



PRESS RELEASE

WAVE Report 2015 - An alarming shortfall in specialist support services for gender based violence in Europe

1st AUGUST 2016: The European Network WAVE (Women Against Violence Europe) has published the 2015 report, which maps the available services for women survivors of violence in 46 European countries.

This year the Report "On the role of specialist services in Europe" is broader in scope. Aside from core service provision, the 2015 Report includes examples of prevention and training work undertaken by women's non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and makes visible, the fact that women's NGOs are not only providing services to victims but also engage in a variety of activities including; awareness raising, prevention work and training.

A main finding is that the Countries, who work in close partnership with women's NGO's, have been more successful in addressing the problem of gender-based violence and in protecting and supporting victims, than countries with few women's NGOs.

45 years after specialist support services for gender based violence was founded in Western Europe and 25 years after the adoption of this model of working in Eastern Europe there is still an alarming **shortfall** in services:

Helplines

- Only **17 of the 46 European Countries surveyed had a 24/7 helpline providing immediate information and support free of charge**
- **13 of the 46 European Countries surveyed had no helpline at all**

Women's Shelters

- Women's Shelter provision still meets **only about one third of the estimated need for shelter accommodation** in Europe
- **Two thirds of all shelter provision in Europe is concentrated in the pre-2004 European Member States**, which accounts for less than half the population of Europe as a whole
- Furthermore, **services need to be expanded to more adequately meet the needs of differently abled women and migrant women, particularly undocumented migrant women**

Women's Centres

- Over **80% of all non-residential specialist support services for women experiencing gender violence in Europe are based in the pre-2005 European Member States**
- Furthermore **28 of the 46 Countries covered by the Report did not have an adequate geographical distribution** of non-residential support services

There is a serious underinvestment in specialized support services in many countries in Europe and as a consequence women have nowhere to turn for adequate help. Therefore, WAVE



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starts with an EU wide WAVE Step UP! Campaign and calls on EU authorities, national governments and other interested parties in society to STEP UP investments to stop violence against women! http://files.wave-network.org/home/WAVE_StepUp_CAMPAIGN.pdf
www.wave-stepup.org

Download the Report http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015.pdf

Individual chapters can be downloaded from <https://www.wave-network.org/resources/research-reports>

http://files.wave-network.org/researchreports/WAVE_Report_2015_Executive_Summary.pdf

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