



WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

WAVE Network & European Info Centre Against Violence
Bacherplatz 10 / 6 • 1050 Vienna, Austria
phone: +43-(0)1-5482720 • fax: +43-(0)1-5482720-27
e-mail: office@wave-network.org • www.wave-network.org
ZVR:601608559

PRESS RELEASE

The Women against Violence Europe (WAVE) Network members' activities to celebrate 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence across Europe!

VIENNA, December 18th, 2015– Launched for the first time in 1991 by the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) at the Rutgers University, the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign takes place each year between the 25th November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women – and 10th December, International Human Rights Day. The campaign provides the space for civil society organizations and populations all over the world to join in solidarity to demand an end to all forms of violence against women and girls, and call on governments to exercise Due Diligence when preventing violence, protecting victims and prosecuting perpetrators.

The women's organizations from the WAVE Network were actively involved in the 16 Days Campaign 2015, carrying out activities across Europe, many of them around and on 25th November (list non-exhaustive):

❖ **Ahead of the launch of 16 Days of Activism 2015**

21st November – In **Hungary**, *NANE Women's Rights Association* opened the 16 Days of Activism campaign with a *Silent Witness March* in the streets of Budapest.

22nd November – In **Belgium**, *Department of Health and Welfare, Violence Victims and Policy Coordination – Province of Antwerp* organized a performance by well-known Flemish artists

❖ **25th November – International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**

In **Liechtenstein**, *Frauenhaus Liechtenstein* held an open discussion on domestic violence 'Roses and Apples, Buttons and Discussions' with the staff and board of the women's refuge.

In **Georgia**, *Cultural Humanitarian Fund "Sukhumi"* held multiple events, from public gatherings in eight cities simultaneously to performances and discussions, TV shows, exhibitions and social media actions.

In **Austria**, *Autonomous Women's Shelter Network* organized a conference to close the two-year campaign 'Living Free of Violence', and held a lecture on the content of the campaign at the Vienna Medical University.

In **Albania**, *Woman Forum Elbasan* launched the campaign 'Youth for Family', with the slogan #LoveisRespect.

In **England**, *Refuge* ran a powerful social media campaign called #16signs for #16days, highlighting 16 common signs of abuse through quotes from Refuge services users; *Women's Aid Federation of England* released a blog a day, covering key issues such as responding to the needs of domestic abuse survivors, the family court, coercive control, online abuse and the Istanbul Convention.

In **Moldova**, *Women's Law Center* launched the social spot *Brio Sonores* on involving men in fighting violence against women.

In **Romania**, *A.L.E.G.* 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.

In **Malta**, the *Department of Gender Studies* at the University of Malta held a panel discussion on the occasion of 25th November, together with Australian High Commission and U.S. Embassy.

In **Germany**, *Bff-Frauen Gegen Gewalt* launched the campaign 'Superheroines against Violence', including the short movie addressing (young) women and girls about finding help and getting support after violence.

WAVE is the only network in Europe working exclusively on the issue of violence against women. With most WAVE members providing direct support to women survivors of violence, WAVE has worked hard to ensure the development and sustainability of **vital women's specialized services**, over its 20 years of existence.

The WAVE Report 2014 highlights the lack of relevant support services in Europe, with 66% of recommended shelter places missing, and only 16 national women's helplines operating 24/7 and free of charge. Support from all is needed to amplify the voices of women survivors and the ones of the organizations working at supporting them!

Long-term commitment from decision-makers at all levels is paramount to guarantee the sustainability of services that are essential for women, their children, and the society at large.



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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact the **WAVE office** at +43(0)1 548 2720 or email at office@wave-network.org; or contact **WAVE Manager Maria Rösslhumer** at +43(0)664 793 07 89 or email at maria.roesslhumer@a oef.at.