



WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE

# WAVE ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2015

ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS FROM  
1<sup>ST</sup> OF JANUARY 2015 TO 31<sup>ST</sup> OF DECEMBER 2015

## WAVE ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2015

The outlined activities and achievements were made possible through generous funding by the:  
European Commission, Rights Equality and Citizenship Programme  
Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs and Consumer Protection  
Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs  
City of Vienna-Department of Women's Affairs, MA 57  
City of Vienna-Department of Research and Culture  
OAK Foundation  
Phillip Morris Austria GMBH  
Austrian Association of Cities and Towns  
Mediterranean Women's Fund

### In 2015, WAVE was funded by:

With financial support  
from the Rights, Equality  
and Citizenship Programme  
of the European Union



---

### IMPRINT

**Publisher:** WAVE – Women against Violence Europe, Bacherplatz 10/6, A-1050 Vienna

**Office hours:** Monday-Thursday, 9:00-17:00

**Phone:** +43-1-548 27 20 **Fax:** +43-1-544 08 20 24

**E-mail:** office@wave-network.org **Website:** www.wave-network.org

**Coordinated by** Maria Rösslhumer and Kelly Blank

**ZVR:** 601608559

**Graphic Design:** Monika Medvey

**Place and year of publication:** Vienna, January 2016

This publication has been produced with the financial support of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Women against Violence Europe (WAVE) and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission.



# WAVE ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2015

Activities and Projects from 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2015

## INDEX

PREFACE.....	5
1. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE 21 <sup>st</sup> YEAR OF WAVE.....	6
I. WAVE "Step Up!" Campaign and the Theory of Change .....	6
II. WAVE Lobbying Work on the Rights of Women and Children .....	7
III. WAVE's Engagement in the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators .....	7
IV. WAVE's Direct and Cross-Border Support for Women Survivors of Violence .....	7
V. Highlights of the WAVE Conference in The Hague .....	8
VI. Information about the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO).....	10
2. OVERVIEW OF WAVE ACTIVITIES.....	11
3. DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT WAVE ACTIVITIES 2015 .....	17
1. WAVE Information Center .....	17
2. Continuous Updating of the WAVE Website.....	17
3. WAVE Database .....	18
4. 17 <sup>th</sup> WAVE Conference in The Hague, Netherlands .....	18
5. WAVE Study Visit in Vienna .....	18
6. 5 <sup>th</sup> WAVE Training Institute in Vienna.....	19
7. WAVE Report 2015 .....	20
8. WAVE Board Meetings .....	20
9. First WAVE General Assembly .....	20
10. Meeting of the Advisory Board of Country Coordinators (CoCo).....	20
11. Lobbying and Monitoring at the European and International Level.....	21
12. Participation in various European and International Conferences .....	22
13. Multi-disciplinary Cooperation with other Networks.....	29
14. Bi-monthly WAVE Newsletter .....	30
15. WAVE Fempower Magazine.....	30
16. WAVE Press Releases .....	30
17. Violence against Women and Social Media.....	30
18. WAVE Dissemination strategy .....	31
19. WAVE "Step Up!" Campaign 2016-2017.....	31
20. Mapping Women's Service User Statistics in Europe .....	32
21. WAVE Leaflet for Members .....	32
22. WAVE Annual Statistics.....	32
23. OAK Foundation.....	32
24. Coordinated Efforts - Towards New European Standards in Protection of Women from Gender Based Violence Project.....	33
25. Cooperation with the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of domestic violence (WWP-EN) .....	33
ANNEX.....	34
▶ WAVE Board Short CVs.....	34
▶ Helplines in 46 European countries .....	35
▶ 17 <sup>th</sup> WAVE Conference Programme .....	38
▶ WAVE Member list.....	40

## How to donate to WAVE?

If you wish to support WAVE, there are two possibilities of Payment:

### **By credit card:**

If you have a credit card, you can transfer the fee via Paypal on the WAVE Website:  
[www.wave-network.org/content/donate](http://www.wave-network.org/content/donate)

### **By bank transfer to:**

Bank account name: Association WAVE (Women Against Violence Europe)

Bank: Bank Austria

IBAN: AT75 1200 0006 1078 2021

BIC/Swift Code: BKAUATWW

## How to become a WAVE Member

Non-government women's organizations, women's network organizations, and individual experts on violence against women from around Europe have the possibility to become a WAVE Member. If you are interested in becoming a Member of the WAVE Network, please contact our WAVE office: [office@wave-network.org](mailto:office@wave-network.org)

## PREFACE

This activity report covers the period from January 2015 to December 2015. It was a very productive and challenging year for WAVE as a network and also for the WAVE office in Vienna, particularly because it was WAVE's first full year as a legal entity. The organization also hosted its first General Assembly during the 17<sup>th</sup> WAVE Conference in The Hague, Netherlands, ahead of the Third World Conference of Women's Shelters. During the WAVE Conference, recently appointed UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences, Dubravka Šimonović, discussed the 'synergies and implementation of global and regional instruments on violence against women: CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention'.

WAVE is also pleased to announce that, on 22 September 2015, two WAVE Board Members were elected as GREVIO members: Rosa Logar (Austria) and Marceline Naudi (Malta) as Vice-Presidents; in addition, WAVE Members Biljana Brankovic (Serbia) and Françoise Brié (France) were also elected as a GREVIO members.

WAVE particularly focused on data collection in 2015, with the development of a more comprehensive questionnaire on women's support services, including information on prevention, funding, and national policies. The questionnaire is based on the Istanbul Convention, and attempts to highlight the variations between the data provided by women's NGOs and states. Data collection also began the mapping of existing national systems of data collection on women's support services in Europe. The data collected will help WAVE develop and implement a comparable European system of administrative data collection on service provision over the period 2016-2017.

In 2015, WAVE also expanded its network by increasing the number of Members from 107 to 112, and strengthened contact with other organizations, institutions, and individuals in the field of combating violence against women. As a result of WAVE's stronger presence Europe-wide, the WAVE Information Center was actively involved in cross-border support with survivors and women's organizations, with approximately 33 inquiries in total, a 51% increase from last year.

WAVE has also been actively involved online through social media and other platforms. In addition to establishing a third social media account (Instagram), the WAVE network has increased followers on both Facebook and Twitter since last year. WAVE was also busy networking by attending European and International conferences, trainings, and events on violence against women and gender equality.

Thanks to generous and sustainable funding from the European Commission and the granting of an Op-



erating Grant for the period 2015-2017, WAVE was able to focus on numerous activities and projects aiming at improving the organizational capacity and management of the network, contributing to the development of EU law/policies and to their implementation, building the capacity of network members and training relevant practitioners and stakeholders, and informing the general public, in the area of violence against women and their children.

We would like to express our warmest thanks to all our donors and supporters, and also all our Members, Board Members, and experts, for supporting the WAVE office. All of WAVE's plans, activities, and goals were carried out thanks to the financial support received from the European Commission within the scope of the Rights, Equality, and Citizenship Programme Operating Grant 2015-2017; co-financing was granted by the Federal Ministry for Labor and Social Affairs, Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs, as well as the women's Department of the municipality of Vienna (MA 57); the OAK Foundation, City of Vienna-Department of Research and Culture, Phillip Morris Austria GmbH, Austrian Association of Cities and Towns, and Mediterranean Women's Fund.

In 2016, WAVE wants to focus, together with its partner organizations, on developing a Handbook on European Standards for Women's Support Services, as well as launching the WAVE Campaign to contribute to the increase in numbers of quality specialized women's support services, and increased access by most vulnerable groups, and promoting the ratification of the Istanbul Convention by Council of Europe Member states.

A special thank you as well to the wonderful and dedicated interns who supported WAVE throughout 2015: Charlotte Amrouche, Rebecca Hetzer, Anouk Heili, Zeynep Topalan, Heidi Gritsch, Kamila Hadala, Karoline Bech Pedersen, and Nadine El-Nabli.

– The WAVE Office Team

# 1. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE 21<sup>st</sup> YEAR OF WAVE

The WAVE network, established in 1994, is one of the main and most influential European-wide feminist networks of women's NGOs (women's shelters, women's centers, intervention centers and helplines, as well as aid organizations for migrant and refugee women). It aims to establish gender equality by eliminating violence against women. WAVE is the only European network focusing solely on the elimination of violence against women and children. WAVE became a legal entity last year, and the WAVE office continues to serve as a linchpin for the whole network of WAVE.

As of December 2015, the WAVE network is comprised of 112 Members located throughout 46 European countries. Through these Members, together with the extensive WAVE online database, the network reaches out to more than 4,000 women's organizations across Europe. Members of WAVE include single organizations, individuals such as academics, and also entire networks. In 2015, WAVE also gave honorary membership to Professor Carol Hagemann-White.

WAVE Members serve as regional and national bases to share and exchange information, expertise, and experience. They are national networks, most of which are specialized in combating and preventing gender-based violence. Members are responsible for dissemination and collection of information on violence against women in their country. The WAVE office continually provides Members with relevant information (ex. exchange of national and international news) and vice versa, good practice examples, international recommendations, policy papers, and legal and policy changes regarding violence against women, while at the same time, Members report on current developments in their respective countries. Members are also the primary contacts for inquiries by women affected by violence and in regard to research inquiries. In addition to organizations, individuals can also be members of the network. Over the years, WAVE has been advised and supported by numerous experts in the field, which affirms the importance of WAVE keeping this expertise within the association. WAVE statutes are available at the WAVE website: [www.wave-network.org](http://www.wave-network.org)

WAVE, as a legal entity, had a General Assembly during the 17<sup>th</sup> WAVE Conference in The Hague, Netherlands on 2 November 2015, in which the WAVE Board was formally elected. The Board is now composed of eight members for the next two years: Rosa Logar (Austria), Hilary Fisher (UK), Urszula Nowakowska (Poland), Marina Pisklakova-Parker (Russia), Camelia Proca (Romania), Marceline Naudi (Malta), and Nataša

Mededovic Pistalo (Montenegro). (See Annex for list of Board member short CVs).

The Board is assisted in its duties by the Advisory Board, which is composed of country delegates and co-delegates chosen by WAVE Members. This Advisory Board meets twice a year, once during the spring in Vienna, and once during the annual WAVE Conference. All the members have a right to vote for the Board members and to express their opinions during the General Assembly which is held every two years.

In 2015, WAVE also expanded the number of delegates for each country, in order to better represent the countries within the United Kingdom (UK). Therefore, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and England each have a delegate to represent their respective countries in instances such as Advisory Board meetings and responding to questionnaires for data collection purposes; however, UK countries will continue to be accounted for as one region, maintaining the amount of WAVE Member countries at 46.

The following chapters detail WAVE's most important activities and developments in the network.

## I. WAVE "Step Up!" Campaign and the Theory of Change

Remaining the only network to focus exclusively on violence against women issues in Europe, WAVE's knowledge and expertise in the field of preventing, combating and responding to gender-based violence has made it a main actor in awareness-raising and lobbying at the European level. WAVE's knowledge and experience is enriched by its Members, now reaching 112 Members throughout 46 European countries.

In light of remaining gaps in service provision, WAVE as a network will carry out a European campaign to contribute to the increase in numbers and level of quality of specialized women's support services, and to improve access by vulnerable groups.

The WAVE Step Up! Campaign Blueprint was created over the course of 2015, including the different aspects of the campaign goals, as developed using the Theory of Change model. This comprehensive model of planning was adapted to the WAVE Step Up! Campaign by the WAVE members over the period of several months, under the guidance of the WAVE member Women's Aid England. This model aided the campaign to take into account key principles and ideas which lead to successful campaigning: place victims' needs at the center, ask the right questions, referral to specialist support services, clear procedures, and a mutual goal of sustainable independence and freedom for victims.

Using the Theory of Change model will ensure that the Step Up! Campaign has clear objectives, outcomes,

outputs, key target groups, messages, activities, and a reasonable timeframe. The WAVE office and the network are very excited to launch the campaign in early 2016, with passionate, determined Members to drive the campaign nationally, and the office to organize the campaign internationally, Step Up! Is sure to be a successful and exciting two-year venture, and aims to achieve long-lasting positive change for women survivors of violence and their children throughout Europe.

## II. WAVE Lobbying Work on the Rights of Women and Children

In 2015, WAVE developed two thematic papers. The first, written by Patricia Bell, is titled 'Thematic Paper on the Right of the Child to Live a Life Free From Violence', discusses how domestic violence impacts children. Also addressed was what children learn from living with domestic violence, and the continuing impact of domestic violence on family relations. One of the main points of the paper was that children who live with domestic violence are more at risk of experiencing physical, sexual, and emotional violence, during the relationship and particularly during the breakdown of the relationship. Furthermore, when women decide to sever their relationship with the perpetrator, children lack the same determination and could be placed under pressure to spend time with the perpetrator alone, placing them in increasingly vulnerable situations. WAVE strongly advocates for the importance of women's support services, and to have trained staff that can address the specific needs of children. The second thematic paper, written by Genoveva Tisheva, is titled 'Access to justice for women victims of violence – analysis and highlights of international law and practice in the field'. This paper analyses the limited access to justice for women, and more specifically, for women victims of violence, which is due to a range of obstacles, including gender stereotyping that women face prior to and when accessing courts and proceedings in the different legal systems. The common denominator being that these limitations are pervasive and affect women exclusively. The thematic paper discusses the importance of CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention to help women realize their rights have access to justice.

## III. WAVE's Engagement in the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators

Since 2014, WAVE has been a Board Member of the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence (WWP-EN). The aim of this cooperation with perpetrator programmes is to ensure that



17<sup>th</sup> Annual WAVE Conference (The Hague, Netherlands)

the safety of victims of violence is of primary concern for all perpetrator programmes. The network promotes effective perpetrator work with those who commit violence, mainly men. Through this work, capacity-building of members is developed, in which members transfer knowledge and best practices, and develop evidence-based practice guidelines and standards. The work of the network contributes to the development and implementation of EU law and policies and facilitates inter-European collaboration and awareness-raising. WWP-EN has also developed a database, which outlines the existing perpetrator programmes for domestic violence within Europe, including contact information. The network also published reports, webinars, and essays on the topic, and hosts regional meetings, annual workshops, and study visits.

## IV. WAVE's Direct and Cross-Border Support for Women Survivors of Violence

One important task of the WAVE office and the Information Center is to support cross-border requests, which have increased in the last few years. Each month, WAVE receives cross-border requests for support from women survivors of violence, friends or relatives of survivors, women's support services, or other public and private institutions. The requests are often received when women have not been able to find sufficient support in their countries, are in a dangerous and high-risk situations, are not aware of the support provided in their countries, or the situation is especially complex and requires cross-border assistance. In such cases, WAVE has served both to refer the survivors to appropriate services in the relevant countries, and to provide support to the survivors, whenever possible.

In 2014, WAVE dealt with 16 such requests for assistance, while in 2015, requests nearly doubled, with WAVE handling 33 requests for assistance. For example, WAVE provided cross-border support for a woman residing in the United States, who was concerned

about her sister experiencing violence by her partner in Europe. WAVE also received requests for support in locating women's shelters from a refugee living in Denmark experiencing domestic abuse. Other forms of violence which women survivors of violence experienced in cross-border cases have included: kidnaping, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and domestic abuse perpetrated against a male victim. In all support cases, survivors and their allies were empowered with information on available services and options, and also if desired, referred to shelters and centers relevant to their situation. In many cases, women were able to find emergency shelter in crisis situations as a result of support from the WAVE Information Center, or were informed about their human rights and the procedure for applying to the European Court for Human Rights. The WAVE Information Center reached as far as Australia, Ecuador, and Pakistan during cross-border support, proving that WAVE's position as a network in 46 countries, its powerful presence in the international community, and strong cooperation with Members throughout Europe, is critical in finding appropriate solutions to the individuals who contact the organization.

The following are three examples of cross-border requests WAVE received in 2015.

### **1. A woman was taken by her in-laws to live outside of Europe with her abusive husband**

A woman contacted WAVE informing us that she had been living in a European country with her husband. Shortly after the wedding, the husband and his family travelled with the woman outside of Europe (under false pretences). Removed from her country and married to an abusive man, the woman wanted to return home. She contacted WAVE asking for support. In return, WAVE connected with an organization in the country from which she was removed so that the organization could begin the process of bringing the woman back. On the last follow-up and with WAVE support the woman was returned back home and was living in a woman's shelter.

### **2. A migrant woman needed support to remain in her country of residence**

A migrant woman who was married to a national of the country in which she was living, was experiencing intimate partner violence at the hands of her husband. In addition to physical abuse, her husband threatened to throw her out of the home and refused to provide basic needs such as food and money for transportation to her doctor's appointments. Her situation was complex in that she was due to have her baby in four months and risked losing her residency permit, if she left her husband. WAVE contacted its member organization

in the country, who provided legal advice regarding her rights related to immigration as well as contacts to a local women's shelter, where she could stay and receive support.

### **3. A woman was considering moving to another country to escape violence from her partner**

WAVE received a message from a woman wanting to move to another country in order to escape from a violent situation. It appeared that despite the violence by her partner, no system in her country of residence was able to support her enough to stop the partner from being violent. As a result, she considered moving. To do so, she contacted WAVE to gather information about the legal and social support situation in the desired country of residence. We contacted various organizations to gather the information and relayed the information to the woman to support her in making her decision.

## **V. Highlights of the WAVE Conference in The Hague**

"Women's Collective Power to Stop Violence!" was the title of the 17<sup>th</sup> annual WAVE Conference, organized by WAVE and took place in The Hague, Netherlands on 2 November 2015. The one-day event gathered approximately 106 participants from 40 European countries, as well as from countries outside of Europe such as Rwanda, Israel, the United States, and Australia.

Prior to the sessions, the event opened on a contribution by WAVE President Rosa Logar and key note speech by Dubravka Šimonović, the UN special rapporteur on violence against women. The main points are presented below.



**Rosa Logar:** *"The crucial role of women's organizations and networks to prevent violence against women and children. Opportunities, challenges and future perspectives"*

Rosa Logar, President of WAVE, presented on the crit-

ical role of women's NGOs and specialized services, including women's networks, in the future of gender equality and eliminating violence against women, by reflecting on the meaning of the conference title "Women's power to stop violence!" In times of political, economic and environmental crises, as well as war and instability in Europe and throughout the world, women's rights are frequently ignored and women's support services also face the consequences, often in the form of financial cuts and closures. Even the democracies within Europe are not stable, where in many cases, right-wing parties are on the rise and human rights are questioned. As a result, it is just as important now, if not more than ever, to draw on our similarities and our power as women, which comes in the form of a joint vision, desire, and goal – a world in which women and their children can exercise their right to live free from violence. Women's collective power can mean the power to be active, to organize, to believe in justice, peace and equality. This translates into the power to reject ideas that our world cannot exist without weapons and wars, without dominance of men over women.

The WAVE network is in a particularly powerful position to establish gender equality and abolish violence against women, because members of the network and the women within all have common goals, despite the different ideas and strategies on how to reach them. These differences are important to respect, and WAVE is proud that after 21 years, the membership is growing and the meaningful and powerful impact of the network and its members has only been strengthened. This is also the source of power and strength.

Despite some efforts of states to provide new laws and services, the financial investments are low. Many countries do not even know how much they invest in the prevention of violence against women, as WAVE research on services indicates. Council

Violence against women costs a lot to society, according to the 2013 European Parliament European Added Value Study on the Costs of Violence, the annual costs to the EU of gender-based violence against women in 2011 was about €228 billion. This amounts to about €450 for each European citizen per year. WAVE demands that there be an investment of €45 per citizen for the prevention of violence against women.\*

\* Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (2014): You get what you pay for, Geneva. tDownload: <http://wilpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/You-Get-What-You-Pay-For-Web.pdf>, 30 December 2015.

of Europe Taskforce Convention stipulates that there be 1 place (1 bed) in a women's shelter per 10,000 inhabitants. However, WAVE Report 2014 shows that approximately 67% of these places are missing in Europe. That there are huge gaps regarding the minimum standard for places in women's shelters, which is 1 place per 10,000 inhabitants. Therefore, Europe needs more specialist and independent women's support services, and these crucial services should be stable and sustainable, without fear of closures or cuts.

The power and strength of women and women's NGOs is particularly visible in the case of the refugee crisis, in which women's organizations have joined together to provide shelter and support for women and children. Compassion has also been extended to refugees by civil society, in which people throughout Europe, independent of politics, have reached out and shown solidarity. The Istanbul Convention also supports human rights and therefore can be directly applied to those seeking asylum. Article 2 states that the convention is to be applied in times of peace and also in situations of armed conflict. The convention also guarantees the recognition of gender-specific grounds for asylum and the right to migrant women and their children, including undocumented migrant women, to protection from violence. The Istanbul Convention is an important instrument to encourage and to pressure our countries to improve and strengthen their efforts to prevent violence against women.

According to the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, in 2013 the world military expenditure was estimated to be 1.747 trillion USD. That is approximately 650 years of the UN's regular budget, and 6,300 years of the UN Women's budget. The world needs to reduce military spending. This is also recommended in the Beijing Platform for Action: Beijing Platform for Action Strategic objective E.2. States should: "Undertake to explore new ways of generating new public and private financial resources, inter alia, through the appropriate reduction of excessive military expenditures, including global military expenditures, trade in arms and investment for arms production and acquisition, taking into consideration national security requirements, so as to permit the possible allocation of additional funds for social and economic development, in particular for the advancement of women."

Rosa Logar concluded that it is important for WAVE to build new alliances, one of them being alliances with organizations who work for peace and disarmament, such as the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Let us work together to secure peace for women and their children – both at home and in public.



**Dubravka Šimonović:** *“Synergies and implementation of global and regional instruments on violence against women: CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention”*

During the 17<sup>th</sup> annual WAVE Conference, Dubravka Šimonović, the UN special rapporteur on violence against women its causes and consequences, was invited to provide a keynote speech, in which she discussed two important conventions: the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) and the Istanbul Convention, while drawing synergies between the two international conventions. The CEDAW convention entered into force in 1981 and is global in scope, while the Istanbul Convention was established in 2011 and is a regional (pan-European) framework.

The CEDAW Convention encompasses violence against women as a form of discrimination against women addressing “all forms of discrimination”, while the Istanbul Convention as a regional European Convention explicitly defines violence against women as a form of discrimination and human rights violation. It recognizes that as such it contributes to the elimination of other forms of discrimination against women. While both conventions are comprehensive and have a gendered framework, with the goal of eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women, they should be regarded as complimentary to each other, rather than independently of each other.

Since both conventions are crucial to combating violence against women, Šimonović called for the implementation of the conventions and drew synergies between both, while the more detailed standards of the Istanbul Convention specify and compliment global CEDAW standards, and provides for their reinforcement. The Istanbul Convention is particularly important as it contains detailed norms of prevention, punishment, protection, and compensation of victims, such as provision on shelters and protection orders, as well as a modern definition of rape and female genital mutilation.

The CEDAW Committee is already contributing to development of this synergy by urging in its concluding observations state parties to the CEDAW convention

that are members of the Council of Europe, sign and/or ratify it as an instrument, because its application will strengthen the application of the CEDAW Convention. Both monitoring bodies of CEDAW and GREVIO should work in a complimentary manner and use synergies between two instruments in order to address implementation gaps at the national level.

The case law of the European Court of Human Rights as well as the jurisprudence of the CEDAW Committee relating to cases of violence against women could further strengthen implementation of both conventions at the national level. For example the European Court of Human Rights has in the case *Opuz v. Turkey* from 2009 related to domestic violence for the first time treated gender violence against women as a violation of Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights and referred to the CEDAW Convention and jurisprudence of the CEDAW Committee in cases *A.T. v Hungary* and *Yildirim v. Austria*.

Both Conventions are largely successful in ratification, with the CEDAW convention having been accepted by 189 states, and the Istanbul Convention has been signed by 39 Council of Europe countries, however their implementation is in need of attention; therefore there is a need for synergies and cooperation in the context of their future activities to realize the elimination of violence against women.

## VI. Information about the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)



Marceline Naudi, Feride Acar, and Rosa Logar (GREVIO Members)

In order to support the Council of Europe Convention on prevention and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) and monitor its implementation by ratifying parties, an independent body was set up, called GREVIO. Articles 66-68 of the Convention outline the monitoring mechanism of the Istanbul Convention, which aims to assess and

improve the implementation of the Convention by parties. It consists of two bodies:

A political body, the Committee of the Parties is composed of representatives of the parties to the Istanbul Convention. The rules of election procedures (Resolution CM/Res(2014)43) for GREVIO were adopted on 19 November 2014 by the Committee of ministers. Elected on 4 May 2015, GREVIO is composed of 10 members, from various backgrounds such as academics, social workers, and professionals who deal with gender-based violence, and are to be part of the GREVIO committee for a four-year term. These members, elected by countries which are parties to the Convention, are:

Feride Acar (Turkey), Biljana Brankovic (Serbia), Françoise Brié (France), Helena Maria Carvallho Martins Leitao (Portugal), Gemma Gallego (Spain). Simona Lanzoni (Italy), Rosa Logar (Austria), Iris Luarasi (Albania), Marceline Naudi (Malta), Vesna Ratkovic (Montenegro).

The priorities of GREVIO include:

- ▶ receive information on the implementation of the convention from NGOs, civil society, and national human rights institutions, in the form of country evaluation reports, and possibly organize a visit to a country if information is deemed insufficient
- ▶ initiate a special inquiry procedure in cases where action is necessary to avoid the perpetration of serious patterns of violence covered by the convention
- ▶ make general recommendations on themes and concepts of the convention

One important innovation of the Istanbul Convention is the obligation to involve national Parliaments in the Convention monitoring process, and in reporting to GREVIO. The convention also foresees a significant role for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in overseeing the implementation of the Convention.

It is important to note that GREVIO cannot process individual complaints of human rights violations related to violence against women and domestic violence; rather, this is to be done by the European Court of Human Rights. Additionally, GREVIO cannot intervene in legal procedures. However, GREVIO can receive information from individuals and NGOs in the context of monitoring activities, supported with evidence, and which should be done via email and sent to GREVIO secretariat. All information is confidential, and GREVIO cannot give out information on its current work, in order to support confidentiality.

## 2. OVERVIEW OF WAVE ACTIVITIES

The following section provides a short overview of all WAVE activities in 2015. For detailed information on all WAVE activities, please refer to chapter 3.

### WAVE AT A GLANCE 2015:

- ▶ Organized eight conferences, trainings, and meetings
- ▶ Participated in 32 conferences and workshops
- ▶ Produced 14 publications
- ▶ Produced and disseminated 6 Newsletters
- ▶ Disseminated three Press Releases
- ▶ Received 33 cross-border cases and help requests
- ▶ Received 3,900 Newsletters



WAVE office and interns (Vienna, Austria)

### 1. WAVE Information Center

The WAVE Information Center is available throughout the working week, from 09:00-14:00, to provide information on available services to women survivors of violence in 46 European countries, to refer individuals to relevant contacts in Europe, and to support WAVE Members with their different inquiries.

### 2. Continuous Updating of the WAVE website

The WAVE website – available at [www.wave-network.org](http://www.wave-network.org) – is one of the most important instruments available to our comprehensive WAVE network. It facilitates the exchange of information on violence against women and victim support in Europe, as well as expertise and informational materials. The WAVE website has been updated on a regular basis, to provide the most up-to-date information on violence against women in



17<sup>th</sup> WAVE Conference (The Hague, Netherlands)

Europe, relevant activities and projects carried out by WAVE Members, updates on projects involving WAVE, as well as future and current events.

### 3. WAVE Database

In 2015, WAVE updated information on national women's helplines, as well as women's shelters and women's centers in all 46 European countries to ensure that information in the database is consistent with research findings in the WAVE Report 2015.

### 4. 17<sup>th</sup> WAVE Conference in The Hague, Netherlands

The 17<sup>th</sup> WAVE Conference 2015 entitled "Women's Collective Power to Stop Violence!" took place in The Hague, Netherlands, on 2 November 2015. Approximately 106 participants from 40 European countries, as well as from Rwanda, Israel, Morocco, the United States, and Australia, took part in the conference. WAVE was also happy to welcome UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Dubravka Šimonović, on this day.

### 5. WAVE Study Visit in Vienna

In 2015, WAVE organized the study visit together with Council of Europe, gathering 16 participants from Poland in order to exchange experiences and expertise, as well as to visit the WAVE office. The participants consisted of local politicians and organizations involved with women's rights to live a life free from violence.



WAVE Study Visit in Vienna

### 6. 5<sup>th</sup> WAVE Training Institute in Vienna

WAVE organized the 5<sup>th</sup> Training Institute titled "Planning the WAVE Campaign 2016-2017 on increasing the number and quality of women's support services and to improve access for specific groups of survivors" from 9-11 December in Vienna, Austria. 27 experts on violence against women from 13 European countries took part in the Training Institute.

### 7. WAVE Report 2015

The WAVE Report 2015 provides an analytical perspective and summary of findings from 46 European countries as related to available service provision. The questionnaire used to collect data is comprehensive, expanding the focus on women's specialized support services to also include women's networks, policy and funding, prevention work, and training. The report also includes recommendations, as well as country summaries of the findings.



Meeting of the Advisory Board of Country Coordinators, CoCo (Vienna, Austria)

## 8. WAVE Board Meetings

WAVE held nine Board Meetings in 2015. Two took place in Vienna on 9 and 12 June 2015 before and after the Advisory Board meeting, and another took place before the WAVE Conference in The Hague, Netherlands on 1 November 2015. In between, several meetings took place over Skype.

## 9. 1<sup>st</sup> WAVE General Assembly

The first WAVE General Assembly took place during the 17<sup>th</sup> WAVE Conference in The Hague, Netherlands on 2 November 2015, with 49 Members present.

## 10. Meeting of the Advisory Board of Country Coordinators (CoCo)

In 2015, WAVE organized two Advisory Board meetings (WAVE CoCo meetings). The first meeting took place in Vienna, Austria from 10-11 June with 46 delegates, co-delegates, Board members, and WAVE staff from 36 countries. The second Advisory Board meeting of the year took place during the WAVE Conference in The Hague, Netherlands on 2 November 2015, with 102 participants.

## 11. Lobbying and Monitoring at the European and International Level

In 2015, WAVE continued lobbying and monitoring at the European and international level – which is one of its main activities as a European network on violence against women – with a particular emphasis on promoting the Istanbul Convention and its signing and ratification by members of the Council of Europe. WAVE also supported the Gender Equality Strategy from the European Commission, and developed close cooperation with Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

## 12. WAVE Fact Sheets and Thematic Papers

In 2015, WAVE published five fact sheets on various European themes for providing protection to survivors of violence. WAVE also published two thematic papers; one on the topic of how domestic violence impacts children, and the second on access to justice for women victims of violence.

## 13. Participation in various European and International Conferences

**9 February 2015** – “Networking and Strategies for the Ratification and Implementation of the Istanbul Convention” (Brussels, Belgium)

**26 February 2015** – “Sichtbar Sicher Vernetzt Symposium: Über die Entwicklungen der Frauenhaus- und Frauenberatungsarbeit”/“Visible Secure Network Symposium: About the Developments of Women’s Shelter and Women’s Counseling Work” (Mannheim, Germany)

**4 March 2015** – “The Fight for Gender Equality and against Gender-Based Violence: European Perspectives 2015” (Brussels, Belgium)

**12 March 2015** – “Wenn Waffen Sprechen: Solidarität mit Frauen in bewaffneten Gebieten”/“When Weapons Speak: Solidarity with Women in Armed Areas” (Parliament of Vienna, Austria)

**9-20 March 2015** – “59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women” (New York, USA)

**20-21 April 2015** – “Forum on the Future of Gender Equality in the European Union” (Brussels, Belgium)

**27-29 April 2015** – “Women’s Power to Stop War: Uniting a Global Movement” (The Hague, Netherlands)

**6-8 May 2015** – “Annual Conference on the European Network on Gender and Violence” (Lisbon, Portugal)

**18-22 May 2015** – “24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)” (Vienna, Austria)

**28-29 May 2015** – “Community Approaches to Prevent and Reduce Domestic Violence” (Hamburg, Germany)

**18-19 June 2015** – Feansta Annual Policy Conference: “Key Steps to Connect Communities to Europe” (Paris, France)

**25 June 2015** – Launch of EIGE Gender Equality Index (Brussels, Belgium)

**20-24 July 2015** – Cost Action US1206 Training School on: “Policy and Practice to Reduce and Prevent Femicide: Innovation and Sustainability of Actions and Research” (Rome, Italy)

**4-6 September 2015** – “Sexualisering av det ofentliga rummet”/“Sexualization of the Public Sphere” (Stockholm, Sweden)

**21 September 2015** – “National European Migration Network (EMN) Conference: Irregular Migration and Return in the EU and Austria” (Vienna, Austria)

**30 September-2 October 2015** – “Annual General Meeting of Members of the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators” (Berlin, Germany)

**8-9 October 2015** – “Multi-disciplinary Training: Capacity-Building for Risk Assessment and Safety Management to Protect Victims of Violence and their Children” (Bucharest, Romania)

**9 October 2015** – “Right for Women’s Rights (R4WR)” Meeting (Vienna, Austria)

**20-21 October 2015** – “Coordinated Efforts Project Conference on Monitoring the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention, New Synergies and Follow-up” (Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina)

**26-27 October 2015** – “Multi-disciplinary training: Strengthening Capacities for Evaluating Risk and Managing Safety to Protect Women and Children Victims of Violence” (Zagreb, Croatia)

**22 October 2015** – “Community Matters: Domestic Violence and Violence against Women Affects us all” (Zurich, Switzerland)

**29 October 2015** – “International Conference on the Implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Violence against women – two years after its ratification in the Republic of Serbia” (Belgrade, Serbia)

**3-6 November 2015** – “Third World Conference of Women’s Shelters” (The Hague, Netherlands)

**11 November 2015** – “Coordinated Efforts Regional Conference on Protection and Support of Women Victims of Gender-Based Violence – Current Situation and Best Practices” (Skopje, Macedonia)

**13 November 2015** – OSCE Security Days Conference: “In Pursuit of Peace and Security – How Gender makes a Difference” (Vienna, Austria)

**24-25 November 2015** – “Coordinated Efforts International Conference on General and Specialized Support Services for Women who have Experienced Violence-Quality and Availability Assurance” (Podgorica, Montenegro)

**25 November 2015** – “ACUNS Symposium on Women Victimized by Extremist Groups” (Vienna, Austria)

**26-27 November 2015** – TAIEX Workshop: “Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence” (Podgorica, Montenegro)

**28-29 November 2015** – “Women Fighting Back: International and Legal Perspectives” (London, United Kingdom)

**30 November 2015** – Workshop: “Creation of an Interactive Database for Monitoring the Implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence” (Ljubljana, Slovenia)

**30 November-1 December 2015** – Workshop: “Creation of an Interactive Database for Monitoring the Implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence” (Ljubljana, Slovenia)

**30 November-1 December 2015** – “The Importance of the Health Care System in Gender-Based Violence and Violence against Women and Children” Train the Trainer Seminar (Chisinau, Moldova)

**14-15 December 2015** – “Preventing Violence Together: Multi-Institutional Cooperation and MARAC Conferences” (Vienna, Austria)

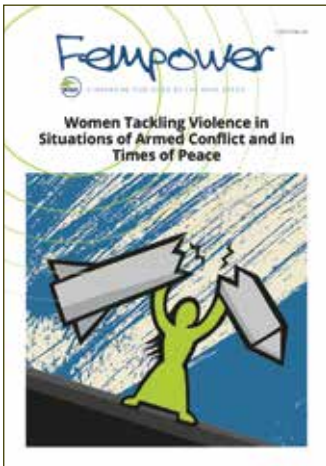
**16-18 December 2015** – Board of the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators (Berlin, Germany)

### 13. Multi-disciplinary Cooperation with other Networks

In 2015, WAVE continued its collaboration with several other networks such as the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence (WWPEN), the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), European Women’s Lobby (EWL), and the European Network on Gender and Violence.

### 14. Bi-monthly WAVE Newsletter

WAVE published six newsletters for the WAVE network, partners, and subscribers. All WAVE Members and partners, as well as interested members of the public, receive the newsletter via the WAVE mailing list.



### 15. WAVE Fempower Magazine

WAVE published at the end of November 2015 one Fempower magazine issue for the WAVE network and partners. The issue 1/2015, focused on the situation of women in armed conflict and in times of peace.

### 16. WAVE Press Releases

In 2015, WAVE published three press releases on various important topics.

### 17. Violence against Women and Social Media

WAVE is active on a daily basis on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. As of December 2015, the WAVE network had 1,881 likes on Facebook, 1,093 followers on Twitter, and 215 followers on Instagram. WAVE also made approximately 1,000 posts throughout social media in 2015.



Marceline Naudi for 16 Days of Activism #WAVE16Days

### 18. Dissemination

WAVE developed a dissemination strategy, detailing the list of important stakeholders both at the European and local level, and outlining strategies in which WAVE can reach various stakeholders through activities and projects, including the newsletter, press releases, trainings, and conferences.

### 19. WAVE "Step Up!" Campaign 2016-2017

WAVE prepared the Blueprint, which is a 'roadmap', or a two-year campaign with WAVE Members, to be launched in 2016. The campaign will lobby for the increase in numbers and level of quality of specialized women's support services, and to improve access by vulnerable groups in Europe.

### 20. Mapping Women's Service User Statistics in Europe: National Women's Helplines, Shelters, and Centres

The report explores the situation of data collection in specialist women's support services in Europe with the aim to map existing data collection methods and systems in Europe. The study itself has been conducted in order to support the establishment of a system of European level administrative data collection by specialist women's services. WAVE aims to develop such a system in 2016 and promote its implementation in 2017.

### 21. WAVE Leaflet for Members

The WAVE Leaflet for Members details the WAVE Member organizations throughout all 46 countries, as well as a list of national women's helplines, with the goal of supporting WAVE Members to support their roles in the network. The goal of the Leaflet is to also attract new Members, provide information on how to become a Member, as well as explains how to donate to the organization.



### 22. WAVE Annual Statistics

As every year, WAVE highlighted the most important data derived from the WAVE Report 2015 into annual statistics. These statistics include the most updated numbers of women's support services.

### 23. OAK Foundation

Thanks to the generous grant from the Oak Foundation, WAVE was able to continue its core activities and support WAVE Member organizations from outside of the European Union in taking part in WAVE activities.

### 24. Coordinated Efforts – Towards new European Standards in Protection of Women from Gender Based Violence Project

Since 2012, the WAVE network has been a partner in the European Commission funded project Coordinated Efforts – Towards new European Standards in Protection of Women from Gender Based Violence. The project is led by WAVE Member Autonomous Women's House Belgrade and involves collaboration of wom-

en's NGOs from six Balkan countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia as well as involving the European Women's Lobby as Associated Partner.

Perpetrators of Domestic Violence, and attends conferences and meetings to share information, develop best practices, and promote the safety of women survivors of violence through perpetrator programmes throughout Europe.

## **25. Cooperation with the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of domestic violence (WWP-EN)**

Since 2014, WAVE has been a member and Board member of the European Network for the Work with

### **WAVE'S MISSION AND PURPOSE**

- ▶ The WAVE network believes in the importance of feminist organizations as alternative and independent actors working in the area of promoting women's rights and combating violence against women. Values of social justice, empowerment, and participation of women need to be promoted and extended with all of society and Europe. This necessitates a strong focus on migrant women's rights in all aspects of our work.
- ▶ The WAVE network contributes to this objective by strengthening the organizational and lobbying capacity of women's organizations, in particular by analysing and disseminating information on European and global trends, and supporting the institutional development of the sector as a whole. This is implemented through a multi-stake holder approach, including all people engaged in defending women's rights and combating violence against women, in order to establish gender equality. The WAVE network connects women's organizations throughout all of Europe with experts, policy-makers, and other stakeholders, including the governmental as well as business sector.
- ▶ The WAVE network actively fosters and seeks information and knowledge-exchange as well as the sharing of experiences between different European countries and regions, with a particular focus on sharing east-west experiences.
- ▶ The WAVE network manages a user-friendly, extensive online database on relevant information on violence against women, including a contact section of some 4,000 women's support organizations and institutions. The contact section is especially designed to support women afflicted by violence, as well as women's support organizations. It contains a list of addresses of all support organizations classified by country, town, and nature of support and service specialization. It is a valuable resource for survivors, practitioners, researchers, and policymakers alike. Overall, the WAVE network supports and strengthens women's organizations across Europe as well as experts, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers by: providing information on gender-based violence through the extensive online database and online literature documentation; writing a monthly newsletter; writing the annual magazine FEMPOWER; fostering the exchange of knowledge, experience, and good practice in the field of eliminating all forms of violence against women and their children through the website, seminars and the annual WAVE conferences; and improving organizational performance through capacity building programs and training workshops, including written handbooks and manuals, as well as toolkits to improve quality standards in service delivery.

### 3. DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT WAVE ACTIVITIES 2015

#### 1. WAVE Information Center

The WAVE Information Center is one of the most essential activities of the organization. WAVE staff are available on working days (Monday to Friday), from 9:00-14:00, to provide information on available services for women survivors of violence in 46 European countries, refer individuals to relevant contacts (service providers, experts, and academics) in Europe, and support WAVE Members with their inquiries. The different activities associated to the WAVE Information Center are performed on a daily basis. The Information Center, a section for which has been added to the WAVE website, can be reached by email, phone, and through social media.

The WAVE Information Center supports cross-border requests, which have increased in the last few years, with each month, WAVE receiving cross-border requests for support from women survivors of violence, or from family members of the survivors, from women's support services, or from different institutions. The requests are often received when women have not been able to find sufficient support in their countries, are in a dangerous and high-risk situations, are not aware of the support provided in their countries, or the situation is especially complex and requires cross-border assistance. In such cases, WAVE has served both to refer the survivors to appropriate services in the relevant countries, and to provide support to the survivors, whenever possible. In 2014, WAVE dealt with 16 such requests for assistance, while in 2015, requests doubled, with WAVE handling 33 help requests.

Very often, the situation involves women relocating to other countries to escape violence, violence against women including cross-border elements, or generally, women seeking support, such as shelters or counselling. WAVE initiates contacts with relevant women's organizations or authorities in order to provide the necessary support to the women. In some cases, WAVE remains involved throughout the case to ensure the woman's safety and a positive outcome.

The cases in 2015 varied and included women from various countries in Europe and beyond. WAVE supported an asylum-seeking woman in finding a shelter space for herself and her children. WAVE supported a woman, who was a survivor of forced marriage to contact an organization that would help her return to her

original country of residence from where she was removed. WAVE connected a migrant woman survivor of intimate-partner violence to services in her new country. WAVE supported women, who contemplated moving countries, in order to escape violence, by answering their questions about the situation of protection and services available in those countries. In addition to this, WAVE provided information, connection and referral to other services, and organized appointments. These are just a few examples of the ways in which WAVE supports those who contact the WAVE Information Center.

The Information Center also responds to requests from experts and academics, women's and other civil society organizations, and from the general public. These include requests for specific information on WAVE's publications and work, internship and partnership requests, and communication with international and European institutions. In 2015, WAVE received over 3,900 newsletters from various institutions and organizations, including from the European Union and United Nations, and WAVE also provides information for professionals from different organizations who are seeking information for victims, responds to questionnaires and surveys, or contacts from colleagues in other countries for cross-country cooperation and exchange. In addition, an important aspect of the work of the Information Center is to provide information and support to the 112 network Members and to ensure that all are consistently kept updated on the various activities and developments of the WAVE network.

#### 2. Continuous Updating of the WAVE Website

The WAVE website – available at [www.wave-network.org](http://www.wave-network.org) – contains a vast amount of information, targeted at professionals, academics, stakeholders, and the interested public. It is updated on a regular basis, to provide information on violence against women in Europe, relevant activities and projects carried out by WAVE Members, updates on projects involving WAVE, and future and current events. In addition, various WAVE publications are available online for download, such as the WAVE Report 2014, new editions of FEMPOWER magazine, conference reports, international developments related to violence against women, and the bi-monthly newsletter. The WAVE office is also currently developing an entirely new website, with the aim to not only be more user-friendly, but to also be a platform for a new database and promote social media and visual tools, such as videos and webinars. In 2015, the WAVE website was visited over 7,500 times from all parts of the world, with the majority of visits



from Europe. In 2016 the new WAVE website will be launched.

### 3. WAVE Database

The Database, which is part of the website, is one of WAVE's most important instruments for managing a comprehensive WAVE network. The WAVE database is publicly available on the website and contains a large amount of information, targeted at both professionals and women seeking support. The database contains data for approximately 4,000 organizations and helps victims and practitioners find information on available women's support services in their own, and in other European countries, and it is widely used. In 2015, WAVE updated information on national women's helplines, women's shelters, and women's centers in 46 European countries to ensure that information in the database (Get Help Section) is consistent with the research findings of the WAVE Report 2015. On a regular basis, WAVE collects information from services that contact WAVE to update their contact data.

### 4. 17<sup>th</sup> WAVE Conference in The Hague, Netherlands



Andrada Filip, Karoline Bech Pedersen, and Anca Ciupa from the WAVE office managing the registration desk at the 17<sup>th</sup> WAVE Conference

"Women's Collective Power to Stop Violence!" was the title of the 17<sup>th</sup> annual WAVE Conference, organized by WAVE and took place in The Hague, Netherlands on 2 November 2015. The one-day event gathered approximately 106 participants from 40 European countries, as well as from countries outside of Europe such as Rwanda, Israel, the United States, and Australia.

The morning of the conference consisted of two panel sessions on the themes of 'strengthening WAVE's lobbying and awareness-raising activities' and 'strengthening WAVE's network activities', based on best practice examples presented by WAVE members.

Prior to the sessions, the event opened on a con-

tribution by WAVE President Rosa Logar, who focused her speech on the collective strength of women's organizations to end violence against women and girls, and emphasized the issue of VAW in war and armed conflicts. She further expanded on the significant differences in budgeting for war and budgeting for peace in the world, quoting findings shared by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) on its centenary conference in The Hague in April 2015.

The WAVE Conference also welcomed the presence of recently appointed UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women Dubravka Šimonović, who addressed participants on the 'synergies and implementation of global and regional instruments on violence against women: CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention'.

The afternoon of the conference included five parallel workshops on issues ranging from WAVE campaigning on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Europe, to strengthening network communication and cooperation, and discussing new perspectives and innovative work in the field of combating violence against women. The workshops session was followed by the first WAVE General Assembly since the formalization of the network in May 2014.



Hilary Fisher, Maria Rösslhuber, and co-winner of the Corinna Seith Award Fiona Vera Gray

The 17<sup>th</sup> WAVE Conference ended on the Corinna Seith Award 2015, attributed this year to Fiona Vera Gray and Alison Gregory jointly. Present on the event day, Fiona Vera Gray presented the winning research paper 'On Situated Agency', using Simone de Beauvoir to extend on theoretical framings.

### 5. WAVE Study Visit in Vienna

Almost every year, WAVE welcomes delegations and study visit groups from all over Europe. Delegations are generally composed of multidisciplinary groups, often including network members, but also state actors (decision-makers, judiciary, police) or members of wom-

en's NGOs who are not yet members of the network. The general topic of the visit is chosen according to the needs of the visitors. To this end, in 2015, WAVE called for applications to assess which delegations would profit most from a study visit and whose needs could be met best by WAVE's expertise. A visit to the WAVE office and a presentation of WAVE's activities and projects are an integral part of every study visit. Taking existing knowledge about WAVE networking into consideration, a general introduction to our activities, aims, principles, and structure takes place. Being introduced to good practices is crucial to women's organizations in order to improve their work. Thus, the aim of every study visit is the exchange, reflection, and transfer of knowledge, to generate ideas for new projects and to find strategies to influence national policies. Study visits were an integral part of the annual work of WAVE, with the organization actively involved in organizing the delegations and the study visits, but as of late, due to lack of resources, WAVE had to lower its role to facilitating the delegations, but not organizing or managing them. In 2015, WAVE welcomed one study visit.

### Delegation from Poland

From 13-15 April 2015, WAVE welcomed a delegation from Poland for a study visit on effective multi-agency cooperation to prevent and combat domestic violence and gender-based violence. The study visit was organized in framework of the project "Polish family free from violence". The project has been implemented by the Polish Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, in cooperation with the Council of Europe. The visiting delegation was composed of 16 participants from local government units and various Polish institutions and NGOs. Paula Krol, Project Advisor of the Violence against Women Unit, Directorate General of Democracy of the Council of Europe, was also present and acted as coordinator of the study visit. The aim of the visit was to provide participants with an insight on how key institutions and specialized services work in the field of violence against women in Vienna, and exchange of information on best practices in the field.

## 6. 5<sup>th</sup> WAVE Training Institute in Vienna

Over the past 20 years, WAVE has done a lot of work to improve service provision and ensure that women receive the kind of needs and human rights-based support they require to resume a life free from violence. The WAVE Training Institute aims at uniting and strengthening the capacity of experts working in women's support services, establishing common quality standards for the support of survivors of violence



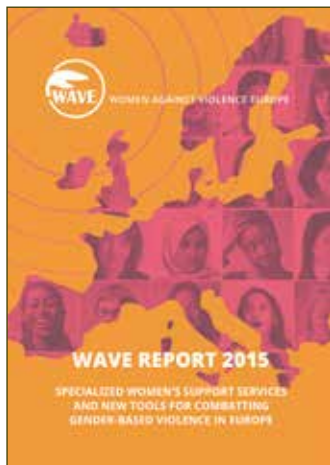
First group of WAVE Campaigners attending the Training Institute (Vienna, Austria)

and their children in Europe, and creating synergies between professionals working in the field.

The WAVE Training Institute 2015, titled "Planning the WAVE Campaign 2016-2017 on increasing the number and quality of women's support services and improve access for specific groups of survivors" took place from 9-11 December in Vienna, Austria. Carried out by three trainers-Hilary Fisher, Camelia Proca, and Rosa Logar (Board members), this Training Institute gave the opportunity for 27 experts from women's organizations in EU Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Finland, Italy, Latvia, Romania, Spain, Poland, Portugal, and the United Kingdom) and countries outside the EU (Turkey, Ukraine, and Macedonia) to discuss strategic approaches to campaigning at the European level, and set the foundation for a network campaign on specialized support services for women survivors of violence in 2016-2017. The WAVE Training Institute strongly supported the development of synergies between participants/future campaigners.

The three-day meeting was organized around three main aspects of campaign development. The first day focused on 'setting the scene' for the campaign, through understanding specific country backgrounds, contexts, and burning issues. The second day focused on developing the WAVE Campaign Theory of Change, through identifying campaign objectives, outcomes and outputs, target groups, and campaign messages. The third and last day focused on activism, communication, and mobilization, with the aim to develop a strong and sustainable campaign. Thirteen participants from the EU were granted a scholarship by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Commission.

## 7. WAVE Report 2015



The WAVE Report 2015 provides an analytical perspective and summary of findings from 46 European countries as related to available service provision. The questionnaire used to collect data is comprehensive, expanding the focus on women's specialized support services to

also include women's networks, policy and funding, prevention work, perpetrator programmes, and training. Data is compared with current reports, such as the 2012 EIGE report on "Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in EU Member States: Violence against Women – Victim Support", as well as the 2014 Council of Europe Study on the "Fourth Round of Monitoring the Implementation of Recommendations Rec(2002)5 on the Protection of Women against Violence in Council of Europe Member States", and aims to account for the gaps as well as differences in data collection. As a comprehensive and inclusive report on women's support services, policies, and funding throughout Europe, the WAVE Report 2015 acts as an important lobbying tool and highlights the critical work of independent women's NGOs in providing much-needed support for women survivors of violence and their children. The report also demonstrates the urgent need for providing sustainable state funding for women's support services, and also includes recommendations, based on both WAVE values and the Istanbul Convention.

## 8. WAVE Board Meetings

WAVE held nine Board Meetings in 2015. Two of them took place in Vienna on 9 and 12 June 2015 before and after the Advisory Board meeting, and one of them took place before the WAVE Conference in The Hague, Netherlands on 1 November 2015. In between, several meetings took place over Skype.

## 9. First WAVE General Assembly

Until 2014, WAVE was an informal network, with the Autonomous Austrian Women's Shelter Network (AÖF) as the legal seat of the organization. In 2013, WAVE began the process of formalizing, and on 24 May 2014, it

became a legal entity, with the seat of the organization in Vienna, functioning according to Austrian law. The first WAVE General Assembly took place during the 17<sup>th</sup> WAVE Conference in The Hague, Netherlands on 2 November 2015, with 49 Members present to participate. There were nine items on the General Assembly agenda, including information on the General Assembly, presentation of WAVE's activity report, WAVE's financial report and plan, election of WAVE Board members for a two-year period, determination of membership fee, granting of honorary membership to Carol Hagemann-White, and discussion and decisions on motions submitted to the General Assembly by Members.

## 10. Meeting of the Advisory Board of Country Coordinators (CoCo)

In 2015, WAVE organized two meetings of the Advisory Board of Country Coordinators (WAVE CoCo meetings). The first meeting took place in Vienna, Austria from 10-11 June with 46 Delegates, Co-Delegates, Board Members, and WAVE staff from 36 countries. The second Advisory Board meeting of the year took place during the WAVE Conference in The Hague, Netherlands on 2 November 2015. Approximately 100 participants from 60 Member organizations, and participants from Rwanda, Morocco, Israel, the United States, and Australia took part. This year's CoCo meeting, held in Kolpinghaus Wien Zentral, addressed many themes throughout two days, including: reports on developments in European countries including achievements and challenges; presentation of current WAVE activities including the EU Operating Grant 2015 activities; panel of exchange on new developments in Europe including GREVIO and European Protection Orders; work on the WAVE Campaign 2015-2017 Blueprint; discussion of current issues including the upcoming 17<sup>th</sup> WAVE Conference, General Assembly, and membership fees; discussion of the WAVE Report 2015 and overview of the data collection process; and working groups on burning issues/themes such as protecting children from domestic violence, high-risk cases, implementation of the EU Victims Directive on the rights of the victim, and the role of WAVE CoCo delegates.

The second CoCo meeting was held during the 17<sup>th</sup> WAVE Conference, with 106 participants. During this meeting, burning issues were discussed – in the first panel, good practices examples in the field of lobbying and awareness-raising activities at the network-level (presented by network Members from Belgium, Ukraine, Serbia, Croatia, and the United Kingdom). The second panel session included the presentation of good practice examples in the area if



Meeting of the Advisory Board of Country Coordinators, CoCo (Vienna, Austria)

strengthening network activities (presented by the network Members from Poland, Russia, Malta, Romania, Turkey, and the Netherlands). Participants also were involved in workshops on issues ranging from WAVE campaigning on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Europe, to strengthening network communication and cooperation, and discussing new perspectives and innovative work in the field of combating violence against women.

## 11. Lobbying and Monitoring at the European and International Level

In 2015, WAVE continued lobbying and monitoring at the European and international level – which is one of its main activities as a European network on violence against women – with a particular emphasis on promoting the Istanbul Convention and its signing and ratification by members of the Council of Europe. This has included sustained promotion of the ISIGN Campaign (see [potpisujem.org](http://potpisujem.org)) and promotion of the convention through the WAVE website, social media, WAVE newsletter, press releases, and participation in conferences and events. WAVE also supported the Gender Equality Strategy from the European Commission, and developed close cooperation with Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). In the future, OSCE will replicate the European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) survey on violence against women in ten additional OSCE countries. The survey will use the methodology developed by FRA and implemented by a contracted international survey research firm in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Ukraine.

Additionally, WAVE, with support from the WAVE Information Center, caught the attention of a four young

Dutch women's biking initiative called Ride for Women's Rights (R4WR). Having started in Jakarta (Indonesia) in September 2014, Vienna was one of their last stops on their way back home to the Netherlands. The group visited the WAVE office on 9 October 2015, in which R4WR discussed their 400-day journey to exploring the bigger meaning behind women's rights worldwide. Their vision included learning from meeting new people and visiting projects and women's rights organizations worldwide. WAVE in exchange shared the current and past network projects and activities. The organization also facilitated their getting in touch with the organizers of the Third World Conference of Women's Shelters (November 2015, The Hague), who invited them as guests of honour on the third and last day of the international event.

## 12. WAVE Fact Sheets and Thematic Papers

WAVE published a series of important Fact Sheets, discussing five themes: European Protection Orders; women's support services in Europe; the Fundamental Right's Agency 2014 survey on violence against women; the EU Victims' Directive; and the Istanbul Convention. Additionally, in January 2016, WAVE developed two thematic papers. The first, titled 'Thematic Paper on the Right of the Child to live a Life free from Violence', addresses how domestic violence affects children – from direct physical assault, to witnessing how their mother copes with violence – as well as what children learn from living with domestic violence, and the continuing impact of domestic violence on family relations. WAVE is advocating for the importance of women's support services, and to have trained staff that can address the specific needs of children. The second thematic paper is titled "Access to justice for

women victims of violence- analysis and highlights of international law and practice in the field”, and is written by Genoveva Tisheva, a WAVE network Member in Bulgaria.

### 13. Participation in various European and International Conferences

#### 9 February 2015 2015 – “Networking and Strategies for the Ratification and Implementation of the Istanbul Convention” (Brussels, Belgium)

Held in the EU Parliament, the conference focused, as the title suggests, on the Istanbul Convention, particularly its ratification and implementation. Maria Rösslhuber, manager of the WAVE network, presented on the activities and history of WAVE, as well as the ways in which WAVE supports the Istanbul Convention. For instance, the annual WAVE Report focuses data collection of specialized women’s support services in each country according to the Istanbul Convention standards. Maria presented the WAVE statistics which indicate that there is still a concerning lack of specialist services for women survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) in Europe, including in the EU Member States. Many countries have worked to improve their level of service provision in recent years, however, most are yet not able to provide an adequate level of specialist services to victims of gender-based violence in all geographical regions.

#### 26 February 2015 – “Sichtbar Sicher Vernetzt Symposium: Über die Entwicklungen der Frauenhaus- und Frauenberatungsarbeit/Visible Secure Network Symposium: About the Developments of Women’s Shelter and Women’s Counseling Work” (Mannheim, Germany)

Hosted in the University of Mannheim, Maria Rösslhuber introduced the history and work of the WAVE network and its members, and presented on the important principles of how a women’s shelter should operate, including the need for women’s shelters to be autonomous, empowering, and specialized, as well as provide support for all women, regardless of status, such as undocumented migrant women. Also discussed were ‘new models’ and trends in providing support for women survivors of violence, including perpetrator programmes with a feminist lens, family justice approaches, and the role of men in the discussion of preventing and combating violence against women. Additionally, challenges in the movement were outlined, such as the difficulties for funding women’s NGOs not within the EU, and the challenges of the Oranje Huis concept in the Netherlands.

#### 4 March 2015 – “The Fight for Gender Equality and against Gender-Based Violence: European Perspectives 2015” (Brussels, Belgium)

Held in European Parliament, and co-organized by the Greens/EFA, this conference focused on gender equality in Europe. The first portion of the conference addressed European tools for gender equality, including speakers from European Women’s Lobby and the European Commission, as well as the Austrian Ombud for Equal Treatment, followed by a debate. The second part of the conference focused on a European strategy against gender-based violence, in which WAVE manager Maria Rösslhuber presented on behalf of WAVE.

#### 12 March 2015 – “Wenn Waffen Sprechen: Solidarität mit Frauen in bewaffneten Gebieten” / „When Weapons Speak” (Vienna, Austria)



The conference, attended by WAVE, addressed the issue of women in armed conflicts. The event was convened by the President of the National Council at the Austrian Parliament, Doris Bures, and the spokeswoman for women’s affairs and equality of all political parties represented in the Austrian parliament, with the purpose to strengthen women’s voices in armed conflict, increase solidarity between them, and discuss ways to provide them with meaningful support. WAVE was represented by network manager Maria Rösslhuber, who presented the letter of support to women’s NGOs in Ukraine, drafted on the occasion of the 16th WAVE Conference (November 2014) in Vienna. Other representatives of the WAVE Network included Maryna Rudenko from the Women’s Information Consultative Center (Ukraine), who reported on the current situation in Ukraine, and Lepa Mladenović from Counselling for Lesbians (Serbia), who provided personal input on how the women’s movement historically supported women during the war in former Yugoslavia, with a focus on how lived solidarity can make a difference.



59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, USA)

**9-20 March 2015 – “59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)” (New York, USA)**

The 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) took place on 9-20 March 2015 in New York, USA. The main focus of the session was on ‘the Beijing Platform for Action, including current challenges that affect its implementation and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women’. Important outcomes documents from CSW59 included a ‘Political Declaration adopted on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women’, as well as the resolution on “Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women”. As each year, the session provided a global platform for exchange and networking for thousands of women’s organizations working on furthering women’s rights across the world. The WAVE network was well-represented in New York, with WAVE Members in attendance, including Vilnius Women’s House (Lithuania), the Haven Wolverhampton (UK), Federatie Opvang (Netherlands), Fundación ASPACIA (Spain), D.i.Re (Italy), Gender Perspectives (Belarus), among others. On 11 March WAVE hosted two NGO Parallel Events on the topics of ‘progresses and challenges in the field of combating violence against women since Beijing 1995’ and ‘femicide’, with panellist from various attending WAVE member organizations.

**20-21 April 2015 – “Forum on the Future of Gender Equality in the European Union” (Brussels, Belgium)**

Convened by the European Commission, and attended by WAVE, the forum provided the platform for two days of interactive discussions with various stakeholders, on achieving gender equality in the European Union. Topics discussed were priorities and challenges

for a gender equal European Union (such as gender equality in the labor market, poverty and social exclusion, gender roles and stereotypes, digital society, gender balance in decision-making, governance, and health); and future policy development and engagement. The dialogue translated into defined priority areas for political action for the coming years. WAVE joined the discussions, and as many other participants, urged the EU to strengthen the efforts to achieve equality between women and men, to eliminate violence against women, and provide access to justice and support for survivors.

**27-29 April 2015 – “Women’s Power to Stop War: Uniting a Global Movement” (The Hague, Netherlands)**

Organized by Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), this three-day conference aimed to rethink peace and security in a holistic way, and to tackle the root causes of conflict. The conference brought together participants from around the world, with backgrounds in such as peace-making, activism, academia, and politics, and focused on topics such as: engaging men and boys for gender equality; the financial forces behind the nuclear weapons industry; peacekeeping and sexual violence; implementing the CEDAW convention; military spending; militarization and human trafficking; and women on the frontlines against extremism and militarism.

**6-8 May 2015 – “Annual Conference on the European Network on Gender and Violence” (Lisbon, Portugal)**

Bringing together researchers from different disciplines and countries, including WAVE Members, as well as researchers, activists, and practitioners focusing on violence against women, the conference involved the

presentation of research and space for discussion on topics related to gender and violence in the European context. Barbara Stelmaszek presented WAVE research on “Supporting the sustainability and autonomy of women’s organizations providing services in Eastern Europe for women and children survivors of domestic violence.”

**18-22 May 2015 – “24th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)” (Vienna, Austria)**

The 24<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) took place at the Vienna International Center (VIC) on 18-22 May 2015. Part of the UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes), the Commission ‘offers Member States a forum for exchanging expertise, experience and information in order to develop national and international strategies, and to identify priorities for combating crime’. As each year, the session was composed of plenary sessions – agenda items included the ratification and implementation of international texts and conventions, the use and application of UN standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, and follow-up of previous sessions, among others – and side events organized by national delegations and UN bodies, including side events on femicide and rape, violence against women, and women victims of trafficking. The WAVE office in Vienna attended the session, and WAVE President Rosa Logar made a contribution to the side event “Istanbul convention – Added value to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: Insights, Monitoring and Evaluation”, organized by Zonta International in cooperation with the Vienna NGO CSW.

**28-29 May 2015 – “Community Approaches to Prevent and Reduce Domestic Violence” (Hamburg, Germany)**

The international conference was organised by Professor Sabine Stövesand from the Hamburg University of Applied Science. Stadtteile ohne Partnergewalt/Neighbourhoods Free from Intimate Partner Violence (StoP) focuses on community mainstreaming of the issue of domestic violence, using tools such as community organizing and learning to prevent and reduce domestic violence. Expert presentations included from: StoP Hamburg; Centre for Social Research Delhi/India; Close to Home Boston/USA, Project Raising Voices Kampala/Uganda; Heart Movement Wellington/New Zealand; Ilitha Labantu Cape Town, South Africa and from WAVE.

**18-19 June 2015 – Feantsa Annual Policy Conference: “Key Steps to Connect Communities to Europe” (Paris, France)**

Organized by Feantsa, an NGO working to prevent and alleviate the poverty and social exclusion of people threatened by or living in homelessness, hosted this conference in Paris with three key objectives: to support policy and practice in the field of homelessness, with a focus on social/policy innovation; to link local realities to different European policy/legal frameworks, demonstrating where synergies exist already and reflect on potential synergies; to provide space for the emergence of new transformational dynamics through organized networking hotspots. The conference also held many workshops, in which WAVE President Rosa Logar took part in the workshop titled “Promoting links between the homelessness sector and the domestic violence sector to find long-term housing solutions-can Europe support cross-sector cooperation?”, presenting on gaps and needs which need to be addressed in the future.

**25 June 2015 – Launch of EIGE Gender Equality Index (Brussels, Belgium)**

The EIGE Gender Equality Index Report 2015 was presented, containing for the first time data on violence against women, and based on the survey on violence against women carried out by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). The report, among other outcomes, provides a measure that demonstrate levels of achievement in terms of gender equality across the European Union Member states, throughout time. The index also showed that overall, the EU is only half-way towards gender equality. Rosa Logar, President of WAVE, was invited to speak in the session “Towards a composite measure of violence against women”.

**20-24 July 2015 – Cost Action US1206 Training School on: “Policy and Practice to Reduce and Prevent Femicide: Innovation and Sustainability of Actions and Research” (Rome, Italy)**

Attended by WAVE President Rosa Logar, the conference addressed topics such as psychopathology and violence against women, intervention, and prevention of femicide. While numerous research 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 its main goal to improve the prevention of femicide, by improving the efficiency of policies. Outputs include guidelines for national policymakers, as well as books, newsletters, articles, and other publications emerging from the Action.



Sexualisering av det offentliga rummet/Sexualization of the Public Sphere Conference (Stockholm, Sweden)

**4-6 September 2015 – “Sexualisering av det offentliga rummet”/“Sexualization of the Public Sphere” (Stockholm, Sweden)**

Attended by all the Nordic European countries (Iceland, Greenland, Faroe Islands, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland), with participants from women’s NGOs as well as governmental figures, academics, journalists, and writers, including presenters and feminist activists from the USA and UK, Swedish government, and Stockholm University. The three-day conference centered on the sexualisation of the public sphere, with themes such as cyber violence among youth, prostitution, pornography, trafficking, sexual violence, and successful campaigns attacking harmful sexist imagery in public spaces and media.

In addition to presentations and discussions on the above themes, each Nordic country presented on their own national situations, highlighting positive or interesting developments, such as projects and campaigns which have proven to be challenging and effective, such as the Rosa Project led by WAVE Member Krisesenter Sekretariatet, and #Reklamera led by Sveriges Kvinnolobby. Reclaiming public spaces for the empowerment of women free from harmful sexist imagery was one of the main topics, as was focusing on the prevalence of partner violence and online control and its effects on youth, as outlined in the study “STIR it Up – Safeguarding Teenage Intimate Relationships”. The conference was also balanced with workshops on a wide range of issues, such as attitudes about sexuality, prevention of sexual violence, revenge porn and

sexting, reclaiming public spaces, and possibilities to help children and youth with the Online Family Shelter.

**21 September 2015 – “National European Migration Network (EMN) Conference: Irregular Migration and Return in the EU and Austria” (Vienna, Austria)**

Organized by the National European Migration Network, the conference was broadly about the current refugee crisis in Europe and how the European Union is working on a return plan for migrants, whose home countries are no longer in conflict. Moreover, the conference addressed the numbers of migrants and how they have fled to Europe, either by crossing the Mediterranean Sea or by foot, paying smugglers, or even being trafficked. Additionally, the migration issue in Austria was explained, along with the situation in Greece and the Netherlands. The ambassadors from Greece and from the Netherlands also talked about the situations in their countries, and how they have dealt with this issue. The conference gathered around 60 participants, and included a keynote speech on EU policy on irregular migration and return by the European Commission, as well as presentations on the EMN study “Dissemination of Information on Voluntary Return: How to Reach Irregular migrants not in Contact with Authorities”.

**30 September-2 October 2015 – “Annual General Meeting of Members of the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators (WWP-EN)” (Berlin, Germany)**

In order to guarantee that the safety and the needs of women survivors of violence and their children are at the center of all work with perpetrators, WAVE has become a Board member of WWP-EN. WAVE Members attended the annual meeting of WWP-EN, where WAVE President Rosa Logar, facilitated two workshops on: “Principles of victims-safety and rights of victims in work with perpetrators” and “How do we deal with risk in perpetrator programmes?”

**8-9 October 2015 – “Multi-disciplinary Training: Capacity-Building for Risk Assessment and Safety Management to Protect Victims of Violence and their Children” (Bucharest, Romania)**

Hosted by WAVE, with over 45 participants from various professional backgrounds – criminal justice system, NGOs and child protection services – attended the event, where they exchanged knowledge and information on the various services available in Romania. The training gave participants a much-needed opportunity to exchange views and share information about the various services, which are available in Romania’s counties. The majority of participants were from Bucharest, and some from several other cities. They had different professional backgrounds; many were working in the criminal justice system, some for NGOs and others for child protection departments. When it comes to risk identification and risk assessment, it was emphasized that it is important to adopt a systematic approach, to follow a protocol and report on this to the corresponding monitoring body. The principle of due diligence was also touched upon, in the context of the Istanbul Convention, whereby it became clear that it is ultimately the responsibility of the state to protect women and their children from violent perpetrators, hence it is not their responsibility to come out of difficult situations.

**9 October 2015 – “Ride for Women’s Rights (R4WR)” Meeting (Vienna, Austria)**

*Ride 4 Women’s Rights (R4WR)* is a foundation founded by four Dutch women, which actively raises awareness of women’s rights, promoting the idea that all women and girls should have the right to family planning, gender equality, and education. A key aspect of their initiative was to bike from Jakarta to Amsterdam (14,000 km), with every kilometre dedicated to women’s rights. On the last leg of their bike trip, R4WR visited the WAVE office in Vienna to discuss their project and experiences, as well as to find out more about the WAVE



Ride for Women’s Rights (R4WR) Meeting (Vienna, Austria)

network’s projects and activities. During this meeting, stories were exchanged and the work of WAVE and its Members promoted. WAVE also facilitated their getting in touch with the organizers of the Third World Conference of Women’s Shelters. They were subsequently invited to the conference as guests.

**20-21 October 2015 – “Coordinated Efforts Project Conference on Monitoring the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention, New Synergies and Follow-up” (Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina)**

As part of the Coordinated Efforts project, led by WAVE Member organization Autonomous Women’s Center Belgrade, and involving six women’s organizations from the Balkan region, WAVE and EWL, WAVE staff member Barbara Stelmaszek presented on sources of good practices in areas related to the implementation of various articles of the Istanbul Convention, throughout Europe as well as more specifically in the EU. The objective of the Conference was to engage in a reflection process on new synergies at different levels: governmental, parliamentary, civil society, and at the level of national human rights institutions. The conference involved relevant stakeholders from women’s civil society organizations, international organizations, and various governmental institutions.

**22 October 2015 – “Community Matters: Domestic Violence and Violence against Women Affects us all” (Zurich, Switzerland)**

Co-organized by the Social Work and the Women’s Shelter Foundation Zurich (ZHAW), the conference addressed issues such as measures to protect and support victims of domestic violence, putting a special focus on the specific situation of Switzerland. The event was organized in frame of the project “StoP-Stadtteile ohne Partnergewalt”/StoP-Neighborhoods without intimate partner violence), which addresses the issues of violence against women and their children in the Euro-

pean Union as well as in Switzerland. WAVE President Rosa Logar represented the network on this occasion, presenting and highlighting the activities conducted by WAVE in the field of preventing and combating violence against women and their children in Europe.

**26-27 October 2015 - "Multi-disciplinary training: Strengthening Capacities for Evaluating Risk and Managing Safety to Protect Women and Children Victims of Violence" (Zagreb, Croatia)**

In connection with the 8-9 October training in Bucharest, the purpose of this training was to ensure that the needs of victims are priority when risk assessment and safety planning are being carried out, and that their opinions are constantly taken into consideration. Approximately 22 participants from Zagreb attended the training, during which they exchanged views on this matter, and engaged in practical exercises structured around hypothetical situations involving female victims and their children. Simulating how relevant state agencies, entities of the criminal justice system, and NGOs could cooperate most efficiently in order to support victims in a meaningful way. The training represented a pilot project in Croatia, other trainings on the topic of violence within the family did take place, however the focus lied on other aspects and the phenomenon was approached from a different perspective. Participants already had considerable experience in this field and came from different professional backgrounds: police officers, judges, practitioners from the department of social welfare and NGO representatives.

**29 October 2015 - Coordinated Efforts: "International Conference on the Implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Violence against women - two years after its ratification in the Republic of Serbia" (Belgrade, Serbia)**

WAVE manager Maria Rösslhumer presented on the Austrian Federal Act on Protection against Domestic Violence (in force since May 1997), and the practical experience achieved over the past 18 years.

**3-6 November 2015 - "Third World Conference of Women's Shelters" (The Hague, Netherlands)**

Organized by the Foundation of Women's Shelters in the Netherlands at the request of the Global Network of Women's Shelters (GNWS), this conference gathered around 1000 participants from 115 countries around the world. The main themes of the conference were: economic independence of women survivors; sustainable financing and advocacy for women's shelters; transboundary violence against women: international exchange and cooperation; and innovative approaches to eliminate violence against women and to support

survivors. The conference also gathered regional networks which presented on issues important to their respective regions. As the main regional network on violence against women, and as part of the GNWS Interim Board, WAVE coordinated the continental session for Europe, in which three recommendations were developed, based on burning issues for the European countries: 1. Ratify and implement the Istanbul Convention in all countries and implement the CEDAW; 2. Focus on CEDAW Article 6 on Trafficking and Prostitution, which reads "States shall take all measures to stop all forms of trafficking and the exploitation of prostitution of women"; 3. Increase the number of women's shelters and specialist women's services and implement sustainable funding for women's and children support services, with commitments from Governments to finance specific support services for victims. In addition to numerous key speakers and panellists, there were also parallel sessions of lectures, workshops, and roundtables. Former UN special rapporteur on violence against women Rashida Manjoo, and current UN special rapporteur on violence against women Dubravka Šimonović, also conducted presentations.



Maria Rösslhumer, Dubravka Šimonović at the Third World Conference of Women's Shelters (The Hague, Netherlands)

**11 November 2015 - "Coordinated Efforts Regional Conference on Protection and Support of Women Victims of Gender-Based Violence - Current Situation and Best Practices" (Skopje, Macedonia)**

As part of the Coordinated Efforts project, led by WAVE Member organization Autonomous Women's Center Belgrade, and involving six women's organizations from the Balkan region, WAVE and EWL, WAVE staff Barbara Stelmaszek presented on the Austrian model of protection from violence that includes police barring orders, proactive support provided by intervention centers and civil protection orders. The conference involved relevant stakeholders from women's civil society organizations, international organizations and various governmental institutions.

**13 November 2015 – OSCE Security Days Conference: “In Pursuit of Peace and Security – How Gender makes a Difference” (Vienna, Austria)**

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Security Days event “In Pursuit of Peace and Security: How Gender Makes a Difference” has provided a platform where different opportunities on how to apply a gender perspective to crisis prevention, conflict management and post-conflict rehabilitation have been discussed. The topic focused on the challenges of implementing UNSCR 1325 and on the tools and strategies that can be employed to improve its effective application. The event also served as a forum where successful initiatives and projects can be shared at the international, regional, national and local levels. The objectives of the event were to highlight the importance of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and to signal more sensitive approaches towards it; to encourage OSCE participating states and partners to follow up on recommendations which came out of the High-Level Review and Global Study of UNSCR 1325; and eventually generate ideas and practical recommendations for follow-up activities for participating states and OSCE executive structures. The event gathered senior executives from national governments, parliamentarians, civil society leaders, important women’s advocates, representatives of international and regional organizations and many others.

**24-25 November 2015 – “Coordinated Efforts International Conference on General and Specialized Support Services for Women who have Experienced Violence-Quality and Availability Assurance” (Podgorica, Montenegro)**

As part of the Coordinated Efforts project, led by WAVE Member organization Autonomous Women’s Center Belgrade, and involving six women’s organizations from the Balkan region, WAVE and EWL, WAVE staff member Barbara Stelmaszek presented the WAVE manual on multi-agency cooperation and the Spanish legislation on gender violence (Spanish Organic Law 2004). The conference involved relevant stakeholders from women’s civil society organizations, international organizations and various governmental institutions.

**25 November 2015 – “ACUNS Symposium on Women Victimized by Extremist Groups” (Vienna, Austria)**

Organized by the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) Vienna Liaison and Webster University on the occasion of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (VAW) in Vienna, the symposium brought together a consider-

able number of speakers with diverse backgrounds: ambassadors, civil society representatives, academics and lawyers. The symposium consisted of two sessions: one analysing the situation from various countries and regions and a second one addressing practical measures, which can be taken in order to tackle this problem.

**26-27 November 2015 – “Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence” TAIEX Workshop (Podgorica, Montenegro)**

As part of an EU technical assistance workshop in the framework of the European Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, WAVE staff Barbara Stelmaszek presented WAVE research “Supporting the Sustainability and autonomy of women’s organizations providing services in Eastern Europe for women and children survivors of domestic violence” and led a workshop on supporting women survivors of violence through multi-agency cooperation. The workshop involved relevant stakeholders from women’s civil society organizations, international organizations and various governmental institutions.

**28-29 November 2015 – “Women Fighting Back: International and Legal Perspectives” (London, United Kingdom)**

On 28-29 November 2015, the European Association of Lawyers for Democracy & World Human Rights (ELDH) held the International Conference ‘Women Fighting Back: International and Legal Perspectives’ at the London South Bank University. Attended by several representatives of UN and European Institutions, including former UN Special Rapporteur on VAW Rashida Manjoo (from 2009-2015), Lilian Hofmeister from the CEDAW Committee, and Rosa Logar, WAVE President the event touched upon the issues of women in armed conflicts and in peace, violence against women, the relation between State and women’s bodies, as well as women in work. ELDH is a non-profit progressive organization uniting lawyers in 18 European countries focusing on the promotion of human rights, civil liberties, democracy and peace. Their areas of work include European anti-terror activities and their impact on human rights and civil liberties, the treaties of the EU and their impact on democracy, human rights and civil liberties, and peace, the migration policy of the EU, among others.

**30 November 2015 – “Creation of an Interactive Database for Monitoring the Implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence” Workshop (Ljubljana, Slovenia)**

As part of the Coordinated Efforts project, led by WAVE member organization Autonomous Women’s Center Belgrade, and involving six women’s organizations from the Balkan region, WAVE and EWL, WAVE staff Barbara Stelmaszek presented on opportunities and challenges present in data collection for populating national level indicators with the aim to measure progress in the area of monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. The workshop involved relevant stakeholders from women’s civil society organizations and various governmental institutions.

**30 November-1 December 2015 – “The Importance of the Health Care System in Gender-Based Violence and Violence against Women and Children” Train the Trainer Seminar (Chisinau, Moldova)**



Participants of the Train the Trainer Seminar (Chisinau, Moldova)

The Train the Trainer seminar took place together with Professor Andrea Berzlanovich, Forensic Doctor from the Forensic Department of the University of Vienna, as well as with Maria Rösslhumer, Executive Manager of WAVE. This training was organised by WAVE Member the Women’s Rights Center in Chisinau, Angelina Zaporojan and Eleonora Grosu, and was also supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, UNFPA, OAK Foundation, OSCE, UNDP and The Ministry for Health in Moldova. 32 participants took part – 25 of which were doctors and 7 were representatives from the women’s NGOs.

The content of the training was based on the WAVE-UNFPA training manual, which was published in 2013, and also on the new IMPLEMENT manual. Additionally, the training elaborated on experiences from Austria, especially on experience with documentation and examination of gender-based violence survivors. The Austrian model of „victim support services” in hos-

pitals and the documentation evidence sheet for court procedures were also presented.

**14-15 December 2015 – “Preventing Violence Together: Multi-Institutional Cooperation and MARAC Conferences” (Vienna, Austria)**

The event was attended by 12 participants working in women’s shelters, coordination or intervention centres from Austria, Switzerland and Germany. The training consisted of theoretical inputs related to multi-agency cooperation, MARAC conferences, femicide and efforts undertaken by UN agencies to tackle this phenomenon, as well as practical exercises based on examples from the WAVE Protect II Manual. Participants were given the opportunity to share their knowledge and experiences with the trainers in an interactive way. They engaged in constructive debates and reflected on the knowledge and best practices which were shared during the training. A simulation of a MARAC conference based on a fictional scenario of domestic abuse took place on day two: a particular role was assigned to every participant and they had to describe how they would proceed with multi-agency cooperation in order to support the survivor of violence in that situation. Positive feedback at the end of the event gave praise to the pioneer work carried out by the Intervention Centre in Vienna. The participants showed a great deal of willingness to start using MARAC conferences in their daily work.

**16-18 December 2015 – Board Meeting of the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators (WWP-EN) (Berlin, Germany)**

The Board of WWP-EN consists of ten members from around Europe. WAVE has been a Board member of the network since 2014 and participates in Board meetings.

**13. Multi-disciplinary Cooperation with other Networks**

Cooperation with other thematic networks in Europe is essential to ensure that WAVE’s work remains comprehensive and best suited to the needs of women survivors of violence and their children. As such, WAVE had developed and worked in close cooperation with several international and European networks over the years, and it will develop new channels of multi-disciplinary cooperation. In 2015, WAVE continued its collaboration with several other networks such as the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence (WWP-EN). The aim of cooperation with perpetrator programmes is to ensure that the safety of victims of violence is of primary concern for

all perpetrator programmes. In 2015, WAVE participated in WWP-EN Board Meetings and workshops. In addition, WAVE cooperates with the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), as WAVE aims to support undocumented migrant women, and consults with PICUM frequently on the issue. WAVE also cooperated with the European Network on Gender and Violence, and in 2015, WAVE attended the conference in Portugal, hosted in April 2015, in which WAVE presented on OAK, European Protection Orders, and GREVIO. At the international level, WAVE is also part of the Global Network of Women's Shelters (GNWS), for which it also acts as Interim Board Member. In 2015, WAVE attended GNWS Board Meetings, and hosted the 17<sup>th</sup> annual WAVE Conference in cooperation with the 3rd World Conference of Women's Shelters, which were both hosted in The Hague, Netherlands. Furthermore, WAVE cooperates with European Women's Lobby (EWL), receiving its newsletter and exchanging relevant information.

## 14. Bi-monthly WAVE Newsletter

For many years, WAVE has published newsletters reflecting the activities of WAVE and the network. In 2015, WAVE published six bi-monthly newsletters which were sent to 112 WAVE Members (whom then forwarded it to their own networks), as well as to an additional 700+ subscribers. Every two months, the newsletter provides information on activities/events involving WAVE and the Members, relevant international and European news in the field of combating violence against women and protecting survivors, and information on relevant research and publications. Subscription to the monthly newsletter is possible via the WAVE website: [www.wave-network.org/newsletter/subscriptions](http://www.wave-network.org/newsletter/subscriptions)

## 15. WAVE Fempower Magazine

The latest Fempower issue (November 2015, No. 26) explores the topic of women tackling violence in situations of armed conflict and in times of peace. There are seven articles included, touching upon several aspects of the main theme: international law and gender based violence, women's solidarity in times of war, feminist approaches to justice, the situation of Syrian refugee women, and lastly the efforts undertaken by women's NGOs in various European countries to support survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

The authors of the aforementioned articles have different national and professional backgrounds; however most of them are women's rights activists, and very often they refer to the situation which exists in

their respective country. As such, one article offers an insight into the situation of VAW in the Ukraine, in the context of the ongoing conflict. Other two articles give examples of women's NGOs from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia that have set up specialist services for survivors of sexual and domestic violence, including internally displaced women.

All articles convey a message, which stresses that the duty falls upon all members of society to guarantee safety and access to justice to women survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, as this represents a crucial aspect of peace and reconciliation processes in post-conflict situations. The work carried out by women's organizations to support survivors is crucial, regardless if these had been subjected to violence in public or private spaces.

The importance of international legal instruments, such as the Istanbul Convention (Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence), in ensuring that the rights of survivors are prioritized by states is also highlighted, including when it comes to supporting refugee women fleeing from abuse and sexual violence.

## 16. WAVE Press Releases

WAVE's press releases aim to increase the awareness of violence against women and means to tackle it on the media level and among the general public, as well as concerned institutions and governance bodies. Like WAVE's policy papers, press releases are an important lobbying tool and intend to provide the media with easy access to accurate information on the scope of violence against women and children. WAVE also supports journalists and researchers in their efforts to raise awareness on the topic. In 2015, WAVE published three press releases, including the announcement and congratulations of the newly appointed GREVIO president and two vice-presidents, briefing of the activities and discussions held during the 17<sup>th</sup> annual WAVE Conference "Women's Collective Power to Stop Violence" in The Hague, Netherlands, and a description of the WAVE Members' activities to celebrate 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence in Europe.

## 17. Violence against Women and Social Media

In addition to European-wide joint actions coordinated by WAVE and WAVE Members, press releases, statements, conference attendance, and position papers, WAVE's social media accounts strengthen the public presence of WAVE. WAVE is active on a daily basis on



Anastasia Ermolaeva, Marina Pisklakova-Parker, and Bert Groen supporting 16 Days of Activism #WAVE16Days



Alexandr Gonchar, Barbara Stelmaszek, and Juliana Abramova supporting #WAVE16Days

Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. As of December 2015, the WAVE network had 1,881 likes on Facebook (29% increase from last year), as well as 1,093 followers on Twitter (34% increase from last year), and 212 followers on Instagram. By posting and sharing posts on various social media accounts on a nearly daily basis, WAVE disseminates information on gender-based violence, violence against women, and on activities, events, and campaigns taking place at the European level. Social media is also used to promote the activities of the WAVE members, to strengthen cooperation between members the general public, and to promote the work of WAVE and the network. For instance, during the 17<sup>th</sup> annual WAVE Conference in the Netherlands, WAVE created a hashtag #WAVE16Days in order to promote the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign.

## 18. WAVE Dissemination strategy

WAVE developed a dissemination strategy, detailing the list of stakeholders important for WAVE, both at the European and local level, and outline strategies in which WAVE can reach various stakeholders through activities and projects. Apart of the dissemination strategy are the WAVE newsletter, annual conference, website and social media, attendance at conferences, trainings, workshops, and study visits, and the WAVE campaign for 2016-2017, as well as additional projects such as the WAVE Report. The newsletter reaches over 700 contacts, including WAVE members, cooperation partners, and European institutions. By attending over 32 conferences and events in 2015, WAVE has reached approximately 1000 individuals, including professionals, politicians, academics, researchers, involved in the field of combating violence against women, or interested in eradicating gender-based violence and supporting women survivors and their children.

WAVE trainings and study visits are important for WAVE to reach key individuals both directly and in-

directly involved in the prevention of gender-based violence and the protection of women survivors of violence. Participants of such events are often professionals from various backgrounds, such as from the criminal justice system, NGOs, child protection services, women's specialized support services, and also WAVE members, in order to facilitate and exchange of best practices and enhance multi-agency cooperation.

The 17<sup>th</sup> WAVE Annual Conference held in The Hague, Netherlands, was a network conference which reached over 100 members, as well as participants who attended the Global Network of Women's Shelters Conference held during the same week. Synergies were developed between members and those part of the global movement to combat violence against women.

WAVE website, social media, press releases, and the WAVE Information Center reaches WAVE Members, women survivors directly and indirectly, national networks, professionals from different organizations and institutions, researchers and experts, policy makers, media, and the general public. With all WAVE activities and projects, it is anticipated that WAVE reached over 14,000 individuals and organizations in 2015. In 2015, the WAVE website alone has been visited by 7,500 times from all over the world.

The WAVE Campaign 2016-2017 has also a list of stakeholders, organizations, and individuals which the campaign will reach when launched in early 2016, with a goal of increasing WAVE's reach by over 20%.

## 19. WAVE "Step Up!" Campaign 2016-2017

Remaining the only network to focus exclusively on the issues of violence against women in Europe, WAVE's knowledge and expertise in the field of preventing, combating, and responding to violence against women—including the provision of essential specialized support services—has made it a main actor in aware-

ness-raising and lobbying at the European level.

In light of remaining gaps in service provision, WAVE as a network aims to carry a European-level campaign to contribute to the increase in numbers and level of quality specialized women's support services, and to improve access by vulnerable groups of victims. The WAVE Campaign will spread over two years: 2016-2017. In 2015, WAVE worked on setting the foundation for the campaign, utilizing network events including the WAVE CoCo meeting, the 17<sup>th</sup> annual WAVE Conference, the WAVE Training Institute, and also through organizing a workshop on the campaign blueprint, which took place in Vienna on 11-12 September 2015. The workshop gathered the WAVE office team, and the coordinators of the campaign: Hilary Fisher, Camelia Proca, and Rosa Logar. These events identified the main objectives, outcomes, outputs, key target groups, messages, activities, and timeframe of a European-level network campaign.

Based on these developments, WAVE has started developing a WAVE Campaign 2015-2017 Blueprint, or a 'road map' to the campaign-information provided includes background on service provision, problem statement, theme, impact/goal, objectives, campaign messages/slogan/name, key target groups, and opportunities for campaigning-and will serve to promote it on the national and international levels.

## 20. Mapping Women's Service User Statistics in Europe: National Women's Helplines, Shelters, and Centres

In 2015, WAVE produced a report titled 'Mapping Women's Service User Statistics in Europe: National women's helplines, shelters and centres'. The report is the first part of a series of activities (in 2016-2017) aimed at establishing a Europe-wide system of administrative data collection for specialist women's services. The report was based on data collected from a questionnaire (created on Survey Monkey) related to how different specialist services manage data collection and whether the collection is performed on a national level. Persons responsible for specialist services data collection in 46 European countries were asked to complete the questionnaire. WAVE was able to receive responses from 30 countries from networks, shelters, and helplines. The findings of the report indicate that varying methodologies are utilized to collect data, minimum standard for data collection (e.g. gender of victim, gender of perpetrator, relationship between perpetrator and victim) are often observed, and that data is often not collected on a national level, among others. From the findings, WAVE was able to issue recommendations

that will also serve WAVE in its subsequent work on administrative data collection. The report is 40 pages long and includes the introductory chapter, description of methodology, and chapters with presentation of data and the findings: women's helplines, women's shelters, and women's centres. The final chapter provides conclusions and recommendations.

## 21. WAVE Leaflet for Members

In order to promote WAVE Members and highlight the work of WAVE, a Leaflet was developed and disseminated to all WAVE Members. This leaflet, which folds out into a poster, details the 112 WAVE Member organizations throughout all 46 countries, as well as a list of national women's helplines. The goal of the Leaflet is to support the WAVE Member also attract new Members, provides information on how to become a Member, as well as explains how to donate to the organization. The Members can use it as posters on the wall in the office or as leaflet for distribution.

## 22. WAVE Annual Statistics

As every year, WAVE highlighted the most important data derived from the WAVE Report 2015 into annual statistics. These statistics include the most updated numbers of women's support services, such as women's helplines, women's centres, women's shelters, and women's networks, throughout Europe. Complete with graphs and charts, the statistics aim to be an important lobbying tool for Members, and to also provide critical information for the WAVE Campaign to be launched in 2016.

## 23. OAK Foundation

Thanks to the generous core funding from the Oak Foundation, WAVE was able to continue its core activities and support WAVE member organizations from outside of the European Union in taking part in WAVE activities. This included financial support to WAVE members to attend the WAVE CoCo meeting held in Vienna in June 2015, the WAVE Conference (in The Hague) in November 2015, the Global Network of Women's Shelter Conference (in The Hague) in November 2015, and the WAVE training institute held in Vienna in December 2015. Additionally, the funding supported WAVE staff participation at various events organized within the context of the Coordinated Efforts project (in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia), preparation of presentations and informational tools, and participation at a technical assistance workshop on Montenegro in No-

member (see section 12 Participation in various European and International Conferences).

## **24. Coordinated Efforts – Towards New European Standards in Protection of Women from Gender Based Violence Project**

Since 2013, WAVE (Austria) has been a partner in the European Commission funded project Coordinated Efforts – Towards new European Standards in Protection of Women from Gender Based Violence. The project is led by WAVE member Autonomous Women's House Belgrade and involves collaboration of women's NGOs from six Balkan countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia as well as involving the European Women's Lobby as Associated Partner. The first two years of the project (2013-2014) focused on setting up an effective campaign in order to promote states' signing and ratifying the Istanbul Convention. Of the project countries, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Slovenia, and Serbia have signed and ratified the Convention. As of end of 2015, Croatia and Macedonia, have only signed the Convention. In year 2015, the project activities focused on implementation of the Convention and included development of indicators to monitor the implementation in each country as well as conferences and workshops aiming at exchange of good practice examples, especially in the area of protection from violence, which WAVE supported through participation and presentations. The final year of the project will include, among others, development of a database to enable continuous monitoring of the implementation as well as continuation of another campaign to promote the implementation of the campaign. The project has been a tremendous success, largely due to the creativity, motivation and hard work of the women's NGOs involved. WAVE looks forward to another year of cooperation with the project partners.

## **25. Cooperation with the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of domestic violence (WWP-EN)**

Since 2014, WAVE has been a Board Member of the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence (WWP-EN). The aim of this cooperation with perpetrator programmes is to ensure that the safety of victims of violence is of primary concern for all perpetrator programmes. The network promotes effective perpetrator work with those who commit violence, mainly men. Through this work, ca-

capacity-building of members is developed, in which members transfer knowledge and best practices, and develop evidence-based practice guidelines and standards. The work of the network contributes to the development and implementation of EU law and policies and facilitates inter-European collaboration and awareness-raising. WWP-EN has also developed a database, which outlines the existing perpetrator programmes for domestic violence within Europe, including contact information. The network also published reports, webinars, and essays on the topic, and hosts regional meetings, annual workshops, and study visits.

## ▶ WAVE Board Short CVs

**Hilary Fisher** is Director of Policy, Voice and Membership at Women's Aid Federation England, the national domestic violence charity. As a women's human rights activist, Hilary has worked in the Third Sector for over twenty years, including leading Amnesty International's End Violence against Women campaign. Hilary was a member of the drafting Committee of the new European Convention to Prevent and Combat Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and chair of the Council of Europe Expert Task Force on Violence against Women.

**Rosa Logar** is co-founder and president of the European Network Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE); Executive Director of the Domestic Violence Intervention Program Vienna, a victim/survivor service established with the Austrian Domestic Violence Act (1997); co-founder of the first women's shelter in Austria (1978); lecturer at the University of Applied Sciences/ Department of Social Work. Selection of international activities: member of the EU research project Co-ordination Action on Human Rights Violations CAHRV (2004-2006); member of the UN Expert Group Meeting Good practices in legislation on violence against women (2008); member of the Council of Europe Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence (2006-2008) and representative of the Austrian Government in the Ad Hoc Committee on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (2008-2010), which drafted the new Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention, 2011). Since June 2015 member of the GREVIO committee which will monitor the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

**Nataša Međedović Pištalo** is one of the founding members and the executive director of SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Niksic, founded in 1998. Over the past 17 years she has become one of the major women's right activists in Montenegro and she is recognized as leader in combating domestic violence. She created and coordinated a number of projects. Additionally she was a consultant on SOS Helpline for 9 years. She was a member of the working group for creating of National Strategy for Protection from DV. For three years she reported EC, in Brussels, on the progress of Montenegro in regards to women's human rights. Her organisation is coordinating the

newborn National SOS Helpline for domestic violence in Montenegro".

**Marceline Naudi** was awarded her doctorate in 2004 from University of Manchester (U.K.). A social worker by profession, her practice (in England, Ireland and Malta) has included work with various client groups including survivors of domestic violence. She has been lecturing full-time at the University of Malta since 1994 on social work and anti-oppressive issues such as gender issues, violence against women, LGBTIQ and race issues etc., and is now Head of the Department of Gender Studies. As such she has spoken at various academic conferences all over Europe. She represented Malta in both EU and Council of Europe negotiations (including CAHVIO) and was invited to speak as a European expert in various EU and Council of Europe Conferences. She was elected member of the GREVIO committee which will monitor the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in June 2015, and 2nd vice-president in September 2015. She is active in the field of VAW both in Malta and more generally in Europe and also sits on the Steering Group of the European Women's Lobby Observatory on VAW.

**Urszula Nowakowska** is co-founder of WAVE and founder and President of the Women's Rights Centre (Centrum Praw Kobiet), based in Warsaw. She is a lawyer with experience in issues of violence and discrimination against women. Urszula is involved in running workshops on gender-based violence for various professionals and women's rights advocates and coordinating many WRC projects including the Equal programme: Work and Dignity for Women Victims of Violence. She is the author of numerous publications on the issue of violence against women.

**Marina Pisklakova-Parker** started the first helpline for battered women in 1993, and worked alone for half a year. Now it is known as the National Center for the Prevention of Violence "ANNA", which is also a network of about 150 organizations across Russia. Marina Pisklakova-Parker and her organization actively work on creating an effective system of response to domestic violence by educating governmental officials and the public about the issue of domestic violence in Russia and in other countries. Pisklakova-Parker was honoured together with seven other human rights activists by the international organization Human Rights Watch in 1997, for her work in the area of domestic violence against women. In 1998 Human Rights Watch (Califor-

nia) honoured Marina Pisklakova-Parker again together with five other human rights monitors from different countries as one of the most significant activists of the decade. Pisklakova-Parker is also featured in the book by Kerry Kennedy Cuomo "Speak Truth to Power" as one of fifty human rights defenders from around the world. In 2004 she has received an award of Vital Voices Global Partnership for her work on the issues of trafficking. Marina's story is featured in the documentary play SEVEN as one of seven women-activists. In 2011, Newsweek Magazine and The Daily Beast named Marina as one of the 150 women who shake the world. She holds a Master's Degree in Sociology.

**Camelia Proca** has studied women rights in the Regional Program for Equal Rights of Women and Human Rights of the Swedish International Development Agency. In 2004 she founded the Association for Liberty and Equality of Gender – A.L.E.G. – a nongovernmental organization in Sibiu, Romania, which promotes gender awareness particularly among youth and children, and offers counselling and advocacy for victims of gender-based violence. In the last 10 years she has been responsible to ensure the continuity of the organizations' services.

## ► Helplines in 46 European countries 2015

The following is a table of the national women's helplines available in the 46 European countries. If there is no national helpline, a regional or general helpline is listed (these countries are marked with a \*). Women's national helplines are among the most vital services for women's survivors of violence, they are one of the first places women can turn to receive immediate counsel-

ling and advice. **It is important to note that some of the following phone numbers cannot be called from abroad, as they are strictly national helplines and can only be used within the country. In such instances, we invite you to get in touch directly with the WAVE Members in relevant countries.**

Country	Name	Phone number
Albania	Counselling Line for Women and Girls	+355 422 33408
Armenia	National Hotline on Domestic Violence	+374 105 428 28 0800 80 850
	Hotline of the Armenian Lighthouse Charitable Foundation	2080
Austria	Women's Helpline against Violence	0800 222 555
Azerbaijan	Clean World Social Union Aid to Women	+99 412 408 5696
Belarus*	National Hotline for survivors of domestic violence	8 801 100 8 801
	National Toll-free Children Helpline	8 801 100 16 11
	Hotline for Safe Migration	113
Belgium*	Hotline for all types of violence, domestic (any member of the family) sexual violence, honour related violence, and more, child abuse, elder abuse	1712 (Flemish)
	Ecoutes Violences Conjugales (for marital violence)	0800 30 030 (French)
	SOS Viol (for sexual violence)	+32 2 534 36 36 (French)
	Mon Mariage M'appartient (forced marriage helpline)	0800 90 901 (French)
	Crisis Situation Helpline (for persons in distress)	106 (Flemish) 107 (French) 108 (German)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	SOS Line for Help of Women and Children, victims of domestic violence	1264 (Republika Srpska) 1265 (Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Bulgaria	Women's Helpline	+359 2 981 76 86

Country	Name	Phone number
Croatia*	Autonomous Women's House Zagreb	0800 55 44
	Harbri Telephone (Children's Helpline)	116 111
	SOS Helpline for Victims of Trafficking	0800 77 99
Cyprus	Center for Emergency Assistance Helpline	1440
Czech Republic*	DONA Line	+420 251 51 13 13
	Safety Children's Line	116 111
Denmark	LOKK Hotline	+45 70 20 30 82
Estonia	Tugitelefon	1492
Finland	Women's Line	+358 800 02400
France	Violences Femmes Info	3919
	Viols Femmes Information	0800 05 95 95
Georgia	National Domestic Violence Hotline	309 903
	Tbilisi Crisis Center of 'Sakhli' Advice Center for Women	+995 5952 32 101
Germany	National Women's Helpline	08000 116 016
Greece	National Center for Social Solidarity (E.K.K.A.) (for persons in different crisis situations, including domestic violence)	197
	General Secretariat for Gender Equality	15 900
Hungary	NaNE Helpline for Battered Women and Children	06 80 505 101
		+36 4 06 30 006 (for sexual violence)
Iceland	Kvennaathvarfið shelter helpline	561 1205
Ireland	National Freephone Helpline	1800 341 900
Italy	Antiviolenza Donne	1522
Kosovo	Direct Line for Victims of Violence	0800 11112
	SOS Linja	+381 39 033 00 98
Latvia*	Center Marta for Trafficking Victims	800 2012
	Crisis Helpline	67222922
		27722292
Children's Trust Helpline	116 111	
Liechtenstein	Women's Helpline Frauenhaus Liechtenstein	+423 380 02 03
Lithuania*	Women's Line	8800 66 366
Luxembourg	Fraentelefon	12 344
Macedonia	National SOS Line	15 700
	National SOS Line – Phone of Trust	15 315
		+389 75 141 700
		+389 77 141 700
SOS National Mobile Line	+389 70 141 700	
Malta*	Appogg Agency Supportline	179
Moldova	Trust Line	8008 8008

Country	Name	Phone number
Montenegro	SOS Helpline for Victims of Violence	080 111 111
Netherlands*	Veilig Thuis (for victims of domestic violence and child abuse)	0800 2000
Norway*	National Helpline for Survivors of Sexual Abuse	800 57 000
	Crisis Situation Helpline	800 40 008
Poland*	National Emergency Service for Survivors of Family Violence Blue Line	22 668 70 00
	National Emergency Service for Survivors of Family Violence	801 12 00 02
Portugal*	Serviço de Informação às Vitimas de Violência Doméstica	800 202 148
Romania*	Bucharest: Sensi Blu Foundation	021 311 46 36
	Bucharest: ADRA	021 25 25 117
	Lasi: CMSC	023 225 29 20
	Targu Mures: IEESR	026 521 16 99
	Sibiu: A.L.E.G.	075 389 35 31
	Biai Mare: Centru Artemis	0262 25 07 70
	Timisoara: APFR	0256 29 3183
Russia	ANNA (National Center for the Prevention of Violence)	08800 700 600
Serbia*	Helpline for victims of domestic violence	0800 100 600
	Network of Women's Hotline in Vojvodina	0800 10 10 10
Slovakia	National Line for Women Surviving Violence	0800 212 212
Slovenia	SOS Helpline for Women and Children – Victims of Violence	080 11 55
Spain	Helpline for Information and Legal Advice on Gender Violence	016
Sweden	Terrafem	020 52 1010
	Kvinnofridslinjen	020 50 50 50
Switzerland*	Dargebotene Hand (crisis helpline)	143
Turkey	Hürriyet Emergency Domestic Violence Hotline	+90 212 656 9696
	Social Service Counseling Line for Family, Women, Children, and the Disabled	183
Ukraine	Domestic Violence Counteraction and Child Rights Protection Helpline	0800 500 335 0800 500 336
	ENGLAND: National Domestic Violence Free phone Helpline ENGLAND: Rape Crisis Helpline	0808 2000 247 0808 802 999
United Kingdom	NORTHERN IRELAND: 24 Hour Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline	0800 917 14 14
	SCOTLAND: Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline Rape Crisis Scotland Helpline	0800 027 1234 080 88 01 03 02 0808 8010 302
	WALES: Live Fear Free Helpline Rape Crisis Helpline	0800 8010 800 0808 802 9999

## ► 17<sup>th</sup> WAVE Conference Programme



# WAVE CONFERENCE 2015

## “Women’s Collective Power to Stop Violence!”

17<sup>th</sup> WAVE Conference

Monday 2nd November 2015 - The Hague, the Netherlands

**Venue:** De Haagse Hogeschool, Johanna Westerdijkplein 75, 2521 The Hague

1st November, starting 19:30: **Welcome Drink** at the Court Garden Hotel, Laan van Meerdervoort 96, 2517 AR Den Haag

08:30 – 09:00	<i>Registration, coffee</i>
09:00 – 09:10	<b>Welcome</b> <b>Maria Rösslhuber, Barbara Stelmaszek</b>   WAVE Office
09:10 – 09:30	<b>Key Note</b> Synergies and implementation of global and regional instruments on violence against women: CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention <b>Dubravka Šimonović</b>   UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences
09:30 – 09:50	Women’s power to stop violence! The crucial role of women’s organizations and networks to prevent violence against women and their children – Opportunities, challenges and future perspectives <b>Rosa Logar</b>   WAVE Office
09:50 – 11:00	<b>Panel and Interactive Discussion 1*</b> WAVE’s power to stop violence – How can we strengthen our lobbying and awareness raising activities? Good practice examples from WAVE members <b>Hilary Fisher</b>   Women’s Aid Federation England <b>Marina Pisklakova-Parker</b>   ANNA – National Center for Prevention of Violence (Russia) <b>Olga Kalashnyk</b>   International Women’s Rights Center La Strada Ukraine <b>Tanja Ignjatović</b>   Autonomous Women’s Center Belgrade (Serbia), <b>Nela Pamukovic</b>   ROSA – Center for Women War Victims (Croatia) <b>Ann Belien</b>   Province Antwerp (Belgium) <b>Irene Zeilinger</b>   Garance asbl (Belgium)  <b>Facilitation:</b> Marceline Naudi
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 13:00	<b>Panel and Interactive Discussion 2*</b> WAVE’s power to stop violence – How can we strengthen our networking activities? Good practice examples from WAVE members <b>Marceline Naudi</b>   University of Malta <b>Camelia Proca</b>   A.L.E.G. (Romania) <b>Aleid van den Brink</b>   Blijf Groep (Netherlands) <b>Seda Çavuşoğlu</b>   Mor Çatı – Women’s Shelter’s Foundation (Turkey) <b>Urszula Nowakowska</b>   Women’s Rights Center (Poland)  <b>Facilitation:</b> Hilary Fisher

\* Presentations in Pecha Kucha style (short and concise presentations of five minutes, using slides)

13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch break*

14:00 – 14:30 **WAVE – New Structure and EU Operating Grant 2015-2017 activities**  
**Maria Rösslhuber, Marion Lesur** | WAVE Office

14:30 – 16:00 **WAVE's collective power to stop violence – Parallel Workshops**  
Workshop 1: Burning issues we want to address in the WAVE network in the next two years  
**Zlakha Ahmed** | Apna Haq (England)  
**Lilija Vasiliauskiene** | Vilnius Women's House (Lithuania)  
**Martina Wehrheim** | Femmes en Détresse asbl (Luxembourg)

Workshop 2: WAVE campaign to realize the right of women to be supported by specialist women's support services as required by the Istanbul Convention  
**Danijela Pešić** | Autonomous Women's Center Belgrade (Serbia), **Alenka Karlin** | Association SOS Helpline for Women and Children (Slovenia)  
**Ani Ruci** | Women's Association Refleksione (Albania)  
**Hilary Fisher** | Women's Aid Federation England, **Camelia Proca** | A.L.E.G. (Romania)

Workshop 3: From the local to the global and back: Strengthening communication within the WAVE network  
**Marina Pisklakova-Parker** | ANNA – National Center for Prevention of Violence (Russia)  
**Eha Reitelmann** | Estonian Women's Shelters Union (Estonia)  
**Györgyi Toth** | NANE Women's Rights Association (Hungary)  
**Branislava Vargová** | ROSA – Center for Battered and Lonely Women (Czech Republic)

Workshop 4: Responsibilities and tasks of WAVE CoCo Delegates – Carrying them out in practice; models developed in our countries to communicate and coordinate with other WAVE members; challenges met and ways of dealing with them  
**Sybille Schweier** | FNSF – Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes (France)  
**Genoveva Tisheva** | Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation  
**Elina Nikulainen** | Women's Line Finland

Workshop 5: Open space - Discussing new perspectives and innovative work, challenges and opportunities  
**Clare Laxton** | Women's Aid Federation England  
**Elvira Wilson** | The Haven Wolverhampton (England)  
**Eleri Butler** | Welsh Women's Aid  
**Bert Groen** | MOVISIE (Netherlands)

16:00 – 16:30 *Coffee break*

16:30 – 18:30 **WAVE General Assembly**

19:00 – 20:00 **Corinna Seith Award 2015**  
**Prize winners:** Alison Gregory, Fiona Vera Gray; **Attributed by:** Prof. Liz Kelly

*WAVE Group Picture*

**21:00** **Celebration "WAVE's Collective Power to Stop Violence!"**  
**Havana Den Haag** - Buitenhof 19, 2513 AG Den Haag

---

The WAVE Conference is sponsored by:



## ► WAVE Member List (As of December 2015)

1	Gender Alliance for Development Center (GADC)	Albania	57	Women's Wellness Centre	Kosovo
2	Human Rights in Democracy Center (HRDC)	Albania	58	Križu un Konsultāciju Centrs Skalbes	Latvia
3	Women's Association Refleksione	Albania	59	Frauenhaus Fürstentum Liechtenstein	Liechtenstein
4	Woman Forum Elbasan	Albania	60	Vilniaus Moterų namai - Intervention Centre	Lithuania
5	Women's Right Center	Armenia	61	Femmes en Detresse asbl	Luxembourg
6	Women's Support Center	Armenia	62	National Council for Gender Equality - NCGE	Macedonia
7	Austrian Women's Shelter Network - Information Centre against Violence AÖF	Austria	63	National Network to End Violence against Women and Domestic Violence - Voice against Violence	Macedonia
8	Network of Austrian Counseling Centres for Women and Girls	Austria	64	Commission on Domestic Violence	Malta
9	Domestic Abuse intervention Centre Vienna	Austria	65	Association Against Violence "Casa Marioarei"	Moldova
10	Clean World Social Union	Azerbaijan	66	Center for Support and Development of Civic Initiatives "Resonance"	Moldova
11	International Public Association "Gender Perspectives"	Belarus	67	Women's Law Centre	Moldova
12	Law Initiative - Commission on Women's Rights	Belarus	68	SOS Hotline for Women and Children Victims of Violence Niksic	Montenegro
13	Collectif contre les Violences Familiales et l'Exclusion (CVFE)	Belgium	69	Federatie Opvang	Netherlands
14	Department of Health and Welfare, Violence Victims and Policy Coordination - Province of Antwerp	Belgium	70	MOVISIE	Netherlands
15	Garance ASBL	Belgium	71	Secretariat of the Shelter Movement	Norway
16	Steunpunt Algemeen Welzijnswerk	Belgium	72	Centrum Praw Kobiet	Poland
17	Foundation United Women Banja Luka	Bosnia and Herzegovina	73	AMCV- Associação de Mulheres Contra a Violência	Portugal
18	Medica Zenica Information	Bosnia and Herzegovina	74	A.L.E.G Association for Liberty and Equality of Gender	Romania
19	Bulgarian Gender research Foundation	Bulgaria	75	ANAIS Association	Romania
20	Nadja Centre	Bulgaria	76	Artemis Counselling Centre against Sexual Abuse	Romania
21	Autonomous Women's House Zagreb	Croatia	77	CPE - Center Partnership and Equality	Romania
22	B.a.Be., Be active. Be emancipated.	Croatia	78	ANNA - National Center for Prevention of Violence	Russia
23	Women's Room - Center for Sexual Rights	Croatia	79	Crisis Centre Ekaterina	Russia
24	Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS)	Cyprus	80	Autonomous Women's Center (AWC)	Serbia
25	Association of Women's support service Living (KAYAD)	Cyprus	81	Association Fenomena / SOS Kraljevo	Serbia
26	proFem - Central European Consulting Centre	Czech Republic	82	Alliance of women in Slovakia	Slovakia
27	ROSA - Centre for Battered and Lonely Women	Czech Republic	83	FENESTRA - Interest Association of Women	Slovakia
28	Kvinnuhusid	Denmark	84	Pro Familia Foundation	Slovakia
29	L.O.K.K- National Organisation of Women's Shelters in Denmark	Denmark	85	Association SOS Helpline for Women and Children	Slovenia
30	Estonian Women's Shelters Union	Estonia	86	Asociación de Mujeres Valdés Siglo XXI	Spain
31	Tartu Child Support Center	Estonia	87	Fundación para la Convivencia ASPACIA	Spain
32	Women's Shelter of Tartu	Estonia	88	Centro de Asistencia a Víctimas de Agresiones Sexuales - CAVAS	Spain
33	Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters	Finland	89	Directorate General for Gender-Based Violence, Youth Affairs and Juvenile Crime	Spain
34	Women's line Finland	Finland	90	Hèlia - Associació de suport a les dones que pateixen violència de gènere	Spain
35	Fédération Nationale Solidarité Femmes-FNSF	France	91	Oficina de Gestión, Preparación y Supervisión de Programas Europeos. Fundación para la Atención e Incorporación Social (FADAIS). Consejería para la Igualdad y Bienestar Social	Spain
36	Cultural-Humanitarian Fund "Sukhumi"	Georgia	92	Plataforma Unitaria contra les Violències de Gènere	Spain
37	Sakhli - Advice Center for Women	Georgia	93	Roks - National Organisation for Women's and Girls' Shelters in Sweden	Sweden
38	Women's Information Center (WIC)	Georgia	94	UNIZON	Sweden
39	Anti-Violence Network of Georgia	Georgia	95	Dachorganisation der Frauenhäuser der Schweiz und Liechtenstein	Switzerland
40	BIG e.V. - Berliner Interventionsprojekt gegen häusliche Gewalt	Germany	96	Frauenhaus Biel	Switzerland
41	Frauenhauskoordinierung e.V.	Germany	97	Vivre sans Violence	Switzerland
42	Geschäftsstelle des Bundesverbandes Frauenberatungsstellen und Frauennotrufe - Frauen gegen Gewalt e.V.	Germany	98	Kadin Dayanisma Vakfi - The Foundation for Women's Solidarity	Turkey
43	GESINE-Netzwerk Gesundheit.EN	Germany	99	Mor Çati - Women Shelter's Foundation	Turkey
44	KOFRA - Kommunikationszentrum für Frauen zur Arbeits- und Lebenssituation	Germany	100	International Women's Rights Center La Strada - Ukraine	Ukraine
45	PAPATYA - Kriseneinrichtung für Junge Migrantinnen	Germany	101	Sumy Local Crisis Center (SLCC)	Ukraine
46	ZIF- Zentrale Informationsstelle der autonomen Frauenhäuser des BRD	Germany	102	Women's Information Consultative Center	Ukraine
47	European Anti-Violence Network	Greece	103	Haven Wolverhampton	UK
48	NaNE-Women's Rights association	Hungary	104	IMKAAN	UK
49	Stigamot - Counseling and Information Centre on Sexual Violence	Iceland	105	REFUGE	UK
50	Women's Shelter Organization in Iceland	Iceland	106	Scottish Women's Aid	UK
51	Sexual Violence Centre Cork	Ireland	107	Welsh Women's Aid	UK
52	Rape Crisis Network Ireland	Ireland	108	Women's Aid Federation of England	UK
53	Safe Ireland	Ireland	109	Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland	UK
54	Women's Aid Ireland	Ireland	110	WWA - Aberystwyth Women's Aid	UK
55	Associazione Nazionale D.i.Re contro la Violenza- D.i.R.e Women's network against violence	Italy	111	Prof. Carol Hagemann-White (Honorary Member)	Germany
56	Associazione Nazionale Volontarie Telefono Rosa-Onlus	Italy	112	Dr. Marceline Naudi (Individual Member)	Malta







