

WAVE Newsletter January-February 2016

WAVE News

WAVE Step up! Campaign – 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! **To be launched in the coming weeks, the WAVE Step up! 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. **WAVE is calling on key decision-makers to actively support prevention and protection for women survivors of VAW, increase the availability of quality specialized services in Europe, and commit to improving access to life-saving services for all women indiscriminately!**

The Step up! campaign will comprise national level activities carried out by the members of the WAVE Network in their countries, and joint European actions gathering the network as whole. Keep your eyes and ears opened for the first events of the Europe-wide campaign!

Building partnerships for change is crucial, and the WAVE Network needs each and every one of you! Join in the Step up! Campaign and help us making it a success! Contact the WAVE Office – office@wave-network.org – to find more about supporting and partnering in the campaign. Be part of change, Step up for women’s rights!

In Turkey, Mor Çatı hosts the international conference ‘Politics of Women’s Shelters, Solidarity Centers and Solidarity against Male Violence throughout 2010s: Sharing Experiences from Turkey and Europe’ on 26-27 February 2016



On 26-27 February 2016, WAVE Member in Turkey Mor Çatı held the international conference “Politics of Women’s Shelters, Solidarity Centres and Solidarity against Male Violence throughout 2010s: Sharing Experiences from Turkey and Europe” in Istanbul. The conference provided a platform for exchange of international experiences in the area of preventing and ending violence against women – with a focus on good practices of women’s shelters and solidarity centres from Turkey and European countries – and to strengthen the communication between women’s

organizations active in the field. Participants to the conference also discussed the ‘practical potentials of women’s solidarity and the ways to empower local and international networks of women’s solidarity’. Panellists included GREVIO member Biljana Brankovic, as well as representatives from WAVE members in Sweden Roks; Hungary NANE Women’s Rights Association, Austria Domestic Abuse Intervention Centre, the Netherlands Federatie Opvang, and Bulgaria Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation (BGRF). The work of WAVE in networking on the European level was also introduced by Albena Koycheva from BGRF. **Congratulations to our colleagues from Mor Çatı for a successful conference!**

14th February 2016 – One Billion Rising, calling for Revolution across Europe! [Macedonia]



One Billion Rising is one of the largest global events on ending violence against women worldwide. Held for the first time on 14 February (V-Day) 2012, the campaign has gathered each year millions of activists all over the world, to demand an end to violence against women and greater state's commitment to protecting women and girls. Under the theme 'One Billion Rising: Revolution', the 2016 edition of the campaign particularly called for national and international focus on marginalised women. Activists in Europe actively took part in the One Billion Rising celebrations. In Macedonia, WAVE

Member National Council for Gender Equality – NCGE gathered women, men and children to dance and write chalk messages to raise awareness of GBV; in Italy, activists, with a particular focus on the current European refugee crisis, invited refugees to perform traditional dances among different awareness-raising activities; in Austria, One Billion Rising celebrations gathered participants to sing and dance in front of the Parliament, with a particular focus this year on violence against migrant women. Find out more about One Billion Rising activities taking place worldwide on 14 February 2016!

Women's Aid England publishes 'Nineteen Child Homicides' as part of its ongoing Child First Campaign

In January 2016, Women's Aid England published the "*Nineteen Child Homicides*" report. Published alongside the launch of the 'Child First' campaign, the report **details the cases of nineteen children, who were all intentionally killed by a parent who was also a known perpetrator of domestic abuse in circumstances relating to unsafe child contact.** Reviewing case examinations published between January and August 2015 in England and Wales, *Nineteen Child Homicides* uncovers details of 19 children in 12 families, killed in crimes that further resulted in 2 women killed, 2 children seriously harmed through attempted murder, and 7 men dead by suicide after committing child homicide. In 7 of the 12 cases reviewed, child contact agreement was ordered through court. **Key themes** emerging from the report include: the importance of recognising domestic abuse as harm to children; professional understanding of the power and control dynamics of DA; understanding parental separation as a risk factor; the way in which statutory agencies interact with families where there is DA; and supporting non-abusive parents and challenging abusive parents. Access the 44-page report.

Women's Aid Launches new campaign 'Child First: Safe Child Contact Saves Lives'



Launched in January 2016 by Women's Aid, The *Child First* campaign focuses on domestic abuse, the family courts and safe child contact, as this was the top issue that survivors of domestic abuse asked Women's Aid to campaign on. Women's Aid also knows that women survivors of domestic abuse frequently feel traumatised and victimised throughout the family court process which can affect their ability to advocate for the safety of their children. A recent survey of women survivors of domestic abuse found 89% respondents felt frightened or scared whilst in the family court, and 39% respondents reported their former partner used verbal or physical abuse against them in the family court room or building.

The campaign is asking for the Government and judiciary to ensure there are no further avoidable child deaths as a result of unsafe child contact with a perpetrator of domestic abuse, to introduce special measures into all family courts and to implement existing guidance. To get involved in the campaign you can visit the Women's Aid [website](#), use **#ChildFirst** to spread the word on Twitter or sign the petition [here](#).

In Armenia, Women's Rights center launches a series of trainings for professionals to improve coordinated response in domestic violence cases

In January and February 2016, WAVE Member in Armenia [Women's Right Center \(WRC\)](#) held a number of **trainings for professionals, i.e. teachers, psychologists, social workers and police officers, aimed at improving responses to cases of domestic violence, through enhancing knowledge of domestic violence and ways of responding quickly and efficient to cases.** Targeted at social workers working at Social Support Centres in 12 districts of Yerevan, and police officers from different regions of Armenia, the trainings included presentation of WRC activities and services, existing support structures, their cooperation and legal protection mechanisms for victims of domestic violence. Training participants were led to distinguish between concepts of violence within the home, domestic violence and violence against women, and identify the distinctive factors of domestic violence. Evaluation of the trainings showed that most of the participants were familiar with the issues addressed, but also welcomed the new knowledge received through the trainings. The trainings further highlighted the important role of the participants in the process of preventing and combating domestic violence.

In Germany, Bff - Bundesverband Frauenberatungsstellen und Frauennotrufe is pushing for a reform of the legal definition of rape!

The incidents of New Year's Eve in Cologne and other cities of Germany opened a much needed debate on sexual violence and sexual harassment. However, the discussion has been largely dominated by the propagation of racist stereotypes, putting the focus on the origin and legal status of the perpetrators rather than on the core issue of violence against women. WAVE Member in Germany [Bff - Bundesverband Frauenberatungsstellen und Frauennotrufe](#), along with other national women's organisations, has worked hard to see a reform of the current legislation on rape – Section 177 of the Criminal Code still comprises three definitions of rape: “by force”, “by threat of imminent danger to life or limb, and “by exploiting a situation in which the victim is unprotected and at the mercy of the offender” – highlighting the current **absence of the notion of ‘consent’ in the legislation.** While this is still lacking, **Bff is demanding a legislation on rape that is based on the principle that “no means no”,** and an implementation of the Istanbul Convention – which Germany has not yet ratified – that condemns all non-consensual sexual activities. Access [Bff's official statement](#) [DE] on the planned reformation of the German legislation on rape.

International News

Fourth meeting of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), 18-20 January 2016

On 18-20 January 2016, the ten members of the GREVIO gathered at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg for their **Fourth working meeting.** Set up in May 2015 – following the entry into force of the Convention in August 2014 – the [Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence](#)

(GREVIO) is tasked with monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention by the Parties, which includes the drafting and publishing of 'evaluation reports on legislative and other measures taken by the Parties to give effects to the provisions of the Convention.' In its preparation work for the first round of monitoring of Parties' implementation of the Convention, GREVIO is currently working on the baseline questionnaire to be sent to the Parties to facilitate their reporting the implementation of the Convention, which should be piloted in the coming months of 2016. Gathering for its **Fifth meeting in Paris on 9-11 March 2016**, GREVIO will continue its discussions on the questionnaire.

In January 2016, San Marino ratifies the Istanbul Convention

On 28 January 2016, **San Marino became the 20th state to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence** – or Istanbul Convention. Having signed the Convention in April 2014, San Marino will see the entry into force of the instrument on 1 May 2016, and subsequently become subject to monitoring and evaluation from the GREVIO. As of 2016, the Istanbul Convention – the instrument 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 – has been signed by 39 countries and ratified by 20. **To be launched in 2016, the WAVE Step up! Campaign aims at promoting the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention by member states of the Council of Europe, and promote a possible EU accession to the Convention!**

Campaign to elect a Woman UN Secretary General in 2016!

Since the end of WWII, the United Nations Secretariat has seen the election of eight successive Secretary-Generals, with the position currently held by Ban Ki-Moon for a second consecutive term. With the next election to be held in 2016, **it is about time to see the first woman appointed as *de facto* spokesperson and leader of the United Nations!** In February 2015, a group of like-minded women from academia and civil society with a long record of engagement in the United Nations came together for the first time, to develop a plan of action to see the first female Secretary-General appointed at the UN in 2016. Ahead of the election – and denouncing the most commonly used excuse that 'they are not enough qualified women to choose from' – the committee is providing a 'Rollout of Outstanding Women from Around the World' on its campaign website. **You can support the selection process by contributing to the identification of the best possible female candidates. Let 2016 see the election of the first female UN Secretary-General!**

New Research & Publications

WAVE manual 'PROTECT II - Learning Resource on Capacity Building in Risk Assessment and Safety Management to Protect High Risk Victims' now available in Romanian!

Published in July 2012, the **Protect II Learning Material** is intended to be used as a **resource for trainers to explore the possibilities and benefits of partnership working when dealing with high risk of harm domestic violence cases**. Produced in frame of the Daphne project PROTECT II, the manual is comprised of two modules: *Module One* examines the strong reasoning behind the case for partnership responses to victims in situations where there is a high risk of harm from domestic violence; *Module Two* looks more specifically at multi agency partnership working in the identification, assessment and safety

management of high risk of harm cases of domestic violence, with a discussion of multi-agency case conferencing, best practice and guidance on achieving realistic first steps. Available in 11 languages – English, Bulgarian, Czech, Estonian, French, German, Italian, Polish, Slovak, Spanish and Swedish – **Protect II is now available in Romanian**! The publication should be made available in Croatian soon.

***'Men, Masculinities, and Changing Power: A Discussion Paper on Engaging Men in Gender Equality From Beijing 1995 to 2015'* – a discussion paper prepared by Men Engage in collaboration with UN Women**

Prepared by [Men Engage](#) in collaboration with UN Women, and with support of UNFPA, the discussion paper ***'Men, Masculinities, and Changing Power: A Discussion Paper on Engaging Men in Gender Equality from Beijing 1995 to 2015'*** was published in 2014. As increased focus has been put on men and boys supporting gender equality in the 21st Century – notable global campaigns have included the UN Women [HeForShe](#) campaign – the publication seeks to *'start a dialogue about moving forward with efforts that actively engage men and boys in challenging power dynamics in their own lives as well as in their communities and societies.'* While achievements in the rights and well-being of women and girls in recent decades is undeniable, these have remained unevenly felt across regions, social classes and other factors, and a lot remains to be achieved. Structured in four parts – 1. Gender, power and masculinities; 2. The state of men and gender equality: challenges and advances; 3. The way forward; 4. Recommendations for action – the 60-page discussion paper is available on the [UN Women website](#).

New WAVE Publications in January and February 2016 – WAVE Annual Activity Report, WAVE Mapping, WAVE Leaflet for Members and Prospective Members

In January and February 2016, the WAVE office in Vienna published a number of important documents! Covering the period from January to December 2015 of a very productive and challenging year for WAVE as a new legal entity, the [WAVE Annual Activity Report 2015](#) covers the different activities, projects and events carried out by the network in 2015. The [WAVE Leaflet for Members and Prospective Members](#) provides a list of the 112 member organisations that comprise the network (as of December 2015), information on membership - how to become a member, and benefits of being part of the network - as well as on the role of the WAVE Information Center in providing information and support to survivors, professionals and member organisations, including in cross-border cases of violence against women, and a list of women's helplines in 46 European Countries. The [WAVE Mapping](#) explores the **situation of administrative data collection by specialist women's support services** – national women's helplines, women's shelters, and women's centers – in Europe, with the aim to map existing data collection methods and systems in Europe (in the European Union and other European countries). All WAVE publications are available to download for free from the [WAVE website](#).

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