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November-December 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 Campaign 2016-2017 - Together to support women's access to quality specialized support services for survivors of violence!

In 2016, members of the WAVE Network in 46 European countries are joining hands to demand better protection and support for women victims of violence, and **greater access to quality women specialized support services!** The **WAVE Campaign will be conducted over 2016-2017 in Europe**, and will aim to sensitize decision-makers, on the national and European levels, to the importance of availability and access to support services that are tailored to meet women's needs. The goal of the campaign is to make them take **concrete steps to enable women and their children to live empowered, violence-free lives!**

Join in the **WAVE Campaign 2016-2017**, and help us making it a success! Be part of change, step up for women's rights! Keep your eyes and ears opened for more news and updates on the WAVE Campaign soon!"

From 25th November to 10th December, celebrating 16 Days of Activism across Europe with the WAVE Network!



From 25th November - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women [4] - to 10th December 2015 - International Human Rights Day [5] - the WAVE members across Europe celebrated **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence** [5]! Each year since 1991, the international campaign unites civil society organizations and the public all over the world, to demand an end to violence against women, and calls on governments to exercise Due Diligence in combating GBV and protect survivors. In Europe, **WAVE member organizations carried out a number of campaign activities**. In Hungary, NANE Women's Rights Association [6] started the campaign with a 'Silent Witness March' in the streets of Budapest; in Austria, the Autonomous Women's Shelter

Network (AÖF) [7] organized a conference to close the two-year campaign 'Living Free of Violence'; in Albania, Woman Forum Elbasan [8] launched the campaign 'Youth for Family', with the slogan #LoveisRespect; in England, Refuge [9] ran a powerful social media campaign called #16signs for #16days, highlighting 16 common signs of abuse through quotes from Refuge services users; in Moldova, Women's Law Center [10] launched the social spot *Brio Sonores* on involving men in fighting violence against women; while in Romania, A.L.E.G. [11] organized a candle-light vigil "The Silent Witnesses Speak" in the city of Sibiu, presenting statistics on violence against women and femicide in Romania in 2014. Want to find out more about WAVE members' activities during the 16 Days? Click [here](#) [12].

16th November 2015 – SAFE Ireland launches the new phase of its MAN UP campaign



On 16th November 2015, the organization SAFE Ireland [13] launched the new phase of its MAN UP and Stand against Domestic Violence campaign in Dublin. Fronted by professional UFC mix martial arts fighter Cathal Pendred, the **MAN UP campaign** aims at promoting the positive role that men can play in ending domestic violence, in challenging abuse and in supporting women and children. Launched in 2012, it focuses on "men showing leadership, pride and courage to stand against domestic violence. To challenge the abuse of women and children." Over the past four years, the campaign has received broad support - supporters have included many other sports stars, entertainers, politicians and community leaders, alongside thousands of men in sports clubs, work places, schools and colleges who have committed to preventing domestic violence - and

has caught international imagination, including in Italy, the United States and Sweden, where MAN UP was launched in 2014. Find out more about the MAN UP Campaign [14] now!

Bff- Frauen Gegen Gewalt launches the “Superheroines against Violence” campaign in Germany

In November 2015, the Federal Association of Rape Crisis Centers and Women’s Counselling Center - Bff [15] (Bff - Frauen Gegen Gewalt) launched the campaign “**Superhoines against Violence**” in Germany. The campaign aims to raise awareness of existing support structures for women and girls victims of all forms of violence, from domestic abuse and rape, to sexual assault, street harassment and bullying (including online). Coming to the rescue of women and girls, our Superhoines from the women’s counselling centers and helplines are here to listen to women, and support them in finding their own way out of violence. The umbrella organization Bff - Frauen Gegen Gewalt covers more than 170 rape crisis centers and women’s counselling centers in Germany. **Visit the Superhoines campaign [website](#) [16] now!**



In Switzerland, Frauenhaus Zürich projects messages on the Swissmill-Silo as part of its 35 years Jubilee !



In 2016, Frauenhaus Zürich Violetta [17] is celebrating 35 years of providing support to women seeking refuge from violence! On the evening of Monday 7th of December, to mark its Jubilee, three illuminated messages were projected on the Swissmill-Silo tower, in the Zürich industrial district. 'Temporary ambassadors against domestic violence', the three thought-provoking messages read: "Stop domestic violence - Do not look away", "365 days against violence against women and children", and "35 years Foundation Frauenhaus Zürich". Each year, Frauenhaus Zürich Violetta provides protection and support, including shelter, psychological and legal support, to about 140 women and children.

Next meeting on the Frauenhaus Zürich Violetta Jubilee’s agenda [18] will be 27th January 2016 (18:00-20:00) - **mark your calendar!** On this occasion, the organization will be holding a talk on 'Electronic Monitoring, or what does "footcuffs" mean in the context of domestic violence'.

ACUNS Vienna and Webster University hold the Symposium 'Victimization of Women by Extremist Groups' on 25th November 2015 in Vienna

Organized by the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) [19] Vienna Liaison and Webster University on the occasion of **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women** on 25th November 2015, the symposium 'Victimization of Women by Extremist Groups' brought together a number of prominent speakers with diverse backgrounds, including ambassadors, civil society representatives, academics and lawyers. The discussion opened with the reiteration of some of the remarks made by UN Special Rapporteur on VAW Dubravka Šimonović to commemorate 25th November, including the need to establish a *Femicide Watch*. Among different issues addressed was an analysis of the current global situation regarding VAW and women’s rights, and gaps in implementation of relevant resolutions and international legal instruments, the role of women in peace and security, the situation of Pakistani women and the influence of the Taliban, the impact of IS on the lives of Arab women, but also the role of NGOs in preventing and responding to violence as well as their contribution to de-radicalization. Read more about the ACUNS Symposium [20].

Skopje hosts the regional conference 'Protection and support of women victims of gender based violence - current situation and good practices' on 11th November 2015



In frame of the project “Coordinated Efforts: toward new European standards in protection of women from gender based violence” - find out more about the EU-funded project [here](#) [21]- the National Council for Gender equality (NCGE) [22] held the Regional Conference “**Protection and support to women victims of gender- based violence - current situation and good practices**” in Skopje (Macedonia) on 11th November 2015. The conference aimed to provide an analyse of the situation regarding protection and support to women victims of gender-based violence in Macedonia, and exchange good practices from the region and from the EU in the area of

implementation of standards established in the Istanbul Convention [23]. About 30 representatives from state institutions, international organizations and CSOs/platforms from the country and the region attended the event.

'Open letter on the necessity of passing the Legislation on Domestic Violence Prevention in Belarus based on gender equality principles and international standards'

On 5th November 2015, a coalition of women's NGOs in Belarus presented a collective ***Open Letter on the necessity of passing the Legislation on Domestic Violence Prevention in Belarus***, based on gender equality principles and international standards, addressed at several Ministries of Belarus, as well as the General Prosecutor's Office and the Supreme Court, the national offices of UNDP and UNFPA, the EU Delegation in Belarus and the Republican Public Association "Pravovaya Inicijativa" (Legal Initiative). While Belarus is currently drafting its first legislation on domestic violence, women's NGOs are voicing their concerns that the process is done largely ignoring the guiding principle of gender equality, while also introducing a 'victim mentality' approach to treating survivors of domestic violence. The threats posed by taking such approach are enounced in the Open Letter, available in [English](#) [24] and [Russian](#) [25].

Women's Law Center and the Center of Investigations and Consultation "Sociopolis" launch the study 'Men and gender equality in the Republic of Moldova' on 2nd December 2015

Representing one of the most comprehensive studies on gender equality carried out in the country, the study ***"Men and Gender Equality in the Republic of Moldova"*** [26] was launched on 2nd December 2015. The research offers a holistic view on the life of women and men, their attitudes towards gender equality, family relationships, the role and involvement of men in family life, including child education and care, childhood experiences of violence, as experiences in the professional sphere, among others. Based on the nationally-adapted [International Survey Men and Gender Equality \(IMAGES\)](#) [27], the study involved the participation of a total 1.500 men and 500 women from the Republic of Moldova. Importantly, the study found that, among the population sampled, 27% of men and 17.5% of women consider that women should tolerate violence to preserve their families. The study was elaborated by the [Women's Law Center](#) [10] (WAVE Member in Moldova) and the Center of Investigations and Consultation „Sociopolis”, with funding from the [Oak Foundation](#) [28].

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Marching against gender-based violence in Madrid on 7th November 2015!

Tens of thousands of protesters, including WAVE Focal Point [Fundación para la Convivencia ASPACIA](#) [29], **marched against domestic and gender-based violence against women in Madrid, Spain, on 7th November 2015.**

With about 380 regional and 70 state-run feminist organizations, as well as members of Spain's main political parties, trade unions and NGOs present, the march gathered close to 150.000 persons, some holding signs reading "Stop machista violence!" or "Machismo, crime against all!". The historic march was echoed in several European towns - including Bristol, London, Milan, Stuttgart, Vienna or Strasbourg - where events were organized.

Ireland signs, and the Netherlands ratifies the Istanbul Convention

On 5th and 11th November 2015, Ireland and the Netherlands respectively signed and ratified the **Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence**, commonly referred to as Istanbul Convention. In doing so, the Netherlands became the 19th Council of Europe member state to ratify the convention. The Istanbul Convention represents an important step in the fight against all forms of violence against women in Europe. It is the first legally binding instrument that compels ratifying states to take drastic measures to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence in Europe. To find out more on the convention and the work of the GREVIO Committee, click [here](#) [30].

France launches the "Stop – that's enough!" campaign against sexual harassment on public transport

With the aim to curb the incidence of **sexual harassment against women on public transport**, the French government launched the campaign **"Stop - that's enough!"** at the beginning of November 2015. Launched together with the rail operator SNCF and Paris transport chiefs RATP, the campaign has included the distribution of flyers and the setting up of posters in key places around the capital, encouraging victims and witnesses to talk about sexual harassment, and reminding offenders of the existing five-year penalty for groping. Visual messaging included representation of a Metro line where each stop is labelled with comments from an increasingly aggressive harasser, ending with the response **'Stop - that's enough!'** [31].

NEW RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) publishes 'An Analysis of the Victims' Rights Directive from a Gender Perspective'



In November 2015, the [European Institute for Gender Equality \(EIGE\)](#) [32] published **'An Analysis of the Victims' Rights Directive from a Gender Perspective'**. Prepared by Sylwia Spurek, PhD, it looks at the [Directive 2012/29/EU](#) [33] of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012, providing **minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of**



crime. The study aims 'to assess the Directive from the perspective of victims of gender-based violence so as to critically examine measures that could be counterproductive or cause unintended effects, as well as those that could support victims.' An analysis of the 32 articles of the Victims' Rights Directive leads Spurek to highlight several findings: the majority of provisions analyzed succeed in introducing new, or emphasizing the meaning of existing, duties of

Member States in the area of victims' support and protection; however, they are often too general and fail to provide reference to instruments including codes of conduct, without which the application of legal solutions can be limited. Access the 60-page document [here](#) [34].

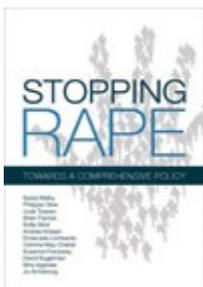
'Fathers' rights, children's rights and mothers' responsibilities – Reflections on shared parenting following relationship breakdown due to intimate partner violence', by Patricia Bell

Published in 2016 in Claudia Maier-Höfer 'Angewandte Kindheitswissenschaften - Applied Childhood Studies. Eine Einführung in das Paradigma - An introduction to the paradigm', Patricia Bell's "Fathers' rights, children's rights and mothers' responsibilities - Reflections on shared parenting following relationship breakdown due to intimate partner violence" addresses the issue of children's right to contact with both parents following separation in cases of intimate partner violence. In particular, it looks at how the women's refuges in Germany continue to address the needs of women and children who seek shelter from violence in the home, against a background of shifting traditional gender norms and changing parental expectations, including the one for fathers to remain involved with their children after separation. The article can be purchased online on [Springer Link](#) [35].



The WAVE office in Vienna was happy to welcome Patricia Bell as team leader at the beginning of January 2016, and we all look forward to some great work together!

'Stopping rape: towards a comprehensive policy', by Sylvia Walby et al.



In 2015, the University of Bristol based Policy Press published 'Stopping rape: towards a comprehensive policy'. The publication aims to provide a comprehensive guide to existing international policies aimed at ending rape, along with case study examples on how they work. Building on theory and evidence from world practices, it looks at different sectors and institutions involved in the response to rape - the law and criminal justice system, health services, specialised services for victim-survivors, educational and cultural interventions - and how they can best be coordinated. Particularly of interest for students, scholars, practitioners and policy makers, as well as 'anyone who wants to know how rape can be stopped', the book can be related to the 2013 European Parliament study "[Overview of the worldwide best practices](#)

for rape prevention and assisting women victims of rape [36]", authored by Sylvia Walby, Brian Francis, Corinne May-Chahal, and David Sugarman.



[37]



[38]



[39]



[28]

With financial support from the
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[40]



Österreichischer
Städtebund

[41]

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Links:

- [1] <http://www.wave-network.org/>
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- [3] <https://www.facebook.com/pages/WAVE-Network/100277033374347?ref=ts&fref=ts>
- [4] <http://www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday/>
- [5] <http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/>
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- [11] <https://www.facebook.com/alegromania/?fref=ts>
- [12] http://www.wave-network.org/sites/default/files/%5BPress%20Release%5D%2018.12.15_WAVE%20celebrates%2016%20Days%20of%20Activism%20across%20Europe!.pdf
- [13] <http://www.safeireland.ie/>
- [14] <http://www.manup.ie/>
- [15] <https://www.frauen-gegen-gewalt.de/home.html>
- [16] <https://superheldin-gegen-gewalt.de/en>
- [17] <http://www.frauenhaus-zhv.ch/index.php>
- [18] http://www.frauenhaus-zhv.ch/index.php?t=Aktuell&read_group=74
- [19] <http://acuns.org/category/projects-programs/liasion-office-activities/vienna/>
- [20] <http://acuns.org/symposium-on-the-occasion-of-the-international-day-on-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women-vaw/>
- [21] http://www.potpisujem.org/eng/about_the_project.html
- [22] <http://www.sozm.org.mk/>
- [23] <http://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/about-the-convention>
- [24] http://wave-network.org/sites/default/files/Open_letter_women_NGOs_Belarus_2015_eng.pdf
- [25] http://wave-network.org/sites/default/files/Open_letter_womens_NGOs_Belarus_2015_rus.pdf
- [26] <http://www.cdf.md/>
- [27] <http://www.icrw.org/publications/international-men-and-gender-equality-survey-images>
- [28] <http://www.oakfnd.org/>
- [29] <http://fundacion-aspacia.org/>
- [30] <http://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention>
- [31] <https://vimeo.com/151022163>
- [32] <http://eige.europa.eu/>
- [33] <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32012L0029>
- [34] <http://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/mh0115698enn.pdf>
- [35] http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007%2F978-3-658-08120-1_6
- [36] http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2013/493025/IPOL-FEMM_ET%282013%29493025_EN.pdf
- [37] <http://www.sozialministerium.at/site/>
- [38] <https://www.bmbf.gv.at/>
- [39] <http://www.wien.gv.at/kontakte/ma57/>
- [40] http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/programmes-2014-2020/rec/index_en.htm
- [41] <http://www.staedtebund.gv.at/>
- [42] <http://wave-network.org/newsletter/women-against-violence-europe-newsletter>