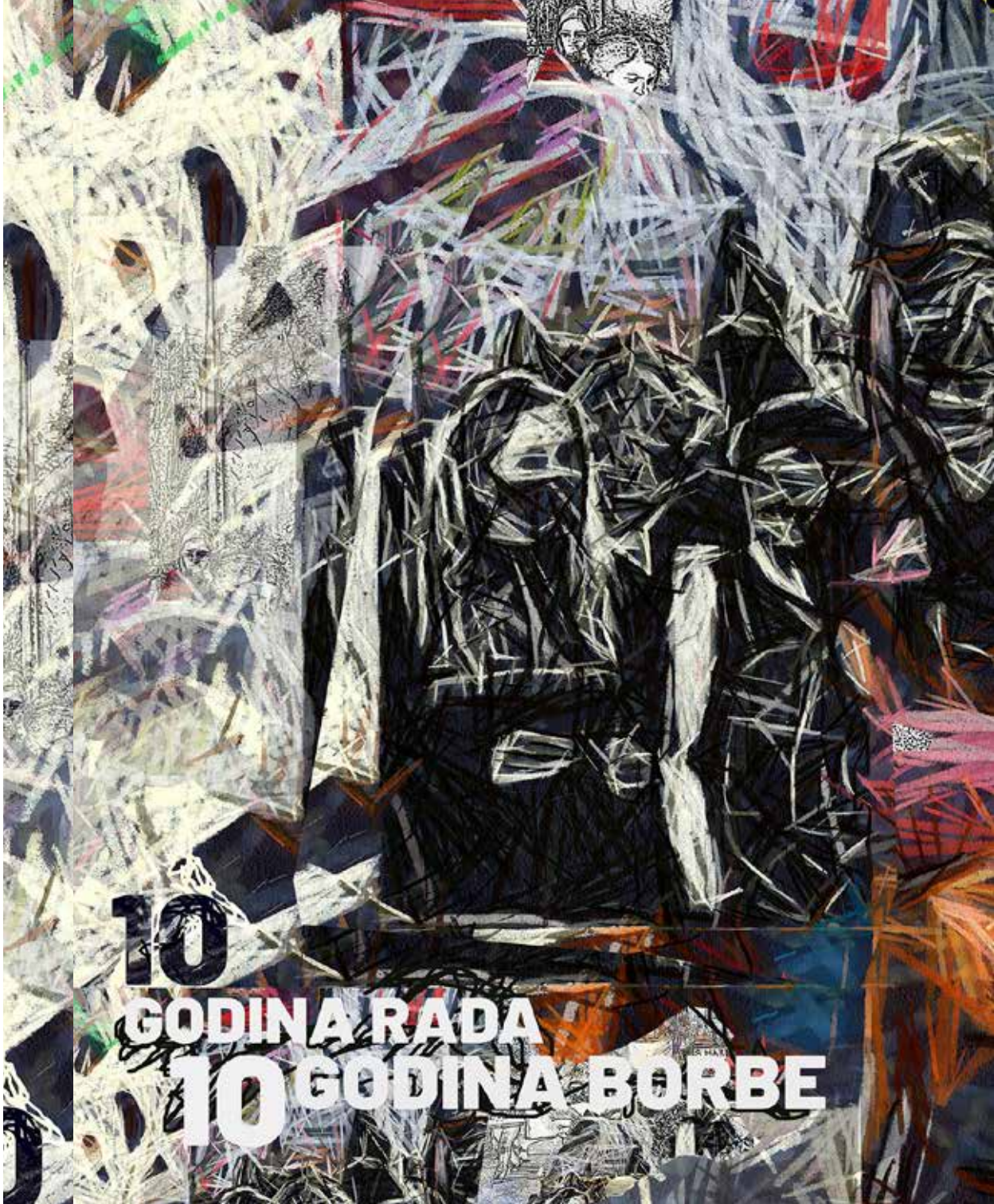


**CENTAR ZA ŽENSKA PRAVA
WOMEN'S RIGHTS CENTER**

.....
**10 YEARS OF WORK
2012 - 2022**

AUTORKA:
TANJA MARKUŠ



10

GODINA RADA

10 GODINA BORBE



About us

NGO 'Women's Rights Center' (WRC), based in Podgorica, was founded in 2012, on the basis of the founders' long-term experience in providing support to women victims of domestic violence and other violations of women's human rights.

goals

- Promotion of women's human rights and gender equality;
- Empowering women survivors of family violence / partner violence through counselling, psychological and legal support;
- Connecting with other organizations / institutions dealing with protection and promotion of women's human rights.

programs

ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Advocacy and monitoring implementation of policies in the field of gender equality and women's human rights;

SUPPORT SERVICES FOR WOMEN WHO EXPERIENCED GENDER BASED VIOLENCE PROGRAM

Initial counselling and support of the women's advocates;
Representation before institutions and free legal support;
Psychological counselling.

CULTURE PROGRAM

Cultural, artistic and educational activities with the aim of promoting feminist and anti-fascist principles and encouraging activism through creative work.

mission

Women's Rights Center is a non-profit, non-party aligned, non-religious organization that fights for the suppression of all forms of violence against women and their access to justice, developing gender equitable democratic practices and cooperation with all relevant domestic and international actors in Montenegro.

vision

**GENDER
EQUALITY,
ACCESS TO
JUSTICE AND
SOCIETY WITHOUT
VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN
– OUR REALITY**



10 YEARS OF WORK

Women's Rights Center devoted the first ten years of work to the fight for a just society that respects human rights and the principles of gender equality. Through programs of support services, public advocacy, and culture, we work to empower women in Montenegro by increasing the availability of missing specialized services for victims of gender-based violence and discrimination.

From more than a thousand testimonies of women who turned to us for help, we learned that this struggle has many faces, but the cause is always the same - the denial of women's equal position in society, which is reflected in all spheres of private and public life: from the preference of male children, different upbringing of boys and girls, unequal division of domestic work, to the tolerance of sexism, violence against women and economic and social marginalization of women.

Despite enormous efforts to establish the flaws of the support system, improve the legal framework and practice, educate representatives of institutions about their obligations, and raise social awareness of this problem, we keep witnessing the problems of victims in communication with institutions that are obliged to provide them with protection. "Go home, he'll calm down. "It's your fault, you provoked him" should no longer be the answer to the request for protection of the basic human right to a safe life. The number of femicides in recent years is, unfortunately, an obvious answer to the question of what happens when the official position of the state is based on prejudice, laziness, and ignorance. That is why we are trying to

10 YEARS OF RESISTANCE

ensure that the state and its institutions are committed to professionally solving this problem, based on understanding and respecting the authentic experiences and needs of women and with a proper understanding of the historical inequality due to which women, especially those from marginalized communities, are incomparably more exposed to discrimination, violence, but also poverty.

Inspired by the legacy of the Women's Anti-Fascist Front (AFŽ), aware of the enormous sacrifice they made to make us free and equal and to bring us out of poverty, we preserve and spread their values in the conditions of gender and class inequality and the ever-present nationalism, clericalism, and revisionism. We connect with local and international activists and organizations and together fight for social change.

The 10th anniversary of the *Center* is the best opportunity to thank the users of our services for their courage and perseverance in the fight for justice. Your honesty and trust are our motivation not to give up the fight for your rights and ours, as well as the rights of those to come. We also thank all associates and activists for their commitment to the common goal. Our movement is comprised of all those who want to help others find the place they want and deserve in society, regardless of nation, religion, or gender.

We fight for it every day!

WRC team



DOSTA!

DOSTA!

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DOSTA!

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DOSTA!



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DOSTA!

SUPPORT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

INITIAL COUNSELLING

we provide information, examine beneficiaries' needs and create a support plan.

PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING

the counseling aims at the beneficiary's faster and better psychological recovery, "regaining control" over her life and continuing her development path carefree.

LEGAL AID

we provide general legal information on protection from violence, realization of social and economic rights; we prepare legal applications, initiate proceedings, legally represent the cause more efficient access to justice.

ASSISTANCE OF CONFIDENTIAL PERSON

a trusted person who accompanies the beneficiary through all procedures related to violence that take place before institutions.

Ana Jaredić, psychologist,
Support Services Program Coordinator

The Support Services team aids women who have experienced violence or other forms of gender discrimination, in their decision to live without violence, helping them to rehabilitate its psychological consequences and exercise their legal rights.



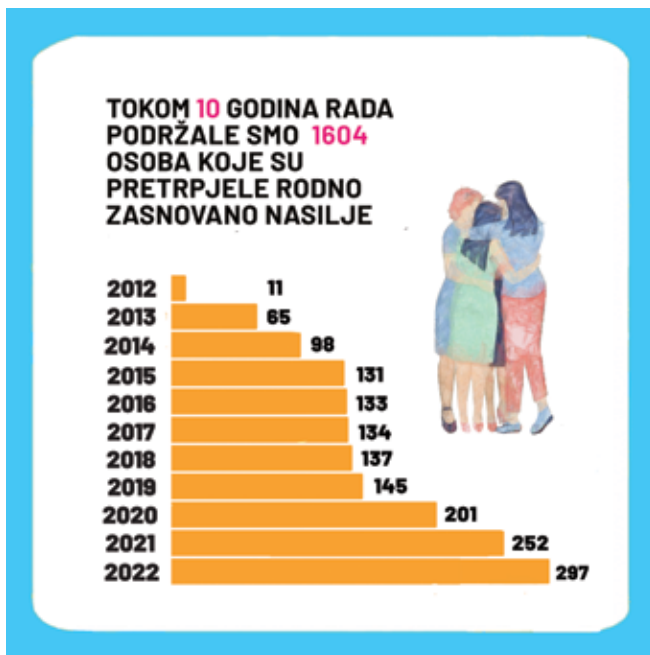
We know that it is difficult and embarrassing to talk about the violence suffered. That is why we guarantee that all data and experiences communicated to us are confidential and kept secret. Our team, which consists of psychologist, social workers and lawyers, has many years of experience in providing help to women who have survived violence. We approach women who turn to us for help without doubting the truth of what they entrust to us, without criticism, and of course, inappropriate questions. When the client decides to report the abuser to the police or initiate court proceedings, we support her throughout the entire procedure.

WORKING PRINCIPLES:
CONFIDENTIALITY
SAFETY
POVJERENJE
RESPECT
REAGOVANJE

During contact with the police and other competent institutions, we mediate communication in order to ease the burden of administrative procedures and enable women to focus on repairing both emotional and physical injuries. Part of our team are lawyers who are committed to fighting for women to have access to justice. All services of the Center are free of charge.

Ten years of experience show us that this type of comprehensive support, in addition to significantly increasing the success in exercising rights and access to justice, gives our users the strength to persevere in the proceedings and to go through them with as little retraumatization as possible.

We want to encourage all women who suffer violence to find the strength to build a better life. It is important to know is that they are not to blame for the violence they suffer, that they neither caused it nor deserved it. Anyone can be a victim of violence, regardless of age, level of education or any other factors. The perpetrator is always the guilty one, whether it is a stranger, partner, close friend or family member. At the root of violence lie power and control, and awareness of equality, which stands against them, is key to breaking free from their patterns. It is also important that a woman is aware that she is not alone and that there are people who are ready to help her regain her faith that she is unique and brave and that she deserves to live peacefully, without the shadow of threats and violence.



Experiences of beneficiaries

anonymous responses of the support service beneficiaries to questions about the problems they face in realizing the right to a life without violence and about the quality of the provided assistance

It gives a sense of security and support in the face of a system that is still very inclined to patriarchy.

I always feel better after psychotherapy because I know that someone trusts me and that there is a solution, that I am not alone and that my situation is not permanent. For the first time, with professional help, we really reached out and raised awareness of the traumatized part of my personality, with me becoming increasingly responsive to cooperation because I have always been heard and advised.

I want to express gratefulness on behalf of all women deprived of voice for remembering to ask these questions. I am not a woman who kneels down, I am not the one without a voice, but I have been hurt for so long by the attitude and work of SWC that I wanted to continue my education in that direction so that I could help someone else tomorrow. Because this is a country where the police still only talks to the perpetrator, which only considers physical violence, in which reports are still written completely unverified, based only on someone's falsehood, guided by those who lie better, those who have deeper pocket and more connections. A state that marginalized the family because it allowed people to get married and divorce so easily, leaving children without psychological and other support, mothers who have to play fathers and psychologists, who have to justify those tears even when they cry in front of their children, because In addition, the mother must be strong, must not feel the burden she carries on her shoulders, in order to preserve the psycho-emotional health of children and contribute to their healthy life not only now, but also tomorrow, because you need to see them in the role of husband or wife , to be someone's husband tomorrow, a father, not a broken figure who carries frustrations with him all his life. That's where we need you, my dear State. And to help moms get hired. There are educated, hardworking women, who want to work, who are capable, but in this country no one recognizes the needs of these women...Let's hope for change. Who knows, maybe one day I'll be somehow involved in changing the rules of the game.



WOMEN'S RIGHTS CENTER
CENTAR ZA ŽENSKA PRAVA

OBLICI POMOĆI ŽRTVAMA RODNO ZASNOVANOG NASILJA I DISKRIMINACIJE TOKOM 10 GODINA RADA



TELEFONSKE KONSULTACIJE 14222
SAVJETOVALIŠTE 2923

- PRAVNA POMOĆ 4235
- PSIHOLIŠKO SAVJETOVANJE 1249
- MEDIJACIJA U KONTAKTU SA INSTITUCIJAMA 956
- PRATNJA POVJERLJIVOG LICA 302

Without knowing the laws, people often make mistakes in their actions. In a state where women and children have not yet received the status and protection they deserve, experienced legal advice is more than desirable. And that's something that people in these organizations are definitely trying to change.

I felt a great relief, first of all, when I was told that I could come back whenever I felt the need to talk. It made me feel relaxed, I didn't look at my watch to count how many minutes I had left and whether I had told everything I had in mind and, whether I had forgot something important, etc."



WOMEN'S RIGHTS CENTER
CENTAR ZA ŽENSKA PRAVA



PRAVNA POMOĆ ŽRTVAMA RODNO ZASNOVANOG NASILJA I DISKRIMINACIJE TOKOM 10 GODINA RADA



PRAVNI
PODNESCI
762

ZASTUPANJE
PRED SUDOM
1366

PRAVNI
SAVJETI
1958

The confidential person always went with me both to trials and to the Police directorate to file charges, when I was insecure or afraid to be there alone. In those moments, I had the real and sincere support to overcome all that much easier and more confidently.

ADVOCACY

ADVOCATING AND MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES IN THE FIELD OF GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

Women's rights advocacy is a precondition for the progress of society. It is particularly important in the light of current trends of erasing the history of women's struggles, of rising clericalism and capitalism that force us to fight again our old battles - for personal and political freedom, for the right to a dignified work and working conditions, for the right to access justice, for sexual and reproductive rights.



We, at the Women's Rights Center, see women's rights advocacy as an opportunity to transform unequal power relations in society.

That is why we need to recognize and understand the different injustices that arise from discrimination based on multiple layers of identity, such as race, class, sexuality, disability, age, gender identity, and other forms of inequality that shape each woman's individual experience.

Those individual experiences of women to whom we talk almost every day are what motivate, inform and initiate our public advocacy - protests, reactions, reports, policy proposals, campaigns, and trainings. Their experiences are complex, they often experience violence in partner relationships and family, society, and state institutions, and endure discrimination in the workplace that restricts their plans for family life and parenthood, making it hard to escape poverty. They also tell us about the multiple burdens of child care, care for family and the elderly, about the hate speech directed against those women who step into public space and politics... These are the problems we hear about, we also live with many of them and we think about their causes and consequences when we look for and create solutions. Even though these shared experiences are at the heart of our advocacy actions, they also tell us about the enormous strength and transformative power of women united in movements and alliances. With that idea in mind, we joined together and launched numerous collective actions for the benefit of everyone who experiences inequality, not just the selected groups. That is why you



can see us at the civic protests, the protests of “mothers”, and of workers, but also in the Parliament, in the media, in schools, and among institutions, at the meetings with the decision makers, in the working groups and before international bodies for the protection of human rights. All these actions form the basis of our advocacy program aimed to overcome inequality and contribute the social progress.

Maja Raičević,
Executive Director/
Advocacy Program
Coordinator until 2022.

Advocacy

REPRESENTATION OF GENDER EQUALITY IN THE PROCESS OF THE EU INTEGRATION

WRC actively participates in the process of EU integration, through contacts and cooperation with European and national institutions. We regularly contribute to the reports of the European Commission and the European Parliament on Montenegro, and we also prepare gender analyses, shadow reports on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Universal Periodic Report, Istanbul Convention, etc.

Result: Achievements in this field include greater representation of women's human rights in the EU, UN, and CoE reports and provide recommendations for improving gender equality and the position of women in Montenegro.

1. INITIATIVE FOR HARMONIZATION OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK WITH THE EUROPEAN WORK-LIFE BALANCE DIRECTIVE (2021)

Directive 2019/1158 on the Work-Life Balance for parents and carers is a part of the European Union's long-term effort to ensure a balance between work and family life, but also between the roles of women and men in the private sphere of life. The Women's Rights Center has prepared an analysis and recommendations on the transposition of this Directive into Montenegrin legislation, primarily to the Labour Law and the Law on Social and Child Protection.

Result: In 2021, the analysis with recommendations was submitted to all relevant stakeholders, including the Working Group for Amending the Labour Law.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN

1. PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT OF APPLICABLE LAW ON ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS AND MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT TO PROVIDE HIGHER INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN THE POLITICAL LIFE OF MONTENEGRO

We started this initiative in 2013 when a Proposal for amendments to the Law on the Election of Councillors and Members of the Parliament was sent to the President of the Parliament, the Working Group for Building Confidence in the Electoral Process, the presidents of the parliamentary political parties and MPs; We participated at the session of the Work-

ing Group for Building Confidence in the Electoral Process; in the work of the Parliamentary Committee for Political System, the Judiciary and the Administration; in the work of the parliamentary Committee on Gender Equality; we held the Press Conference on amendments to the Law on Election of Councillors and Members of the Parliament; issued press releases, participated in multiple TV programs. The initiative was supported by 17 non-governmental organizations and 2 political parties, namely, the SNP and the Bosniak Party. We repeated the requests in 2013, and then in 2020, when we proposed an additional increase in quotas for women, that is, the less represented gender.

Result: An amendment was adopted, whereby one of the four seats on the electoral lists was assigned to the less represented gender - women. This quota increased the participation of women in the work of the Parliament of Montenegro from 15% to the current 27%. The initiative promoted the obligation of greater political participation of women.

2. INITIATIVE TO CHANGE THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO (2020)

WRC proposed amendments to the Parliament's Rules of Procedure, demanding the minimum representation of persons of the less represented gender to be ensured in the composition of parliamentary bodies and delegations, as well as in the election and appointments of the vice-presidents of the Parliament and the presidents of parliamentary bodies.

Result: the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Montenegro was amended and one vice-presidential post was assigned to women (the less represented gender). A woman (MP Branka Bosnjak) was elected to be a Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro.

3. THE INITIATIVE TO ADOPT QUOTAS IN THE LAW ON GOVERNMENT

WRC proposed amendments to the Draft Law on the Government of Montenegro that guarantee 40 % quotas for the less represented gender, similar to those which already exist in the election law.

The Law on Government should also establish protective mechanisms that would ensure the application of the quota for the less represented gender.

According to the proposal, the principle of gender equality would be a legal obligation and not merely a discretion of the Prime Minister Designate.

Result: Proposal sent to the Working Group for Drafting the Law on Government and to the Ministry of Public Administration.

4. SUPPORT TO THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF THE PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO

The Women's Rights Center supported the formal ceremony of the establishment of the Women's Club in the Parliament of Montenegro, organized on March 5, 2021.

"In a time of division, increased social tensions, in a time of dealing with the economic, health and social consequences of the pandemic, the establishment of the Women's Club sends a strong message of solidarity and unity, it gives an example of how different political actors can join together to create a better social environment for the realization of participatory democracy and equality – in the creation of a parliament that will be a truly representative house of all our citizens." (from the speech of the WRC director)

FIGHTING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

1. ADVOCATING FOR THE RATIFICATION AND HARMONIZATION OF NATIONAL LAWS AND POLICIES WITH THE COE CONVENTION ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

During this multi-year initiative, we organized various activities: public campaigns, a training program created for the judiciary and other institutions involved in the implementation of the Convention, conferences, lectures, media appearances, monitoring reports of non-governmental organizations on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and communication with the GREVIO –the expert body that monitors implementation of the Convention, we participated in several working groups for the adoption of relevant laws and policies, such as the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, the Criminal Code of Montenegro, the Family Law, etc. In cooperation with the Supreme Court and the Petrovic Njegos Foundation, we organized the first National Conference on the Istanbul Convention, where its standards and content were presented to 120 representatives of the judiciary, law enforcement, and social welfare.

Results:

- The provisions of the Criminal Code of Montenegro are largely harmonized with the Istanbul Convention; new criminal offenses have been introduced that sanction the forms of violence defined by the Convention, including the misuse of someone else's video, photograph, portrait, audio recording or writing with sexually explicit content; sexual harassment, a changed definition of rape based on the absence of the victim's consent instead of the use of force, expanded definition of family members and family violence, harsher

penalties for domestic violence and crimes against sexual freedom, introduced protective measures in criminal proceedings etc. (2017, 2022)

- The Family Law was amended and prohibited mediation in cases of domestic violence (2015)
- The Proposal of Amendments to the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence was drafted and distributed to the WG members (2022)
- The Proposal of Amendments to the Law on Compensation for Victims of Violent Crimes was drafted and sent to the Ministry of Justice (2016)
- Comments submitted on several strategic documents, protocols, and regulations related to the protection of women and children from violence, including the Instructions for Prosecutors;
- Several monitoring reports, informative brochures for the protection of victims' rights, and analysis of criminal policies were created etc.

IMPROVING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC POSITION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

1. INITIATIVE FOR THE FORMATION OF AN ALIMONY FUND (2021)

Faced with the long-standing problem of poverty of children whose parents do not pay child support and thereby neglect their basic existential needs, we launched the Initiative for the establishment of the Alimony Fund, which we further elaborated by drafting the Draft Law on Temporary Child Support by which the state undertakes the obligation to regularly pay alimony to those children whose parents do not respect this obligation. Women's Rights Center sent the draft to the Women's Club of the Parliament of Montenegro, which became our partner in advocating the adoption of this law. We presented the first draft at the Round Table held on October 15, 2021, in the Parliament of Montenegro, and then continued the media campaign and advocacy activities. Result: The Parliament of Montenegro adopted the law in July 2022, and it entered into force on November 1, 2022. The initiative was financially supported by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

2. INITIATIVE TO INTRODUCE SOCIAL HOUSING AS A SUPPORT SERVICE FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE (2022)

The initiative resulted in the Cooperation Agreement signed between the Capital City - Secretariat for Social Welfare and the WRC granting a housing unit for temporary accommodation for victims of domestic violence.

Monitoring and reporting on gender equality and women's rights

Since the beginning of its work, the Women's Rights Center (WRC) has been monitoring the implementation of policies related to women's rights, which are the basis for our reporting and making recommendations for improving the position of women in our country. The process of monitoring the application of international standards for the promotion and protection of women's rights includes regular communication with the relevant bodies of the United Nations (UN CEDAW Committee, UN Committee for Social, Economic and Cultural Rights, UPR), the Council of Europe (GREVIO, GRETA), as well as with the European institutions involved in the process of Montenegro's accession to the European Union, primarily the European Commission and the European Parliament. The result of the reporting is the relevant recommendations of international bodies and the increased inclusion of gender perspective in the reports of the European Commission on Montenegro. In addition to the reporting, during its ten-year work, the WRC submitted dozens of comments, suggestions, and recommendations for the improvement and introduction of a gender perspective in national policies.

We have selected some of the key processes of reporting on the position and rights of women, which we have carried out in the past 10 years:

JOINT NGO MONITORING OVER THE APPLICATION OF LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK ON PROTECTION FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In partnership with the American organization Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights and SOS Telephone Nikšić, we conducted the monitoring in 2015, when we visited 6 cities and realized 60 interviews with civil servants, police, judges, prosecutors, health workers, SWC, mediators and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Follow-up interviews were conducted in 2016 and 2017. The result is a comprehensive report that reveals some good practices and initiatives, but also a lack of knowledge, harmful attitudes, and shortcomings in the responses of all actors of the system.

REPORTING ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NGO COALITION FOR MONITORING CHAPTER 23

In 2013, within the Coalition of NGOs for Monitoring Negotiations with the European Union - Chapter 23, the WRC created and edited a part of the Coalition's report related to women's rights and gender equality. Result: 3 semi-annual reports were presented and 3 media conferences were held. These reports provided an assessment of Montenegro's achievements following the recommendations of the European Commission (October 2012) and were submitted to the Montenegrin Government, relevant institutions, and the European Commission (EC).

We continued reporting independently, through a three-year membership in the Working Group for Chapter 23 (2019-2022).

REPORTING ON THE RESULTS OF MONITORING THE APPLICATION OF LOCAL POLICIES FOR PROTECTION AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The report was prepared as part of the regional EU project "Joined efforts -Towards new European standards in the protection of women from gender-based violence" which was led by the Autonomous Women's Center from Belgrade, and in which the WRC participated as part of a coalition of 27 partner organizations from the region.

REPORTING ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UPR COALITION

WRC participated in 2 reporting cycles of the coalition of non-governmental organizations for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The UPR is a unique mechanism of the Human Rights Council (HRC) of the United Nations (UN), which aims to improve the human rights situation in each of the 193 UN member states. As part of the NGO Coalition, 2 half-yearly reports were prepared, which we presented at media conferences.

The third cycle of reporting is in progress, for which we have prepared an independent report on the implementation of the previous recommendations of the member states related to women's rights and gender equality. We will present the report at the preparatory session of the UN in Geneva in April 2023.

REPORTING ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF EU INTEGRATION

WRC regularly submits monitoring reports to European institutions and holds annual meetings with DG NEAR, representatives of the European Parliament and members of the EU Delegation - PCSA (Parliamentary Committee for Stabilization and Association), representatives of the Directorate General for Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament, with the support of the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation.

Result: Reports on Montenegro as well as Resolutions of the European Parliament for Montenegro are increasingly gender mainstreamed and include more recommendations for improving the position of women and marginalized groups.

REPORTING TO THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (CESCR)

Within the NGO Coalition WRC was involved in preparing a shadow report for the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). Result: The shadow report was submitted and the recommendations addressed to the state were in line with our conclusions.

REPORTING ON THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN VICTIMS AND WITNESSES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN MONTENEGRO

The report on monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the prevention and suppression of violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) and the UN Guidelines on judicial issues involving children victims and witnesses of crimes was created in 2018 with the financial support of UNICEF, as part of the project: "Protection of women and children from domestic violence: Towards an improved institutional response".

SHADOW REPORTING TO THE GREVIO COMMITTEE

WRC in cooperation with partner organizations (Women's Safe House, SOS Nikšić, SOS Podgorica) produced the first Shadow report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on the prevention and suppression of

violence against women and domestic violence in Montenegro. In preparing the report, the organizations relied on their own experience in providing support to women and children victims of domestic violence and the information they collected during the regular monitoring of women and children in the procedures and actions conducted before Montenegrin institutions after reporting violence. The results of the reporting are legally binding recommendations sent to Montenegro in 2018 by GREVIO - an expert body that monitors the implementation of the Convention, which largely reflect the findings of the NGO report.

SHADOW REPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION OF WOMEN (CEDAW)

WRC has so far produced 2 shadow reports that we presented to the CEDAW Committee in 2017 and 2022. The results of the reporting are the recommendations of the CEDAW Committee to Montenegro that reflect the situation from our report, primarily in the area of violence against women, selective abortions, and other discriminatory practices, with a specific focus on the vulnerable position of single mothers and their children, as well as women from marginalized groups.

MONITORING OF NATIONAL POLICIES FOR COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN BIH, MACEDONIA, SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO BASED ON A SPECIALLY DESIGNED MONITORING SYSTEM

To improve the position and rights of victims of human trafficking, the WRC prepared 2 monitoring reports, as part of the activities of the regional projects BAN II and BAN III, which were financed by the European Commission, and implemented by the NGO ASTRA in partnership with organizations from the region, among which the WRC. A working group composed of representatives of competent authorities and the non-governmental sector was formed for their preparation. The first report *Monitoring and evaluation of laws and policies to combat human trafficking and their implementation in Montenegro in 2014 and 2015* indicates certain tendencies in judicial practice that arise due to deficiencies in the domestic legislative framework and inconsistent application of existing legal solutions and obstacles in terms of proper assessment and understanding of the position of victims of human trafficking during criminal investigations, as well as in court proceedings.

Monitoring and evaluation of policies to combat human trafficking in Montenegro: for the period 2018 - 2020, includes all recorded cases of human trafficking as well as those dismissed or reclassified as another criminal offense. The report deals with the law and the national legal framework for the criminalization of human trafficking, the identification and protection of victims. The analysis indicated the need to find a more concrete answer to the observed problems, especially in the area of support for victims and the realization of their rights.

REPORTING ON THE SATISFACTION OF WOMEN WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITH SERVICES PROVIDED BY CENTERS FOR SOCIAL WORK AND SPECIALIZED NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

2 reports were made based on the research we conducted in 2020 and 2021 as part of the regional project Institutionalization of quality rehabilitation and integration services for victims of violence, financially supported by the Austrian Development Agency.

ANALYSIS OF PENAL POLICY IN CRIMINAL AND MISDEMEANOR CASES IN THE FIELD OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The analysis is the result of cooperation between the Council of Europe and the WRC, and was created within the framework of the Council of Europe and the European Union project "The fight against abuse and impunity and the improvement of the implementation of the practice of the European Court of Human Rights at the national level", as part of the program framework of the European Union and of the Council of Europe "Horizontal Instrument for the Western Balkans and Turkey" (Horizontal Instrument)

REPORTING ON GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION IN LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT IN MONTENEGRO

In the period from 2018-2022, the WRC produced two reports on gender-based discrimination in the field of labor and employment in Montenegro, as part of the regional project "Strengthening civil society organizations in the fight against discrimination and strengthening women's labor rights" which we implemented in cooperation with partner organizations

from Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Macedonia and Serbia, with financial support from the EU. The report deals with the problem of gender discrimination in the field of labor and employment through the analysis of the legal framework, their harmonization with the EU acquis in the field of gender equality; examines the prevalence and nature of discrimination as well as the response of institutions in cases of discrimination and offers recommendations for combating this problem. The first version of the report was published in 2019, while the second report was presented in 2022.

The coalition of women's NGOs led by the Kosovo Women's Network has also produced 2 regional reports on gender-based discrimination in the field of work in the Western Balkans. According to the report, institutions do not collect adequately gender-disaggregated data on reported cases, labor inspectors do not have a sufficient level of knowledge about this problem in the entire region, and only a small number of institutions have experience in treating cases of gender-based discrimination at work. Regional monitoring reports were successfully presented in Brussels to representatives of European institutions, the media, and the civil sector.

GENDER ANALYSIS OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 2020

This study offers a brief analysis of the representation of women in the parliamentary elections in Montenegro in 2020, as well as an overview of the implementation of electoral gender quotas and their effects on the parliamentary representation of women. It was created as part of the activities of the regional project "Improving gender equality in the EU accession process", financed by the European Union, and co-financed by Sweden.

GENDER ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN MONTENEGRO

Another gender analysis, created in 2022 as part of the same regional project, aims to contribute to the reform of public administration. It puts focus on the specific needs of women and men - especially those from poor and marginalized communities and aims to ensure that public policies, investments and services are responsive, inclusive, efficient, and transparent.

The mentioned reports are available on the website of the Women's Rights Centre: <https://womensrightscenter.org/category/publikacije/>

Trainings and educational programs

INSTITUTIONS

Women's Rights Center has transferred its knowledge and many years of practice in providing direct support to women with experience of gender-based violence and discrimination into numerous lectures, forums and educational programs, intending to improve the institutional response to gender discrimination and violence against women and children. We initiated and organized the first trainings on the standards of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) and the standards of The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the result of which was the establishment of regular annual programs for the judiciary and the direct application of these standards in prosecutorial and court practice. We have cooperated with the Supreme Court of Montenegro, the Center for Training in Judiciary and Prosecution, the Offices of the Council of Europe, UNICEF, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights.

Over 600 judges, prosecutors, social workers, police and representatives of other institutions that deal with issues of gender-based violence and discrimination have participated in our trainings over 10 years.

Here are some of the most important:

TRAINING FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE PROTOCOL ON ACTING OF INSTITUTIONS IN CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (2012-2013)

We organized 4 trainings in Podgorica and Kotor, which were attended by over 40 representatives of centers for social work, police, justice and healthcare. The trainings are financially supported by the UNDP Office in Montenegro.

TRAINING FOR LAWYERS ON THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE (2013)

In cooperation with the Bar Association, we organized the first training for lawyers on representing women victims of violence. The training was at-

tended by 26 lawyers who had the opportunity to acquire basic knowledge about the problem of violence against women, the application of national legislation in the field of protecting women from violence, the standards of the Istanbul Convention and the practice of the European Court of Human Rights, through case studies. On that occasion, we created a Manual for lawyers on representing women victims of violence.

The trainings are part of a project that we implemented in partnership with the Association of Judges of Montenegro, with the financial support of the U.S Embassy in Podgorica.

THE FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION (2014)

Immediately following the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, in cooperation with the Supreme Court and the Petrovic-Njegosh Foundation, we organized the first National Conference to promote the Convention and its legally binding standards. Over 120 representatives of the police, judiciary, prosecutor's office and centers for social work got acquainted for the first time with the key aspects of the Convention and the obligations of the state arising from it.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR JUDICIARY REPRESENTATIVES ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (2015)

WRC team designed an educational program for representatives of the judiciary on gender-based violence, according to which 6 trainings were held for over 100 representatives of the judiciary. In the same year, the program was adopted by the Coordinating Board of the Center for the Education of Judges and the Judicial Council, and included in the regular annual training of the judiciary. Today, the program is implemented by the Center for Education in the Judiciary and Prosecutor's Office in cooperation with the Women's Rights Center and other relevant actors. As a result of these trainings, judicial practice and the quality of cooperation with the judiciary in the field of gender-based violence were improved. To this date, 6 more trainings for over 100 representatives of the judiciary have been organized within this program.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND RISKS FOR CHILDREN - TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION (2017)

Women's Rights Center, with the support of UNICEF and the European Union, organized the conference "Domestic violence and risks to children - towards a comprehensive solution", with the aim of improving knowledge on the risks and the best models to protect children who are exposed to violence in the family environment. The conference was attended by around 120 professionals employed in the social protection system, judiciary, educational institutions (whose jurisdiction includes dealing with cases related to domestic violence, family relations, guardianship) as well as representatives of institutions that intervene in cases of domestic violence and programs for children exposed to violence, professionals who are trained to work with abusers, therapists, psychologists, pedagogues, NGOs that provide services to women who have suffered violence, advocates/children, lawyers, mediators.

The conference was followed by a two-day training session led by a renowned international expert, Mr. Landi Bancroft, a family relations specialist with decades of experience in work with DV perpetrators and their families (who has also worked as a clinical supervisor, custody evaluator, child abuse investigator, and forensic expert). Mr. Bancroft is the author of five books in this field, including the American bestseller on domestic violence "Why he does it" and co-author of the book "The Abuser as a Parent". About 30 representatives of institutions attended the training, including the court experts for the first time.

GENDER EQUALITY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN - CEDAW (2018)

In cooperation with the Judicial and Prosecution Training Center, we organized an expert meeting "Gender equality with special reference to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its practical implementation". We created a training program that was included in the regular annual training program for the judiciary. To this date, more than 60 representatives of the judiciary have been trained.

SUPPORT TO ASSISTANCE SERVICES FOR VICTIMS AND WITNESSES - PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID AND REFERRAL (2019)

Our practice proves that support for victims/witnesses is key to their protection during court proceedings and access to justice. Therefore, in cooperation with the Supreme Court of Montenegro, we organized the first training for support services for victims and witnesses, which were established at Montenegrin courts. The training is dedicated to the education of employees of the aforementioned services, to provide quality and effective support to victims of domestic violence, human trafficking and crimes against sexual freedom. The training was organized with the support of the European Union, within the regional project "Balkans Act NOW! - BAN III. The holder of the project is NGO ASTRA from Belgrade, and WRC is the partner organization for Montenegro.

SERIES OF ACCREDITED TRAININGS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN (2019)

We organized a series of 3 trainings accredited by the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs of Serbia and the Institute for Social and Child Protection of Montenegro, according to the certified program of the Autonomous Women's Center from Belgrade. Around 70 representatives of all institutions involved in the system of protection against violence against women and domestic violence passed the training, which was implemented in 3 modules:

1st module „Domestic violence and institutional protection“ - 21 representatives of relevant institutions have participated in this module. The topics discussed at the seminar included prevalent prejudices about partner and family violence, mechanisms of domestic violence, the consequences of psychological violence on victims, ideas about the characteristics of victims and abusers, the dynamics of domestic violence as well as the basic principles of work in the field of violence, the process of identifying and documenting cases of violence, assessment of the level of vulnerability of the victim and questions of competence and intervention of the relevant victims.

The 2nd module „Invisible witnesses and double victims: the connection between violence against women and child abuse“ - Thematic framework of the second training included methods of recognizing the risk of violence against women through child abuse, the connection between violence against wom-

en and child abuse and institutional intervention, child trust and maintenance of relationships with the parent to whom the child is not entrusted in cases of domestic violence. 25 participants passed the training.

The 3rd module „Assessment and management of security risks in the situation of violence in partner relationships and in the family“ was attended by 25 representatives of institutions. The training covered the experiences of the participants in the assessment and methods of systematic examination of security risks, security risks, as well as the risks that occur with low-intensity violence; in divorce and child custody processes; risks related to post-divorce parenting.

The training was carried out as part of the project “Stopping violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey: Applying the law, changing attitudes”, which is implemented by UNDP and UN WOMEN, with the financial support of the European Union, and in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and the Institute for Social and Children protection.

TRAINING IMPLEMENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (2021-2022)

During 2021 and 2022, in cooperation with the Council of Europe, we organized 4 trainings for lawyers and 2 trainings for the Services for the support of victims and witnesses of criminal acts, which were attended by over 100 lawyers and counselors of Montenegrin courts.

MULTI-SECTORAL RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND VIOLENCE IN THE FAMILY (2022)

During 2022, we held two two-day trainings for around 40 representatives of institutions that are included in the system of protection against violence. The trainings were implemented within the regional project “Institutionalization of quality rehabilitation and integration services for victims of violence”, which was financed by the Austrian Development Agency. The project is implemented in cooperation with five regional organizations, to improve conditions for quality rehabilitation and reintegration of women who have experienced violence.

CIVIL SOCIETY

WRC organized a large number of trainings and lectures for the civil sector, primarily non-governmental organizations dealing with human rights, students of the University of Montenegro, members of the Legal Clinic of the Faculty of Law in Podgorica, young people and high school students in several Montenegrin cities, through open public forums, lectures and panel discussions attended by hundreds of people. We also conducted trainings on violence for organizations for which it is not a primary topic, but which work with vulnerable categories, so they also encounter this issue.

Trainings on the topic of joint monitoring of the application of the law in the field of domestic violence enabled a joint professional NGO action of monitoring, reporting and providing recommendations for the improvement of protection against domestic violence in Montenegro, both in terms of the assessment of implementation and concerning future improvements in policy and legislation. To unite women's non-governmental organizations in reporting processes, the WRC organized seminars on reporting to the UN CEDAW Committee and the Expert Group of the Council of Europe for the prevention of violence against women and domestic violence (GREVIO).



Cooperation with institutions

MEMORANDUMS ON COOPERATION

The memorandum on cooperation with the Supreme Court of Montenegro was signed on March 7, 2016. The memorandum provides the possibility to implement the activities of monitoring the response of the judiciary to cases of domestic violence and violence against women and to organize a training program for the judiciary to improve the capacity of judges to implement the adopted standards for combating violence against women and domestic violence, especially the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention).

The memorandum on cooperation with the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights was signed in July 2016. It ensured cooperation and activities related to the monitoring and training of public officials on gender-based violence. The memorandum on cooperation with the Capital City was signed in 2022 to provide a new service - social housing for the beneficiaries of the Women's Rights Center. The Secretariat for Social Welfare of the Capital City provided a housing unit for social housing for the beneficiaries of the Women's Rights Center who survived domestic violence.

COOPERATION WITH THE PARLIAMENT PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF THE "WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT"

WRC representatives regularly participate in the work of the "Women's Parliament", an event organized annually by the President of the Parliamentary Committee for Gender Equality, where obstacles and methods of improving access to justice for victims of violence and achieving gender equality in our society are discussed. One of the previously adopted recommendations is the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

PARTICIPATION IN SESSIONS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE FOR GENDER EQUALITY

WRC representatives regularly participate in consultative sessions and control hearings organized by the Committee for Gender Equality, where they present the situation in Montenegro when it comes to women's rights,

such as: the political participation of women in Montenegro and the implementation of the National Strategy for Protection from Domestic Violence, WRC also continuously addresses detected failures of institutions in protecting women's rights, etc.

PARTICIPATION IN THE SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE FOR THE POLITICAL SYSTEM, JUDICIARY AND ADMINISTRATION

At the session held in 2014, the amendment of the Socialist People's Party (SNP) to the Draft Law on the Election of Councilors and Members of Parliament was discussed, which expresses the request of the WRC that on the electoral lists one of the 3 places belongs to the less represented gender, i.e. women, which is a way to ensure a minimum standard of 30% a woman in parliament.

PARTICIPATION IN THE SESSIONS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

The comments of the WRC on the Report of the European Parliament on the Report of the European Commission on Montenegro for the year 2021 were presented.

COOPERATION WITH THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF THE ASSEMBLY OF MONTENEGRO

WRC supported the formal ceremony of the establishment of the Women's Club in the Parliament of Montenegro, organized on March 5, 2021. In 2021, the WRC continued cooperation with Women's Club on the Initiative for the adoption of the law on temporary child support, which was successfully realized with the adoption of the related law in 2022.

WORKING GROUPS

Membership in working groups for the drafting of strategies for achieving gender equality (Ministry of Human and Minority Rights 2013, 2020)

Membership in the National Council for Gender Equality - a national body established to monitor the implementation of national gender equality poli-

cies and consider the most important issues concerning women in Montenegro (Ministry of Human and Minority Rights 2016)

Membership in the Commission for Monitoring the Implementation of the Action Plan for Gender Equality (Ministry of Human and Minority Rights 2013, 2022)

Participation in the Working Group for the drafting of the Strategy for Protection against Violence against Children (Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare 2015)

Membership in the Working Group for Chapter 23 (2019-2021)

Membership in the National Council for Monitoring the Istanbul Convention (Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare 2020)

Membership in the Working Group for the drafting of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention (Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare 2022)

Membership in the Working Group for drafting the Protocol on the behavior of institutions in cases of violence against women and domestic violence (Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare 2017)

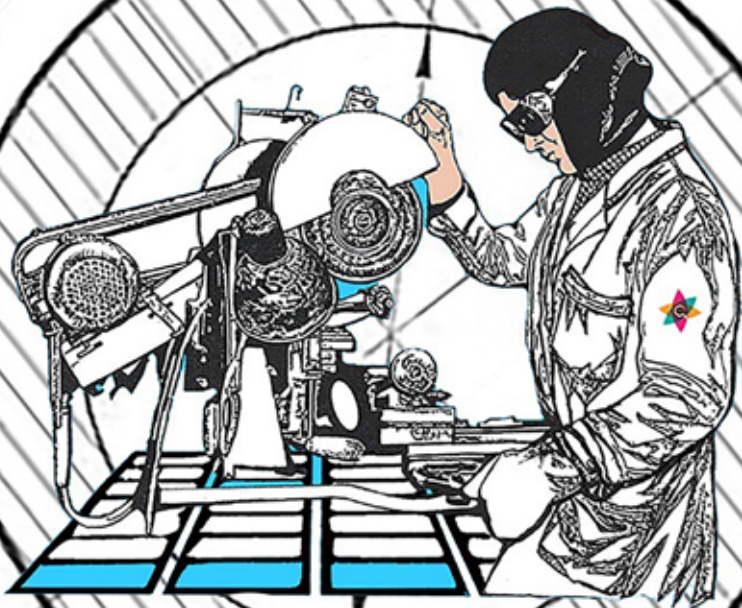
Membership in the Working Group for Amendments to the Criminal Code of Montenegro (Ministry of Justice 2021 -)

Membership in the Working Group for Amendments to the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence (Ministry of Justice 2021-)

Membership in the Operational Team for the fight against domestic violence and violence against women (Ministry of Internal Affairs 2018)

Membership in the National Team for the Identification of Victims of Human Trafficking (Ministry of the Interior 2020)

Membership in the Working Group for the drafting of the 2023-2024 Action Plan for the Implementation of National Strategy for Gender Equality (Ministry of Human and Minority Rights 2023).



ART
WORKSHOPS
THEORETICAL
WORKSHOPS
LECTURES
EXHIBITIONS
PROTESTS
FILM
SCREENINGS
DISCUSSIONS



The program connects artists and human rights activists from different professional areas in the joint fight against the non-culture of violence. Through artistic and educational activities, we criticize current discriminatory patterns and advocate the principles of feminism and anti-fascism.



The experience of almost two thousand women supported by the *Center* tells us that the legal system of our country still ignores violence against the “tender sex”. Even brutal murders of women did not convince state institutions to do their job. The legal system functions according to the principle of “power equals justice”, under the dictatorship of the patriarchy that keeps women at a decent distance from decision-making positions, but also from enjoying their basic rights.

On the other hand, our society is just as systematically kept at a decent distance from culture, turned into a fertile ground for the growth of violence and ignorance. Despite a large number of talented artists, the Montenegrin government does not invest in their professional development: excluded from the events on the art scene, without opportunities to present their work, and often without a space to work, a large number of artists focus their creativity on bare survival, giving up on artistic careers.



Our experience in the field of art shows that it is a powerful agent of change: Communicating with people of different genders, ages, and levels of education, art transcends the sense of national, religious, or ethnic affiliation and is therefore indispensable in social communication. By investing in its development, society sharpens perception, develops critical awareness,



JEDNAKE PLETE ZA ISTI RAD

and sees through phrases, procedural transparency, and false statements delivered from high positions. A society with a higher level of cultural literacy is less susceptible to manipulation and thus has more chances in choosing quality representatives of its rights.

We gather young artists who are also affected by the suffering of women, to jointly resist the brutality pushed under the carpets of institutions. Learning from the National Liberation Struggle how artists and revolutionaries united in resistance to fascism, how they understood art both as an expression of the fighting spirit and as a channel for transmitting knowledge, and, finally, emancipated people by encouraging people's creativity, we formulate steps and principles of our resistance.

Tanja Markuš, artist /
Culture program Coordinator



8 MARCH
WOMEN'S DAY
OF RESISTANCE

Responding to the consumerist exploitation of this day, in 2016, WRC renewed the celebration of March 8 as a political women's holiday. Our goal was to restore its political significance as a day on which women take to



the streets to celebrate the rights they have achieved and to point out the obstacles in realizing those rights. Every year, we invite all citizens who want equality, regardless of nation,

religion or gender, to together resist the numbness of society and the corrupt system which pushes us again and again into poverty and deeper divisions.



ŽENE!
MAJKE, KRALJICE,
SESTRE, BABE, VJEŠTICE,
RADNICE, VJERNICE, AKTIVISTKINJE,
POLITIČARKE, NEZAPOSLENE, IZBJEGLICE,
BUNTOVNIČICE, SELJANKE, PREDUZETNICE,
ODBORNICE, LEZBEJKE, ANARHISTKINJE,
DAME, GOSPODE I DRUGARICE,

SVE MI, "RASUTE MEĐU MUŠKARCIMA",
UDRUŽIMO SE U OTPORU DISKRIMINACIJI,
ZA PRAVEDNIJE I SOLIDARNIJE DRUŠTVO,
OSMOMARTOVSKIM MARŠEM,
KOJIM GODINAMA ARTIKULIŠEMO
NEZADOVOLJSTVO POSTOJEĆIM
I SNOVE O MOGUĆEM.



Plakat je rezultat suradnje grafičarice, političarke i aktivistkinje, Anice Čučić.

manifestos



**PRIDRUŽITE
NAM SE
DA ZAJEDNO
AFIRMIŠEMO
8. MART
KAO POLITIČKI
PRAZNIK**

8.MART 2016.

CILJEVI:
**UKAZIVANJE NA TEŠKI
POLOŽAJ I STANJE PRAVA
ŽENA U CRNOJ GORI;**
VIDLJIVOST NAŠEG RADA;
AFIRMACIJA SOLIDARNOSTI;
AFIRMACIJA ANTIFAŠIZMA;
ZAJEDNIČKO DJELOVANJE:
ZNANJE, AKCIJA, NENASILJE,
ODGOVORNOST, SOLIDARNOST,
SLOBODA!

**8. MART
2017**

JOŠ UVIJEK ŽIVIMO U USLOVIMA KOJI ZAHTIJEVAJU BORBU ZA ISTA PRAVA
ZA KOJA SU SE BORILE NAŠE SESTRE POČETKOM PROŠLOG VIJEKA,
MARŠIRAJUĆI POD PAROLAMA "HLEB I RUŽE" I "HLEB I MIR". JOŠ UVIJEK JE
HLEB NA PRVOM MJESTU, JER SE VELIKI PROCENAT ŽENA BORI ZA GOLU
EGZISTENCIJU, KOJA JOŠ UVIJEK NE ZNAČI ŽIVOT. JOŠ UVIJEK SU
NACIONALIZAM I NETOLERANCIJA GLAVNO ORUĐE MANIPULACIJE KOJIM
SE SKREĆE PAŽNJA GRABANA SA OVIH SUŠTINSKIH PROBLEMA, A REVOLT
KOJI ONI IZAZIVAJU PRETVARA "U LOŠU ENERGIJU" - NASILJE I MRŽNJU.
SVJEDOCI SMO UKIDANJA, IGNORISANJA I GRUBOG KRŠENJA TEŠKO
STEČENIH PRAVA, ZBOG ČEGA INSISTIRAMO NA KONTINUITETU
OSMOMARTOVSKIH MARŠEVA I KONFERENCIJA.

OVOGODIŠNJIM OBILJEŽAVANJEM MEĐUNARODNOG DANA
ŽENA UKAZUJEMO NA SIROMAŠTVO I TEŽAK POLOŽAJ ŽENA
I POZIVAMO NA OTPOR SVE PRISUTNIJOJ MARGINALIZACIJI
ŽENA I MILITARIZACIJI DRUŠTVA.

CENTAR ZA ŽENSKA PRAVA I ANIMA



**I HLEB
I MIR
I RUŽE**



8. MART

PROGLAS

NI KRIK, NI TIŠINA
NI BIJEDA NI POHLEPA
NI MANTIJA NI PARTIJA
NI NACIJA NI INFLACIJA
NI CENZURA NI TORTURA
NI DEVASTACIJA,
NI MALVERZACIJA

MRŠ FAŠIZMU,
MRS NACIONALIZMU
MRŠ MIZOGINIJU
MRŠ ŠOVINIZMU
MRŠ HOMOFBIJI
MRŠ RASIZMU
MRŠ KLERIKALIZMU
MRŠ NEPOTIZMU
MRŠ SIROMAŠTVU
MRŠ ELITIZMU

NI SILOM, NI PREVAROM
NI UCJENOM, NI PREDAJOM

CENTAR ZA ŽENSKA PRAVA
ANIMA



**8. MART
2019.**

STOTINU 8. MARTOVA MARŠIRA SA NAMA DANAS. STOTINE SESTARA, DRUGARICA, MAJKI, RADNICA, KOLEGINICA, ŠTRAJKKAČICA, LJUBAVNICA, PRETKINJA I PRIJATELJICA UCVRSCUJE NAŠ KORAK I SNAŽI NAŠ GLAS DOK UZVIKUJEMO STOTINU GODINA STARE PAROLE:

"MI U OVOJ ZEMLJI DANAS OTIMAMO ŽIVOT, BORIMO SE, NA SRAMOTU DANAŠNJE DRŽAVE, ZA SJUTRAŠNJU KORU HLJEBA I SPAŠAVANJE IZ ČELJUSTI POMORA I KONAČNE PROPASTI JOŠ PREOSTALE TEKOVINE, KOJE GROZNI RAT NIJE USPIO DA UNIŠTI.

DANAS ĆE SVJESNE ŽENE OSUDITI IDIOTSKI I HAOTIČNI POREDAK KAPITALISTIČKOG DRUŠTVA I DEMONSTRIRATI ZA OSTVARIVANJE SOCIJALISTIČKOG DRUŠTVA U KOME ĆE ŽENA BITI RAVNA MUŠKARCU U SVEMU, KAKO U DUŽNOSTIMA, TAKO I U PRAVIMA."

DRŽAVA JE DANAS PUNA "SOCIJALISTA", ALI OD SOCIJALIZMA NI TRAGA. OD BORBE NE ODUSTAJE NIKO KO VIDI DA STOLJEĆE NIJE BILO DOVOLJNO ZA POSTIZANJE RAVNOPRAVNOSTI I SOCIJALNE PRAVDE.

OD BORBE NE ODUSTAJE NIKO KO VIDI KAKO SE OSNOVNA GRAĐANSKA I POLITIČKA PRAVA GAZE U CRNOJ GORI DANAS.

OD BORBE NE ODUSTAJE NIKO KO SVOJIM TIJELOM MORA DA BRANI STEČENA PRAVA, JAVNI PROSTOR I JAVNI INTERES.
OD BORBE NE ODUSTAJE NIKO.

* Proglas povodom 8. marta iz "Radničkih novina" 1919.



NEĆEMO TWEET
NI IZRAZE ZABRINUTOSTI
ZVANIČNIH TIJELA
NAD POLOMLJENIM
TIJELOM ŽENE

NEĆEMO STORY,
ZVANIČNO SAOPŠTENJE.

NEĆEMO SUČUT
UČUTKIVANJE,
PREČUTKIVANJE
NE TU VRSTU TIŠINE

NEĆEMO "PODIZANJE SVIJEŠTI"
NI "PRAVDU", "BUDUĆNOST",
"RODOLJUBLJE"

POSEBNO NE "RAVNOPRAVNOST"
("RODNU", "KLASNU", "SUŠTINSKU")
UVIJENU U PROTOKOLARNE FRAZE

DOBRU FRAKTURU PATRIJARHATA
VAM ŽELIMO.

NIJEDNO REBRO,
KLJUČNU KOST, VILICU, NOS, OKO
MANJE!





**ŽIVIO
8. MART
POLITIČKI
PRAZNIK
ŽENA!**



**WOMEN'S RIGHTS CENTER
CENTAR ZA ŽENSKA PRAVA**

What are the basic principles of fighting for gender equality?

Once a year, WRC organizes a “Small School of Smashing of Patriarchy”. The aim of the school is to create an atmosphere for fundamental changes in social norms that contribute to the spread of discrimination and violence against women, through the education about the principles of feminist activism and gender equality. The participants of the school have the opportunity to become familiar with the principles of the struggle for equality and emancipation, through a series of lectures and discussions on the history of the movement for women’s rights in Montenegro and the principles of its organization in different social periods; Causes, dynamics and prevalence of gender-based violence; The issue of gender identities; The roles that men, women and the media play in the process of sexual objectification of women and, ultimately, on art as a space for feminist resistance.



Short course of abolishing patriarchy

How art deconstructs stereotypes related to authorship of the "gentle" sex?

Since 2019, the *Center* has been organizing art workshops where works that deal with the principles of the struggle for a better position of women in society are created. We react to the current social narrative by pointing out its obstacles and opportunities. Through lectures and discussion, we deal with the representation of women in art, the causes of the absence of female authors from official history and the interpretation of artistic poetics that laid the foundations of feminist discourse in this area. In the continuation of the course, participants create works in collage, drawing, painting and digital techniques.

Young artists, participants of the course, create works that, with their aesthetic and ethical qualities, encourage thinking about different aspects of gender inequality and stand as an example of action against discriminatory practices and stereotypes.



Works from the first Short Course of Abolishing Patriarchy, exhibited at the Day of Smashing Patriarchy in the premises of WRC

JELENA ANTUNOVIĆ
 PETAR JAUKOVIĆ
 IDA JAHIĆ
 BRANKA MARKOVIĆ
 TANJA RADOVANOVIĆ
 ARMIN LIČINA
 JELENA ČOSOVIĆ
 JELENA ČOLAKOVIĆ



opposite page:

Exhibition of works from the Short Course in the Parliament of Montenegro, upon invitation of the Parliament Board for Gender Equality

ANDRIJANA STANTIĆ
 NIKOLETA ŠKRELJA
 GORDANA VOJINOVIĆ
 RASTKO RADULOVIĆ
 MANUELA ĐUROVIĆ
 MANUELA FETAHOVIĆ
 MILENA BLAGOJEVIĆ
 DRAGANA KRIVOKAPIĆ
 JANA TEŠIĆ
 MILICA KAŽIĆ
 ELMA DŽIDIĆ

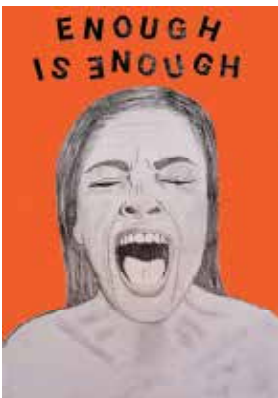
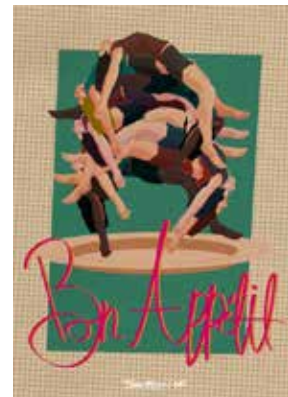




PORTFOLIO NENASILJA

8. MART, MEĐUNARODNI DAN ŽENA





REBEL VENUS

Center for Contemporary of Montenegro,
October 2022

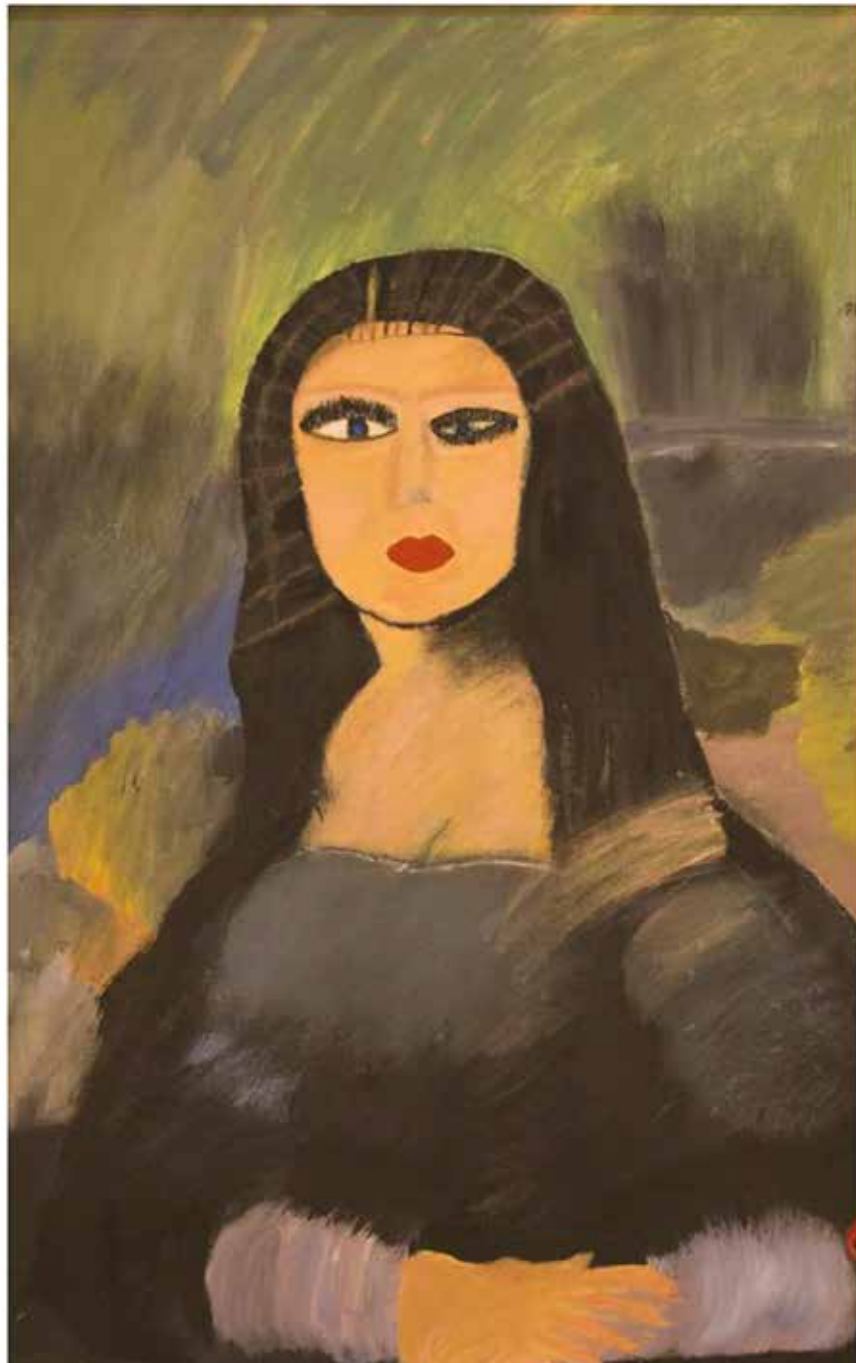


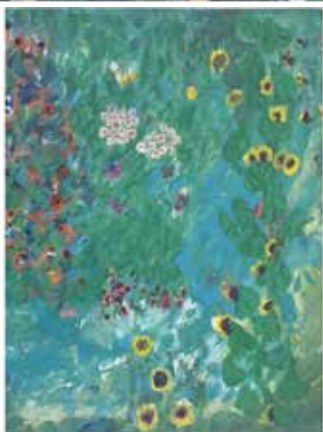
SANJA ABRAMOVIĆ
MILENA BLAGOJEVIĆ
KSENIJA BOROZAN
INDRIT CITAKU
MUHAMED GOŠANI
JOVAN IVKOVIĆ
ANA KOČOVIĆ
ARINA KRUGOVAIA
DUŠAN MIHAJLOV
TIJANA MIJOVIĆ
EMINA NIMANBEGOVIĆ
ANDELA PERKOVIĆ
GORDANA VOJINOVIĆ
NINA VUČKOVIĆ
IRENA VUKČEVIĆ
NIKOLINA VUKČEVIĆ
ANDRIJANA STANTIĆ

UNLOCKING ART

Exhibition of works
from workshops to
improve the process
of resocialization of
female persons who
are serving a prison
sentence at the Institute
for the Execution of
Criminal Sanctions

PetrovićNjegoš
Foundation, 2015





Beat of the protest

Noise in action!

At the beginning of March every year, as a preparation for the March 8 protest, we organize drumming workshops in cooperation with professional music and drama authors from Montenegro.

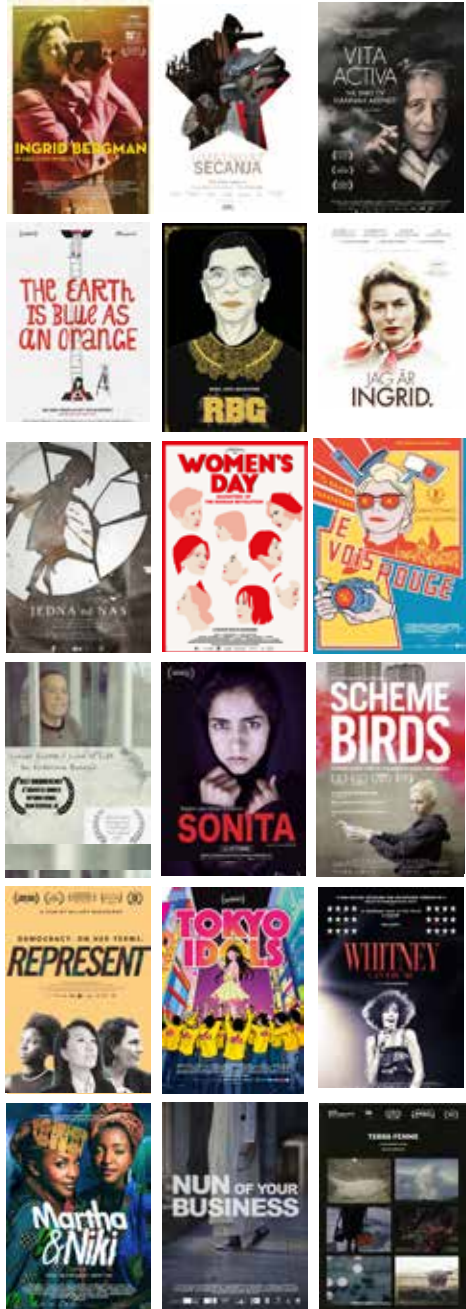
In addition to the participants having the opportunity to acquire basic knowledge of rhythmic skills, they participate in the creation of the rhythmic basis of the March 8 manifesto. In addition to the wish to be as loud as possible, our goal is to show that, despite great efforts in the fight for a better society, the revolution is still accompanied by music, the voice and laughter of the young, which make this fight meaningful.





How much does the perspective change and what is in focus of the camera depending on whether the woman is in front

With the aim of looking at life from a woman's point of view through documentaries and discussions, in 2016, in cooperation with Underhill Fest, we designed the program *In Focus*: Every year, as part of the festival's regular program, we select films that can encourage us to deeply question the position of women. Through examples from films made by women or about women, we analyze what stands in the way of equality and how much society continues and deepens oppressive patterns of behavior that keep us in a subordinate position. We explore the private and systemic obstacles and challenges we face, both on the way to professional advancement and in defense of the basic right to life. *In Focus* is a "woman's gaze" directed at the world shaped by violent patriarchal and colonialist narratives.





Design as a means of sharing knowledge

As a part of the cultural program, WRC organized screen printing and sewing workshops for women and young people who have experienced domestic violence. These workshops supported participants in overcoming the experience of violence through creative activity and teamwork. The project enabled us to promote values that we consider essential for promoting feminist and activist principles through designer products: bags, T-shirts, and scarves. Thus, one product line was dedicated to the Montenegrin princesses from the Petrović Njegoš dynasty, known for their humanitarian work, caring for the poor, and advocating a better status of women in society and against the stigmatization of female children - the problems still present in Montenegrin society. One segment of the project involves cooperation with Montenegrin artists through the promotion of their work. Female artists Teodora Nikčević, Bojana Bogavac, and Jelena Tomašević, along with Tanja Markuš, artist and project coordinator participated in the project with their designs. The products of the workshops were presented at humanitarian bazaars, through participation in fairs of non-governmental organizations, during the creative program of the Festival of Alternative Theater - FIAT, at the SPARK conference, and the Underhill Documentary Film Festival. The products' income was used for the emergency fund for legal support to GBV survivors. In 2014, the project was included in the three best projects at Telekom's competition "For Everyone's Good".



Selected projects and core funding

Since its establishment 10 years ago, WRC has implemented more than 20 projects, out of which we selected those most significant, mainly supported by international donors, the European Union and two local Foundations - Fund for Active Citizenship and the Petrović Njegoš Foundation, from which we received the first funding and support for our work.

The sustainability of the organization and of the achieved project results we owe primarily to the multi-year core support provided to us since 2015, by the Swedish Foundation Kvinna till Kvinna and OAK Foundation based in Geneva (which funded us through the Trag Foundation from Belgrade), and to the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (USA) since 2020. Their core support enabled us to continuously advocate for gender equality in the EU integration process, to intensively work to improve laws and policies, to regularly report to the United Nations and to the Council of Europe, to provide sustained free services of legal representation, social support, psychological counseling and psychotherapy to our beneficiaries, and to strengthen the activism of young women through the Small School of Smashing Patriarchy, art workshops, lectures and the International Women's Day Program, which includes the March 8 protest and marches.

SUPPORT SERVICES FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO SURVIVED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (2013)

Donor: Fund for Active Citizenship

Result: Through a small grant for active communities, the project provided funds for the first WRC operating costs aimed for the provision of support services for 94 women who survived violence and their children.

NO(I)SE IN FASHION (2013-2015)

Donors: Telekom Foundation, GIZ France, Petrović Njegoš Foundation (2013-2014); Australian Embassy (2015)

Within the project, we organized silk screen printing and sewing workshops aimed at supporting participants in overcoming the experience of violence through creative activity and teamwork. WRC designer made visuals that were printed on scarves, T-shirts, bags and pillows. The project enabled us to promote values that we consider essential for promoting feminist and activist principles. Thus, one product line was dedicated to the Montenegrin princesses from the Petrović Njegoš dynasty, known for their humanitarian work, caring for the poor and for advocating for a better status of women in society, especially for better position of mothers and wives in the family and against stigmatization of female children - the problems still present in Montenegrin society. One segment of the project involved cooperation with Montenegrin artists through the promotion of their work. The products of the workshops were presented at humanitarian bazaars, through participation in fairs of non-governmental organizations, during creative program of the Festival of Alternative Theater - FIAT, at the SPARK conference and the Underhill Documentary Film Festival. The project also provided sewing training and temporary employment for the beneficiaries of the Women's Rights Center who experienced risk of poverty. In 2014, the project was included in the three best projects at Telekom's competition "For Everyone's Good".

JOINT NGO MONITORING OF THE APPLICATION OF THE LAWS AND POLICIES IN THE FIELD OF FAMILY VIOLENCE (2013 - 2014)

Partners: SOS Nikšić and Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights (USA)

Donor: OAK Foundation

The goal of the project was to facilitate the joint professional NGO action of monitoring, reporting and providing recommendations for the improvement of protection against domestic violence in Montenegro.

Result: We monitored institutional procedures contacts, communicated with victims of violence and conducted more than 60 interviews with representatives of the police, the judiciary, NGOs, centers for social work, in 6 Montenegrin cities, and provided a detailed insight into the application of the law in the field of violence against women and domestic violence. The result was the comprehensive monitoring report with recommendations for the actions of all relevant institutions, including recommendations for changes to the legislative framework.

TRAINING FOR LAWYERS ON THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE (2013 - 2014)

Partner: Association of Judges of Montenegro (project holder)
Donor: American Embassy in Montenegro

The goal of the project was to improve access to justice and human rights of women who have survived violence, using the institute of free legal aid, as one of the instruments that enabled equal legal treatment of all citizens in Montenegro. Result: Conducted training on legal representation of women violence survivors for 26 members of the Bar Association of Montenegro; formed a team of lawyers for whom we provided additional training, published Manual for lawyers representing women victims of violence and victims of domestic violence.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (2015)

Partners: Supreme Court of Montenegro, Center for Training of Judges and Prosecutors , UNDP, Ministry of Human and Minority Rights
Donor: Embassy of Norway

The goal of the program was to support the process of establishing a sustainable and efficient system of protection and support for victims of domestic violence and violence against women, through support to judicial institutions in the application of international standards and national legislation in this area. The focus of the program was on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), as the most comprehensive and legally binding international document in the field of violence against women and domestic violence.

Result: Research on the perception of the judiciary on violence against women and domestic violence was conducted. Through a process of intensive consultations with representatives of the judiciary and other relevant institutions and individuals with expert knowledge of violence in this area, we developed an educational program on violence against women and domestic violence, which the Center for Training in the Judges and Prosecutors included in the regular training of representatives of the judiciary.

BALKANS ACT (AGAINST CRIME OF TRAFFICKING) NOW! II - III 2015 - 2021

Donor: EU

Co-donors: Kvinna Till Kvinna, OAK Fondation

Partners: ASTRA – Action Against Human Trafficking (Srbija) (project holder), International Forum of Solidarity – EMMAUS (BiH), Association for Action against Violence and Human Trafficking – Open Gate (Macedonia), International Association La Strada (Netherlands), ALC France, CCEM France.

The project was designed as a contribution to democratization in the process of European integration of the Western Balkans, through improving the environment for civic activism, raising the capacity, commitment and influence of civil society networks in the field of human rights and the rule of law, in the context of the fight against organized crime, i.e. human trafficking.

Results: The capacities of civil society organizations in performing independent and objective analysis and monitoring were improved; their leverage and impact on policy in the area of combating human trafficking and harmonization of policies with the EU standards, norms and values.

WRC participated in two project phases in the period from 2015 to 2021. During phase 2, a strong regional platform of CSO co-applicants was formed; the Balkan Declaration on suppression of human trafficking and exploitation was created; a regional monitoring tool was designed and tested, proposals were made for compensation for victims of human trafficking, and public educational campaigns were carried out. During the phase 3 of the project, the focus was on strengthening the cooperation and capacity of institutions and the adoption and implementation of the Instrument for transparent and responsible monitoring; on monitoring of quality services provided to victims, as well as on comparing regional data and services.

During the project, WRC formed a working group whose members were representatives of the Supreme Court of Montenegro, the High Court in Podgorica, the Office for Combating Human Trafficking, the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office and the WRC. The group drafted a Proposal for Amendments to the Law on Compensation for Victims of Violent Crimes, which predicts the establishment of a Fund for Compensation of Victims of Violent Crimes. A feasibility study on the establishment of the Fund was also published and presented to the relevant stake holders, containing an analysis of possible

sources of funding for the Fund that do not require allocations from the state budget. The project resulted in the development of instruments for monitoring the system for victim support and protection, 2 reports on the monitoring and evaluation of laws and policies for combating human trafficking and their application in Montenegro. A Handbook for victims' representatives was also created and the establishment of the office of the National Rapporteur on human trafficking was advocated.

Withing this project, through the small grants program, we financially supported the Association of Professional Journalists of Montenegro, that published several media articles on trafficking.

UNLOCKING ART

Workshops to improve the resocialization process of women who are serving a prison sentence in the Institution for execution of criminal sanctions (2015)

Donor: European Union through the NGO "Juventas" and "Action for Human Rights";Partner: Institute for the Execution of Criminal Sanctions (ZIKS)

The aim of the project was to improve the resocialization ability of women after the end of their prison sentence.

Results: Within the project, two types of workshops were conducted : psychological and creative. By participating in the workshops, women who were serving a prison sentence had the opportunity to work on improving self-confidence and self-esteem (personal characteristics that often suffer when serving a prison sentence), to develop communication and social skills, to improve the quality of mutual relationships, as well as the relationships with members of their families. Moreover,they were able to master the skills of working in a group, to improve their artistic and craft techniques. These abilities had a positive impact on the quality of their resocialization. After the workshops, an exhibition of their artistic works was organized in Podgorica.

COMBINED EFFORTS - TOWARDS NEW EUROPEAN STANDARDS IN THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (2015 - 2016)

Donor: European Commission

Holder: Autonomous Women's Center Serbia

Partners: 27 regional NGOs dealing with the protection of human rights from Montenegro, Serbia, BiH, Macedonia, Croatia, Slovenia and Austria

The project contributed to the establishment of comprehensive legal solutions and policies for the protection of women from violence in the Western Balkans, as a condition for achieving democracy, fulfilling human rights, social inclusion and harmonization with European values. The specific goal of the project is to strengthen the capacity of women's organizations and networks from four countries of the Western Balkans for analysis, monitoring and public advocacy in the field of protecting women from violence, through long-term regional cooperation and learning from the EU experience.

Activities: ratification and harmonization of national laws and policies with the the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention (awareness raising campaign, advocacy campaign, proposals on policy and legal changes); strengthened capacities of women's organizations to advocate for the rights of victims of gender-based violence, monitoring reports on the implementation of local policies, local protection measures against gender-based violence and social inclusion; Monitoring and assessment of the effects of the implementation of the provisions of the Istanbul Convention at the national level and independent reporting to international bodies.

Results: Strengthened dialogue among 6 national women's organizations / networks, and at least 70 key decision-makers on the harmonization of national laws and protection measures for victims of gender-based violence with the Istanbul Convention. At least 27 local women's organizations strengthened their capacities in representing the rights of victims of gender-based violence and monitoring protection measures against gender-based violence, as well as in social inclusion at the local level; a system has been established for comprehensive monitoring of the implementation of the standards of the Istanbul Convention.

PROJECT: PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - ENHANCED INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE (2017)

Donors: UNICEF, Petrović Foundation, European Union

The goal of the project was to improve the protection of children and support for non-violent parents/guardians, through improving the knowledge of experts about the risks and the best ways to protect children exposed to violence in the family.

Results: The Conference "Domestic violence and risks to children - towards a comprehensive solution" gathered over 160 participants - decision makers, representatives of international and civil society organizations, representatives of the judiciary, professionals dealing with child protection, etc. Furthermore, a two-day training was organised for more than 30 experts, court experts, representatives of the judiciary, and other professionals who dealt with child protection. One of the lecturers was Landy Bancroft, an expert in family relations with over 25 years of experience in working with violent men and their families, author of the bestsellers "Why does he do that?", "A batterer as a parent", etc. We conducted the first research on the protection of child witnesses of domestic violence in Montenegro. Through legal and psychological assistance, we supported 15 direct beneficiaries and their children.

PROJECT: TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THE PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE (2016 - 2017)

Donor: US Embassy in Montenegro
Partner: LGBTQ Forum Progress

Result: Women's Rights Center organized trainings for the representatives of the Police Security Center Podgorica on emergency police action in cases of violence against women and domestic violence, as well as 4 conferences of cases held at the Security Center in Podgorica. Cases of domestic violence were discussed, in which the WRC noticed irregularities in the behavior of the police and submitted numerous complaints and recommendations, on the basis of which two disciplinary proceedings were initiated

before the Internal Control of the Ministry of the Interior, that resulted in the suspension of the two inspectors in charge of the cases of violence. Police officers were invited to diligently take victims' statements, to perform risk assessment, to react urgently and to have a more proactive approach in reaching out other competent authorities and institutions. It was recommended to strengthen communication with the Center for Social Work , with focus on persons with a history of violent behavior in the family and towards women. The publication: "Violence against LGBTIQ persons and gender-based violence in Montenegro - examples from practice" was issued.

FURTHERING/PROMOTING/ENHANCING WOMEN'S LABOR RIGHTS (2018-2022)

Donor: European Union and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

Partners: Kosovo Women's Network (project holder), GADC from Albania, Kvinna till Kvinna Office from Serbia, Reactor from Macedonia and Helsinki Citizens' Committee of Banja Luka from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The general goal of the project, in which Women's Rights Center was a partner organization for Montenegro, was to empower civil society organizations (CSOs) in the Western Balkans to effectively monitor the acting of institutions in implementing anti-discrimination legislation related to women's labor rights.

Result: The project improved the influence of civil society organizations through their increased capacities; strengthened their cooperation through the exchange of knowledge and experience and capacity building, and created a more favorable environment for their work in holding relevant institutions accountable. Public campaigns were conducted to inform citizens on how to report gender-based discrimination; legal assistance was provided as well as strategic litigation and court monitoring of cases; networking of civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders in order to combat discrimination and tailored support created to raise the capacities of CSOs, including subgranting. According to outcome 1, the influence of CSOs, especially women's rights and grassroots groups, in holding relevant institutions accountable for the implementation of anti-discrimination legislation related to women's labor rights and empowering women to claim their rights has im-

proved: 17 changes to laws and policies were amended, 199 cases involving gender based discrimination and violation of labor rights were supported through free legal aid and representation, including cases of strategic litigation; 183 different organizations from the Western Balkans participated in advocacy initiatives. Partners proposed 30 policy changes, and institutions took at least 23 actions to support civil society efforts to enable the implementation of anti-discrimination legislation. Fourteen national and regional reports containing evidence-based research on gender discrimination at work have been published and widely promoted. The media reported 558 times on issues related to discrimination against women at work. Partners held 299 meetings with stakeholders to raise awareness of gender discrimination at work, as well as additional meetings to empower women to report gender-based discrimination.

STRENGTHENING YOUNG WOMEN'S CIVIC ACTIVISM (2018)

Donors: fAKT - Fund for active citizenship, US Embassy in Montenegro

The project strived to enhance gender equality, to empower women and young people to raise their voices and stand against violence and discrimination and to improve the political awareness of women. The aim of the project was to strengthen the social activism of young women through educational, artistic and practical activities and to enable them to join the celebration of the International Women's Day.

Result: Workshops were held for more than 30 participants, who were provided with space to acquire and exchange knowledge in the field of political, economic, social and cultural rights of women, to establish cooperation and solidarity in the field of women's activism and art, and to directly participate in creation and realization of activist contents. As part of this project, an initial plan was designed and the first series of workshops known as the Small School of Smashing Patriarchy, the Short Course for Cutting Patriarchy, and the Beat of the Protest drumming workshops.

INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF QUALITY SERVICES TO SUPPORT AND INTEGRATE WOMEN SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE (2019-2022)

Donor: Austrian Development Agency

Partners: Autonomous Women's Center, Serbia (project holder), Women's Empowerment Network of Albania, Women's Alliance for Development (Albania), Kosovo Women's Network (Kosovo), United Women of Banja Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina), National Network Against Violence against Women (North Macedonia)

The main goal of the project was to contribute to the improvement of secondary legislation and the institutionalization of quality services for support and integration of women who have survived violence.

Result: Proposals to improve secondary legislation were drafted and sent to the relevant stakeholders; training programs improved the skills of service providers to improve the safety and security of women who survived violence; the regional network against violence against women was strengthened and formalized in accordance with the EU standards; The activities and results of the project contributed to a better implementation of the Istanbul Convention in each country.

Through the project, 4164 persons were directly supported, of which 2824 women, 1279 children, 61 men in the countries where the project was implemented.

One of the public advocacy initiatives that we implemented in Montenegro within this project, relates to social housing as a newly established support service for victims of violence. The Capital City - Secretariat for Social Welfare and the Women's Rights Center signed a Cooperation Agreement, aiming to support victims of domestic violence through social housing. The Secretariat for Social Welfare of the Capital City provided a housing unit for temporary accommodation of WRC beneficiaries.

Also, through the subgranting scheme, we financed 6 NGOs and 7 projects in Montenegro, in the amount of 10,084 euros.

PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH THE EU ACCESSION PROCESS (2020-2024)

Donor: European Commission

Project partners: "Kvinna Till Kvinna" Foundation – Sweden, "Reactor – Research In Action" – Macedonia (project holders), "Women's Rights Center" – Montenegro, "Rights for All" – BiH, AWEN – Albania, "Kosovo Women Network" – Kosovo. The project collaborators are the Department for Gender Equality of the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights – Montenegro and the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare – Macedonia.

The project focuses on enhancing regional co-operation between civil society organizations working on women's rights, on research and gender analysis for policy proposing, evidence-based advocacy and monitoring of EU accession-related reforms, aiming to advance gender equality in the Western Balkans through the accession process. The overall goal of this four-year action is to enhance and expand existing regional cooperation, to strengthen participatory democracies and to implement an inclusive gender-sensitive EU accession process. The specific objectives of the action include: Improving the capacity of the civil sector to effectively connect with EU governments, delegations and offices (EUD / EUO), local and regional civil society organizations and enhancing the accountability of governments and the EUD / EUO in implementing gender equality and women's rights obligations during the EU accession process.

Results: The action is ongoing. The results so far include the preparation of Gender analysis of the Parliamentary Elections 2020 and Gender Analysis of the Public Administration in Montenegro, with recommendations for improving the institutional and legal framework. Additional results include: Country assessment reports on furthering gender equality through the EU accession process, comments and recommendations on more than 10 policies and programs of the Government and competent institutions,



CENTAR ZA
ŽENSKA PRAVA

TRANSITION

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

**ŽIVOT BEZ
NASILJA:
OSNOVNO
LJUDSKO
PRAVO**

**ZAKON
O ZASTITI
OD NASILJA
U PORODICI**

Selected campaigns

I SIGN 2013-2015



Campaign "I sign" was initiated in November 2013, as a part of EU funded project "Joined efforts - towards new European standards in the protection of women from gender-based violence", which was implemented by the Autonomous Women's Center from Belgrade with 27 partner organizations from Montenegro, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Slovenia, with the support of Women Against Violence Europe and European Women's Lobby. The campaign referred to the ratification and full implementation of The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. The campaign informed citizens and decision-makers about the commitments accepted by ratifying the Convention - a comprehensive protection of women and prevention of violence, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of violence, and an efficient system for monitoring the implementation of its provisions. Decision-makers at the national and local levels were asked to undertake all necessary measures so that the standards of the Convention become an integral part of laws, measures and services.

#UNWANTED CAMPAIGN AGAINST PRENATAL SEX SELECTION

2017

In the aspiration to make our society better for both girls and boys, in cooperation with McCann agency WRC initiated the volunteer campaign #Unwanted. The idea for the campaign came up after the problem of prenatal sex selection has been statistically confirmed through data of the Statistical Office of Montenegro and a report of the UN Population Fund



**CAMPAIGN
AGAINST
GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE
2019**

**THE 25TH
ANNIVERSARY OF UN
SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 1325 -
WOMEN, PEACE AND
SECURITY**

(Sex Imbalances at Birth, UNFPA 2012), which recognized Montenegro as one of the countries where this problem has taken alarming proportions and led to the outcome according to which many more boys are born than girls (110:100). The campaign pointed to the problem of selective abortions as a drastic example of gender discrimination, which stems from patriarchal attitudes and traditions that much more value male offspring. Over 6,000 citizens accepted the invitation to sign a petition to the Government of Montenegro against the abuse of early prenatal tests and for a comprehensive solution to this problem.

Women's Rights Center took part in the campaign "16 days of the fight against gender-based violence" which was implemented by OSCE Mission in Montenegro and the Ministry of human and minority rights. The campaign was created to raise awareness and recognize hate speech, sexual harassment, and gender-based violence via the Internet and social networks.

Women's Rights Center participated in the international campaign to mark 25 years since the adoption of Resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council - Women, peace and security

**#SAFE AT HOME
CAMPAIGN FOR
PROTECTION
AGAINST DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE DURING
THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC
2020**

In a situation where the key preventive measure in the fight against the coronavirus is to stay at home, a particularly vulnerable group are victims of domestic violence. The goal of the campaign, which was supported by the UK Embassy in Podgorica, is to show victims that they are not alone and that they can get help and protect themselves and other family members from violence. The campaign was implemented as a part of the national campaign "Stay at home", which was initiated to prevent the spreading of the corona virus in Montenegro, in partnership with the Ministry of the Interior, Police Department, and non-governmental organizations that are members of Operational team for the fight against violence against women and domestic violence: WRC, SOS Niksic, SOS Podgorica and Centar for Roma Initiatives. On the materials disseminated through social networks and the media are the phone numbers of the Police Department and the aforementioned NGOs, as well as the National SOS line for victims of domestic violence, to provide victims of violence with comprehensive support, which is free, anonymous, and accessible.

**#EQUALITY FROM
THE DRAWER: FOR
POLICIES OF
NONVIOLENCE!
CAMPAIGN FOR THE
PROMOTION OF THE
ISTANBUL
CONVENTION
STANDARDS
2021**

BeFem Talks "Istanbul Convention: the perspective of activists from the region" is an introduction to the new campaign "Equality from the drawer!". On the occasion of 10 years since the signing of the Istanbul Convention, the campaign has once again gathered women's rights defenders from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, and North Macedonia, who for decades, with combined influences, have been opening space for the advocacy of feminist policies to combat violence against women. The campaign emphasized the importance of respecting the provisions of the Convention to

preserve and improve the hard-won rights of women. The campaign was produced by BeFem.

**#DISCRIMINATION
DOES NOT WORK
CAMPAIGN ON
GENDER DISCRIMINATION
IN THE FIELD OF WORK
AND EMPLOYMENT
2020-2021**

This campaign contributed to an improved understanding of discrimination against women at work, as well as the possibilities for overcoming it, and it involved citizens, institutions, and other relevant social actors. It started with the explanation of the concept of gender discrimination and its most common forms, and afterward, it involved representatives of the institutions who, in the form of a short video, which was disseminated through social networks, explained their role in preventing and protecting against discrimination so that citizens get a clear picture of their responsibilities and jurisdiction. A specific part of the campaign was aimed at promoting the EU Directive on work-life balance, which will be transposed into the Montenegrin legislation, and WRC continued to work on this matter even after the project ended. In this phase, the public was informed about the legally guaranteed right to maternity leave, as well as the right to days off for both parents to take care of the child. The campaign was created as part of the regional project “Strengthening of civil society organizations in the fight against discrimination and improvement of women’s labor rights” (2018-2022), in which the Women’s Rights Center was a partner organization, and the leading organization was the Kosovo Women’s Network, while the other partners were The Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly from Banja Luka, Kvinna till Kvinna from Serbia, Gender Alliance for Development from Albania and Reactor from Macedonia. The project was financed by the European Union and the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency.



#DiskriminacijaNeRadi

EUROPEANS MAKING A DIFFERENCE 2020

WRC was part of the EEAS (European External Action Service) #europeansmakingadifference campaign, which was aimed at the public in the EU, and was followed by more than 10 million people. We participated in events with EU officials in Brussels on March 5, where the campaign was presented, and our organization received the public support of Mr. Josep Borrell, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The campaign increased the visibility of women's activism, both in the EU and in Montenegro.

GENDER EQUALITY IN THE EU ACCESSION PROCESS 2022



WRC and partner organizations from the region launched a video campaign on gender equality in the process of accession to the European Union. Complex reforms in the EU integration process imply that candidate countries have a stable and democratic government that respects the rule of law and corresponding freedoms, as well as institutions, and this also includes the principle of gender equality. Gender equality is a fundamental value of the EU and as such must be included in the EU accession process. As part of the campaign, short videos have been created that aim to explain the importance of gender equality and how gender equality can be improved through the EU accession process. The campaign is being implemented in Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and North Macedonia as part of the project "Improving gender equality through the EU accession process" which is carried out by the NGO Reactor, financed by the European Union and co-financed by the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency.

**#TELL THE STORY
UNTIL THE END
CAMPAIGN FOR THE
PROMOTION OF FREE
LEGAL AID
2022**

The European Union and the Council of Europe, in cooperation with the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, the Association of Judges of Montenegro, the Women's Rights Center, and the SOS telephone for women and children victims of violence Podgorica launched a campaign to promote free legal aid for victims of violence in the family, through the slogan: #Tell the story to the end. This slogan was designed to empower women to speak about the problem of domestic violence and to request institutional protection, using free legal aid.

**INFORMATIVE
CAMPAIGN FOR
VICTIMS OF GBV
2022**

With the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, we launched an information campaign on social networks that contains information about key contacts, legal measures and legal remedies that benefit women who have experienced violence. A series of visuals containing key protection information has been created. In addition to distribution on social networks, visual materials were printed and distributed to our beneficiaries.



Donors

We own our special gratitude to the **OAK FOUNDATION** which supports our work through core funding and to **KVINNA TILL KVINNA FOUNDATION**, which supports our advocacy and culture program. Their long-standing support and understanding of the priorities of our work have helped us develop our capacities and improve our fight for the better life of women in Montenegro.



FUND FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

PETROVIC NJEGOS FOUNDATION

TRAG FOUNDATION

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

U.S. EMBASSY IN MONTENEGRO

UNDP

UNICEF

EMBASSY OF AUSTRALIA

ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

EMBASSY OF SWEDEN

BRITISH EMBASSY IN MONTENEGRO

EMBASSY OF THE NETHERLANDS

**AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY**

**EMBASSY OF THE CZECH
REPUBLIC**

AVON FONDATION

**ROCKEFELLER BROTHERS
FUND**

CAPITAL CITY PODGORICA

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**MINISTRY OF HUMAN AND
MINORITY RIGHTS**

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND
SOCIAL WELFARE**

FRENCH INSTITUTE

TELEKOM MONTENEGRO

**EAST -WEST MANAGEMENT
INSTITUTE**

GIZ, FRANCE

Budget

2012

9500€

2013

24239€

2014

67740€

2015

76423€

2016

122184€

2017

135430€

2018

113070€

2019

164066€

2020

173731€

2021

201426€

2022

229366

Working team

Maja Raičević, Executive director/
Advocacy Program Coordinator

Ana Jaredić, psychologist / Support Services for Women
Victims of GBV coordinator

Tanja Markuš, artist,
Culture Program Coordinator

Dijana Veljić, Social Worker

Teodora Ciriviri, Financial Manager

Zorica Konatar, Social Worker

Izabela Kordić,
Advocacy Program Assistant

Jovana Pavlović, lawyer

Tijana Živković, lawyer

Veljko Baćović, lawyer

Anita Stijepčević, Researcher of
Gender Equality Policies

Sara Nikčević,
Project Manager

Milena Blagojević
intern

Awards



2014

**Montenegrin Telekom
Award for socially
responsible projects
of special importance
for the community
“For Every Good”.**

2018

**Award for affirmation of
human and civil rights,
awarded by the Center
for Civic Education within
the scope of the “Ubrzaj”
festival.**











SKRSIMO
PATRIJARHAT

ONI KOJI SE
NE KREĆU,
NE PRIMJEĆUJU
SVOJE OKOVE

NE
ŠOVINIZMU

I hleb i mir i tuče

MRS
MIZOGINIJU



S MRT
JE
TO SLOVO
ZAPIRU?

MOJA VILDA SHOM
MRTVIJEM
SPAVA, A SA MOJE
I SVI JOJ ORGANI

O KUKALO
SUDSTVO
UGAŠENO

KUKALO
SUDSTVO
IZLAŠTVO,
Š SE POSA
IAKI PROCUKAO

TA SU
OVA

TA SU
OVA

ŽENJIVOST
LJILJINA

Zene dolaze, iako desetine godina kasnije

BRZOTE
S KVOTAMA

MI JEDNA
MANJE

NE
DISKRIMINIRAJTE
ŽENE

8. MART



od 00 do 05 h



od 00 do 05 h



od 00 do 05 h



BAKARIT
MEN HIC
LAKSIA
KORVACI
KACI
KACI

PRIVEDITE
PRAVDI
UBICI!

PRAVO NA
ZIVOT BEZ
NASILJA

JA SAM
DISKRIMINISANA

JA SAM
BORKINJA ZA
LJUDSKA PRAVA

JA SAM
EDUKOVANA

JA SAM
SIROMASNA

JA SAM
NEPOKORNA

JA SAM
ISKLJUCENA

JA
IGNORISANA

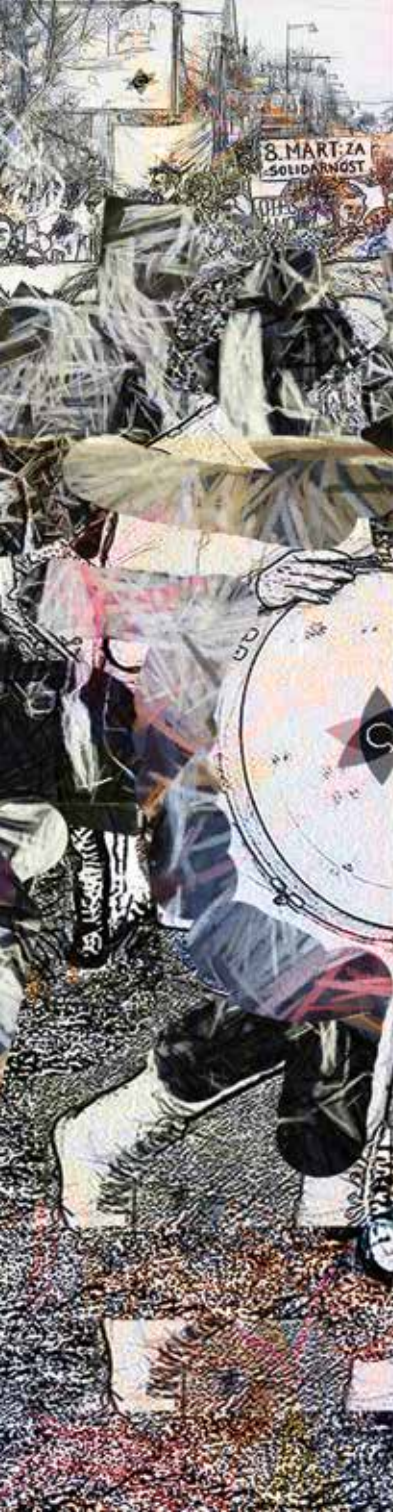
JA SAM
NEZAPOSLENA

SAČUVAJMO ŽIVOT
REAGUJMO

POLICIJA I
TUZILASTVO DA
DEKLARISUJU SVAKU
PRIJAVU ZA
NASILJE

AKTIVNA





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