide. While numerous researches on Femicide have been conducted in the United States, European agencies have yet to increase their focus on the issue. The COST ACTION aims to establish "**the first pan-European coalition on Femicide**", with a main goal to **improve the prevention of Femicide**, by improving the efficiency of policies. Outputs include guidelines for national policy-makers, as well as books, newsletters, articles and other publications emerging from the Action. Find out more about 'Femicide across Europe - COST ACTION IS-1206' [11]; documentation related to the TS, including speakers' presentations and resource materials, are available on the project's website [12].

Women's Aid Ireland releases its Impact Report, together with an Executive Summary



In June 2015, Women's Aid Ireland published its 2014 Impact Report [13] and accompanying Executive Summary [14]. The report outlines the patterns of use of Women's Aid supports by women experiencing domestic abuse last year. In 2014, there were **13,655 contacts** with the National Freephone Helpline and Dublin-based One to One Services. These contacts revealed **16,464 incidences of domestic abuse against women and 5,786 disclosures of child abuse**. Perpetrators used a horrific range of tactics to control and hurt women and often their children too. Victim-blaming culture often stops these women from seeking and accessing the supports and protections they need. At the report launch, Women's Aid insisted that they address victim blaming, and place the responsibility for domestic violence solely where it

belongs: with the perpetrator. At the Impact Report launch, Women's Aid unveiled the new Testimonies project, with a screening of the video 'Women's Voices' [15]. The powerful video features real women describing their individual experiences of domestic abuse. Women's Aid also revealed the shocking news of a **20% cut in its statutory funding**. For more info, click here [16].

IMPLEMENT Training Manual now Available!



Developed in collaboration with WAVE and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) - over the period 2011-2014, WAVE and UNFPA EECA [17] worked on the development of the Programmatic Package "Strengthening Health Systems Responses to Gender-Based Violence in Eastern Europe and Central Asia" - [18]the EU-funded project IMPLEMENT aims to provide trainings and information on specialized support for victims of violence in healthcare systems across Europe. IMPLEMENT is composed of a team of six organizations [19] with expertise in establishing and providing specialized services to victims of violence, including the Association of Austrian Women's Shelters Network (AOEF) [20]. **The aim of the project is to improve the response to GBV in health settings, and to enhance multi-agency cooperation in cases of**

GBV. The "Training Manual on Gender-based Violence for Health Professionals" is currently available in English [21], and it will be available in Bulgarian, French, German, Italian and Romanian soon.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Ms. Dubravka Simonovic appointed new UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women

Ms. Dubravka Simonovic, a native

The European Commission withdraws the Maternity Leave Directive

In July 2015, the European Commission officially withdrew the

Ukraine crisis taking a heavy toll on women, children and elderly

The crisis in Ukraine has left millions of people in need of humanitarian assistance across the country. Relief

Croatian, earned her Master's degree and PhD in Family law from the University of Zagreb in addition to attending human rights courses at Yale and Columbia Law. In her many years of work in the area of women's rights, Ms. Simonovic has served as an expert on the UN CEDAW Committee, also in capacity as chairperson (2007-2008), as the Vice-Chair of the "Beijing+5" and was a member of the Consultative Committee of UNIFEM. She is replacing **Ms. Rashida Manjoo** [22], who focused her tenure on the "intersectional nature of discrimination and violence against women, especially the relationship between socio-economic conditions, race, and historical and cultural contexts." We at WAVE would like to wish Ms. Rashida Manjoo the best of luck in her future endeavors and congratulate Ms. Dubravka Simonovic on her appointment as UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences. Find out more [here](#) [23].

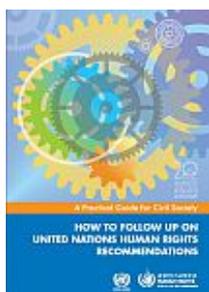
Maternity Leave Directive which has been stalled in the legislative process since it was proposed in 2008. The Maternity Leave Directive set out to provide longer periods of leave, strengthen the rights of pregnant women and the rights of women returning to work after childbirth. The Directive was blocked by several Member State governments and has not come closer to realization in the past few years. The European Commission has claimed that the withdrawal will open avenues for new initiatives to improve the lives of working parents. However, **the European Women's Lobby (EWL) has expressed concern at the withdrawal of the Directive**, referring to it as **a blow for women's rights in Europe** [24]. For the time being, the Directive will be replaced by a roadmap towards new initiatives, which, according to the EWL, "carries the risk of diluting women's rights and equality between women and men through a soft law approach." Find out more [here](#) [25].

efforts and attempts to get help to those affected have been hampered by temporary orders to restrict movement in the conflict areas. Ukrainians are facing **continued lack of support**, including many people who have not received their wages in approximately a year, as well as the suspension of pensions being paid to the elderly.

John Ging, the Director of Operations at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, travelled to Ukraine to assess the situation. Mr. Ging witnessed "real shortages of basic medical supplies such as cancer drugs, pain killers and even antibiotics," noting that "all of this is leading to real human suffering." United Nations officials stress the need for **increased international humanitarian efforts** in Ukraine to alleviate the plight of the millions of people who have been affected by the crisis. Find out more [here](#) [26].

NEW RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

A Practical Guide for Civil Society: How to Follow Up on United Nations Human Rights Recommendations



The guide, released by the [Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\)](#) [27], focuses on how civil society can follow up on recommendations made by the United Nations concerning human rights. "Follow-up activities aim at ensuring that recommendations and decisions by human rights mechanisms and bodies are implemented so as to improve respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights for all." The guide includes sections on awareness-raising, advocacy and integrating a gender perspective in follow-up activities. Access the **60-page document** [here](#) [28].

"Pieces of Peace: Peace through Gendered Conflict Prevention", Women's International League for Peace and Freedom



The most recent publication by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom **focuses on realizing more effective gendered conflict prevention**. It addresses the notion of gendered conflict prevention, stating: "War is gendered; so too is peace and conflict prevention. Gendered conflict prevention means stopping what fuels violence by addressing gender constructions, power, and politics." The publication is made up of eight sections, each of which focuses on a means of achieving peace through gendered conflict prevention, such as inclusive participation, women's human rights and an independent women's movement. To access the **20-page document**, click [here](#) [29].

European Parliament Study - Elderly Women Living Alone in Europe: An Update on Their Living Conditions



This study, published by the European Parliament in June 2015, "presents recent changes in the living conditions of elderly women living alone with a focus on the effects of recent pension



reforms and active ageing policies." It focuses on **recent trends in the economic and social conditions of elderly women living alone**, as well as effects of recent policy changes in pension reforms. The study concludes that, among other areas of improvement, "A stronger integration of a gender equality perspective in [labour market and pension reforms] could increase the scarce attention of most Member States towards the linkage between active ageing policies and gender." Access the **149-page study [here](#)** [30].



[31]



[32]



[33]



[34]

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[35]



[36]

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Links:

- [1] <http://www.wave-network.org/>
- [2] <https://www.facebook.com/WAVE.network?fref=ts>
- [3] <https://www.facebook.com/pages/WAVE-Network/100277033374347?ref=ts&fref=ts>
- [4] <http://wave-network.org/content/registration-17th-wave-conference-hague>
- [5] <http://www.worldshelterconference.org/en/intention-registration/865>
- [6] <http://www.worldshelterconference.org/en/downloads---usefull-links/815>
- [7] <mailto:iris.golden@wave-network.org>
- [8] <http://www.wave-network.org/.../apply-2015-corinna-seith-award>
- [9] <http://eige.europa.eu/node/435>
- [10] <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2014/violence-against-women-eu-wide-survey-main-results-report>
- [11] <http://www.femicide.net/>
- [12] <http://www.femicide.net/#!/training-school/csdj>
- [13] <http://www.womensaid.ie/policy/publications/Impact2014/>
- [14] <http://www.womensaid.ie/policy/publications/Impact2014Summary>
- [15] <http://www.womensaid.ie/testimonies>
- [16] <http://www.womensaid.ie/>
- [17] <http://eeca.unfpa.org/>
- [18] <http://eeca.unfpa.org/publications/strengthening-health-system-responses-gender-based-violence-eastern-europe-and-central>

- [19] <http://www.psytel.eu/implement/project-team.html>
- [20] <http://aoef.at/>
- [21] http://www.wave-network.org/sites/default/files/implement_train_EN_09_22.07.2015.pdf
- [22] <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/SRWomen/Pages/RashidaManjoo.aspx>
- [23] <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/HRC29.aspx>
- [24] <http://www.womenlobby.org/spip.php?article7250&lang=en>
- [25] http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5287_en.htm
- [26] <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50377#.VdbwtyWqpBd>
- [27] <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx>
- [28] <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/AboutUs/CivilSociety/HowtoFollowUNHRRRecommendations.pdf>
- [29] http://wilpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/WILPF-PeaceWomen_Pieces-of-Peace.pdf
- [30] http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/519219/IPOL_STU%282015%29519219_EN.pdf
- [31] <http://www.sozialministerium.at/site/>
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- [35] http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/programmes-2014-2020/rec/index_en.htm
- [36] <http://www.staedtebund.gv.at/>
- [37] <http://wave-network.org/newsletter/women-against-violence-europe-newsletter>