



*žene u crnom
beograd*

Report

**May, June, July and
August 2022.**

As before, we bring you a brief report on the activities of Women in Black in the mentioned period, and should you be interested in more information, you can find it on our website www.zeneucrnom.org or contact us by e-mail at: office@zeneucrnom.org

Unapred se solidarno zahvaljujemo na razumevanju..

May, June, July and August 2022.

Report

Street actions: In this reporting period, we organized seventeen (17) events

and we also actively participated in other street actions:

Street actions:

- Commemorations/marketing important dates of crimes committed in our name;
- Feminist, anti-fascist, anti-war, anti-racist, anti-militaristic actions...

COMMEMORATIONS/MARKING OF IMPORTANT DATES OF CRIMES COMMITTED IN OUR NAME, AS WELL AS OTHER CRIMES AGAINST THE CIVILIAN POPULATION, DURING AND AFTER THE WARS, IN THE TERRITORY OF FORMER YUGOSLAVIA:

Belgrade, May 6th

Belgrade, May 6th, “We remember”– On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the crime of ethnic cleansing of the Croatian population from Vojvodina, Women in Black, the Humanitarian Law Fund and the Youth Initiative for Human Rights organized a vigil in black and silence. Thirty years ago (May 6, 1992), the Serbian Radical Party (SRS) held a pre-election rally in Hrtkovci in front of more than a thousand people, where Vojislav Šešelj called for the expulsion of the local Croatian population. In 2018, Šešelj was sentenced before the Hague Tribunal to 10 years in prison for inciting persecution, deportation and other inhuman acts, as well as for committing persecution as a crime against humanity in Hrtkovci, Vojvodina.

At the protest, which was attended by twenty activists (20), the following banners were displayed:





- Between 1991 and 1995, a campaign of intimidation and pressure on the Croatian population was carried out in Vojvodina, with the aim of making them move out of their homes and leave Serbia. The campaign resulted in the persecution of several tens of thousands of Croats.
- The main advocates and inspirers of the campaign of intimidation and pressure on the Croatian population in Vojvodina were Vojislav Šešelj and his Serbian Radical Party (SRS). The emigration of Croatian families took place under the pressure of various groups close to SRS.
- The intimidation campaign took place with the knowledge and tacit approval of the political structures of the Republic of Serbia.
- Members of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia, as well as members of the YNA reserve, participated in certain acts of violence against Croats. In the forced emigration of Croats from Vojvodina, the Department of State Security of the MI of the Republic of Serbia played a significant role.
- Violence against Croats in Vojvodina included attacks on private property and religious buildings, threats, physical attacks and murders.
- The SRS rally was followed by organized violence against the local Croats, which led to the mass emigration of the Croatian population from Hrtkovci.
- In the period from May 10, 1992 to July 1, 1992, about 20 Croatian families were physically evicted from their houses in Hrtkovci, while a large number of them succumbed to pressure and agreed to exchange property.
- In the period from May to August 1992, about 450 Croatian and ethnically mixed families moved out of Hrtkovci under pressure.
- During the campaign of intimidation and pressure on the Croats of Vojvodina, in the period from 1991 to 1995, at least 14 people were killed.
- Stevan Đurkov from Sonta, brothers Mato and Ivica Abjanović from Morović are still on the missing persons list.



Žene u crnom, 1991 →

territory of Vojvodina, the number of Croats decreased in 39 out of 45 municipalities in Vojvodina, and in the territory of the entire Vojvodina, the number of Croats decreased by 18,262.

- According to the 1991 census, 1,622 Croats lived in Kukujevi. In 2002, the number of Croats in Kukujevi fell to 72.

During the protest, several passers-by shouted:

Long live Russia! Fuck your Croats! Poor Serbian people! Serbs were expelled from Krajina, Why is no one standing up for them? etc.

Kruševac, May 24th

May 24th, Kruševac “We Remember the Brave Resistance of Women!” – Women’s organization “Peščanik” from Kruševac and Women in Black, Belgrade marked the 23rd anniversary of the women’s protest against forced mobilization in 1999. By this peace action, organized on the occasion of May 24th – International Day of Women’s Action for Peace and Disarmament, activists recalled the courageous resistance of women to mobilization and war in Kosovo. And on this occasion, a request was sent to the state of Serbia and the local administration in the Rasina District to declare May 24 as the Day of Remembrance of the May protests and brave resistance of the citizens of Kruševac and the Rasina District. Twenty (20) female activists participated in the action.

Beograd, 17. junth

Belgrade, June 17th “We remember the women of Foča” – On the occasion of June 19 – the International Day of Combating Sexual Violence in War, Women in Black and the Autonomous Women’s Center organized a vigil and stage action in black and silence “We remember the women of Foča”.

Belgrade, June 17th “We remember women rape in war” – on the occasion of June 19th – International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in War, Women in Black and the Autonomous Women’s Center organized a vigil in mourning and silence and performance “We remember women of Foča”.



The following banners were displayed in the protest:

- June 19th – International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in War,
- We remember women of Foča
- We remember women raped in war



During the protest, the passers-by shouted the following insults:

- Serbia to Serbs
- Whores and foes
- Shame on you
- There was no genocide (in Srebrenica)
- You Soros mercenaries,
- You will go to the Hague, but not this one, to the new Hague, etc.

Foča, jun 19th



Foča (Bosnia and Herzegovina), June 19th – On the occasion of June 19 - the International Day of Combating Sexual Violence in War, Women in Black organized a trip to Foča.

In cooperation with the Association of Victims of 'Foča 92-95', a visit to the Partizan Sports Hall was organized - one of the places where Bosnian Muslim women were imprisoned and raped during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The following spoke at the commemorative meeting: Midheta Kaloper Oruli ('Foča 92-95'), Staša Zajović, WiB, Vice President of the Federation of BiH Melika Mehmutbegović, Arma Tanović, an artist from Sarajevo.

Afterwards, a peaceful walk through the streets of Foča to the main Square of Foča took place and a tribute to the murdered and raped women was organized by dropping flowers into the river Čehotina.

Ten activists (10) of the Women in Black Network from Belgrade and Kruševac from Serbia and Herceg Novi and Pljevlja from Montenegro participated in the events in Foča.





Zemun/Beograd, July 1th

Zemun/Belgrade, July 1th, “Continuity of Radikal Fashism” – Women in Black and the Youth Initiative for Human Rights, with the support of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia, organized a protest vigil in front of the Zemun municipality building, where a quarter of a century ago (1997) the apartment of the family of Zemun Croats, the Barbalić family, was robbed.

The protest was disrupted by members of the Serbian Radical Party/ SRS, who insulted and threatened the gathered activists:

- We will ban all non-governmental organizations, and we will trample you!
- You will slip on a banana peel. There are many bananas in the market (Vjerica Radeta, former SRS MP)
- Sluts!
- And you didn't find anything to fuck, so you're with these guys!
- Look at the fag!
- You are the ugliest woman, it's a shame your mother didn't abort you! (To Staša Zajović)
- You defend the Ustashas! (To the police)

This action was attended by fifteen (15) female and male activists.



Beograd, July 10th



Belgrade, July 10th, "We will never forget the Srebrenica genocide"

- On July 10th 2022, on the 27th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide, Women in Black held a rally in Republic Square in Belgrade, under the slogan "We will never forget the Srebrenica genocide".

In mourning and silence, the stage action "**Srebrenica – the name of genocide**" was performed, consisting of the following elements:

- **Srebrenica – the name of genocide** - respect for international court rulings, rebellion against the shameful renaming of genocide - central banner/transparent.
- **8372** – putting on the public stage the number of those killed in the genocide represents recognition of the facts established by the court. With this act, we symbolically write into the collective memory what is denied/falsified/downplayed in the majority of the Serbian public – the extent of the genocide in Srebrenica.
- **The factual truth about the genocide** – which most people in Serbia do not want to see, know or accept – **alarming figures denounce a society of moral breakdown, a community of zombies**; instead of silencing and complicity, by disclosing long-known facts, they express sympathy and solidarity with the victims - this part of the action was carried out by twelve female activists completely wrapped in **black tulle**, which they unravel by presenting on the public stage information about the genocide in Srebrenica:
- The Srebrenica genocide was committed with direct support of the Serbian regime.
- The Srebrenica genocide took place from July 11th to 22nd 1995.
- **8.372** Bosniak men aged between 12 and 77 were killed in the genocide.
- Sites of massive executions: Jadar, Cerska, Tišća, Grbavci, Orahovac, Pilica, Branjevo.
- Over **20.000** members of Serbian armed forces participated in the genocide.
- Remains of the killed were found in over **60** mass graves.
- All the busses used for deportations were from Serbia: 7. juli-Šabac, Strela-Valjevo, Raketa-Užice...
- On 15th January 2009, the European Parliament proclaimed July 11th Day of Remembrance of the Srebrenica genocide.
- On 26th February 2007, the International Court of Justice declared FRY guilty of not preventing the Srebrenica genocide.
- On 8th August 2021, Ratko Mladić was sentenced to life imprisonment.
- The Hague Tribunal pronounced life imprisonment for the following individuals accountable for the Srebrenica genocide: Ratko Mladić, Zdravko Tolimir, Ljubiša Beara and Vujadin Popović.
- The Hague Tribunal sentenced 12 people for the Srebrenica genocide to 255 years in prison.

- **Remove the mural of war criminal Ratko Mladić!** – an act of rebellion against murals celebrating a war criminal convicted of genocide in Srebrenica, a request to remove murals located throughout Serbia.
- **Solidarity – Srebrenica – Women in Black** – the installation of a symbolic/living memorial is a continuation of the construction of a monument to the victims of genocide, after the rejection of our years-long request - that the construction of a permanent monument to the victims of genocide in Srebrenica in Belgrade be approved.



The stage action ended with the scattering of **white rose petals** on the black tulle - a symbol of tenderness and dignity, care and attention towards the victims of genocide.



About **80** activists from Belgrade, Leskovac, Vlasotina, Kraljevo, Kruševac, Novi Bečej, Pančevo, Cologne, Krakow, Bologna and Rome participated in the action.

During the action, a couple of people were shouting the following:

- *Srebrenica is not genocide! Bratunac is genocide!*
- *Who are you sorry for? Whom have you lost?*
- *Ratko Mladić Serbian hero!*
- *Stasha, Ustasha!*
- *Etc.*

FEMINIST, ANTI-FASCIST, ANTI-WAR, ANTI-RACIST, ANTI-MILITARISTIC ACTIONS:

In this period, we organized the following street actions:

Antiwar actions "Stop the war in Ukraine":

Beograd, Maj 9th



Belgrade, May 9th, "Stop fascism! Stop the war in Ukraine" - on the occasion of May 9 - the Day of Victory over Fascism, Women in Black organized a vigil in black and silence in Knez Mihailova Street.

The following banners were displayed at the protest:

- Stop fascism
- Stop the war in Ukraine
- No pasaran!
- Women in Black - anti-fascists
- Women in Black against fascism

Twenty female and male activists (20) participated in the protest.



Kruševac, Leskovac, Vlasotince, May 9, "Stop fascism! Stop the war in Ukraine"

In coordination with WiB Belgrade, within the WiB Network, protests were held in the following cities:

Kruševac, May 24, "Stop the war in Ukraine" – an anti-war protest against the war in Ukraine - against Russian aggression, with messages of solidarity with the citizens of Ukraine - was organized by the organization of the "Peščanik" Association from Kruševac and WiB Belgrade.



Belgrade, June 29, "Stop the war in Ukraine" – the following banners were displayed at the protest:

- Stop the war in Ukraine (in Ukrainian, Russian, Belarusian and Serbian)
- Women in Black against war
- Putin – a war criminal
- Take Putin to The Hague!



About twenty activists (**20**) participated in this anti-war action, and during the protest a passer-by threw the following insults at the activists:

- Who pays you?
- See that faggot?



Beograd, July 29, "Stop the war in Ukraine" - anti-war banners in Ukrainian, Russian, Belarusian, Serbian and English were displayed at the protest. As a sign of sympathy for the Ukrainian people, the activists held bouquets of blue and yellow flowers - the colors of the Ukrainian flag. Banners were also displayed: Putin - war criminal; Putin to The Hague!

Unlike almost all WiB actions, this action was not 'secured' by a police cordon, thus preventing contact with citizens.

Twenty (**20**) people participated in the action.

In this period, we also actively participated in protests against the war in Ukraine organized by the **RUBS** initiative (Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians and Serbs) together against the war in Ukraine.

May 24 and June 23th

May 24 and June 23th, - "We believe in Milena Radulović!" -

Women in Black, the feminist initiative Verujem ti (I believe you), Women's Solidarity, CK13, and the Autonomous Women's Center organized a protest in front of the Palace of Justice on the occasion of the trial of Miroslav Mika Aleksić, accused of rape and sexual abuse of students of the drama studio 'Matter of the Heart' whose owner he was at the time.



Žene u crnom, 1991 →

We held banners that read:

- *We believe Milena Radulović*
- *Those who raped in war, also rape in peace ...*
- *Justice for the victims, sanctions for the perpetrators*

Twenty-five (25) activists participated in these protests.

Belgrade, May 18th



Belgrade, May 18th, “Not a woman less”! - On the occasion of May 18 - the Day of Remembrance of Women Victims of Violence, the Autonomous Women’s Center and Women in Black organized the protest Not a woman less.

The protest was organized in Knez Mihailova Street. The following banners were displayed at the protest:

- *Not a woman less*
- *May 18 – Day of Remembrance for Women Victims of Violence*
- *Let’s react before it’s too late*

Fourteen female and male activists (**14**) participated in the protest.



BELGRADE, JULY 5th – “STOP TO BANNING ABORTION - SOLIDARITY WITH THE USA WOMEN”

Women in Black and the Autonomous Women’s Center organized the protest Stop to Banning Abortion in the USA, in Knez Mihailova Street. The following slogans were displayed at the protest, written in Serbian and English:



- *Moje telo - moja autonomija/My body – my autonomy*
- *Abortus je ljudsko pravo/Abortion is a human right*
- *Ilegalni abortus – legalna smrt žena/Illegal abortion – legal death of women*
- *Solidarnost sa ženama u SAD/Solidarity with USA women*
- *Amerikanke, niste same/ USA women, you are not alone*
- *Abortirajmo Vrhovni sud/Let’s abort the Supreme Court*
- *Nećemo nazad/We will not step back*



- *Sve smo abortirale/ We have all had abortions*
- *ask anyone*
- *Dole crkva, dole Bog, dalje od tela mog/Down with the Church, down with God, away from my body*

The protest was attended by 20-odd activists (20).



DEALING WITH THE PAST / TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE – A FEMINIST APPROACH

This is one of the most important activities of Women in Black. It consists of a multitude of segments: street actions, workshops, lectures, creation of different models of transitional justice from a feminist point of view, cooperation with related organizations in the form of joint actions (campaigns, consultative meetings).

VISITING THE PLACES OF CRIME COMMITTED IN OUR NAME, AS WELL AS OTHER CRIMES AGAINST THE CIVILIAN POPULATION DURING THE WARS IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA:

May 31 and June 1th

May 31 and June 1th, Zvornik (Bosnia and Hercegovina) – on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the crimes against civilians in the area of Zvornik: **in the course of May and June 1992, Serbian armed formations committed crimes of ethnic cleansing, robbery, torture and killings**; Several thousand civilians of Bosniak nationality were expelled from 13 villages in the area of the municipality of Zvornik, and around 700 men were then killed in the place called Gerina klanica (Gera's slaughterhouse).

Women in Black participated in commemorative gatherings, together with the Association of Victims of the Municipality of Zvornik:

May 31th

- **Visit to Pilica concentration camp** (former Cultural Center, now a ruin) where **595** men of Bosniak name were killed;

- **“Klisan Night of Fear and Uncertainty”** history lesson in the village of Klis about the crime committed on May 31, 1992, when the Serbian armed forces rounded up thousands of civilians from 13 villages in the area of the Zvornik municipality.

June 1th

- **Peace march along the ‘Path of Death’** with families of victims and survivors;
- **Paying tribute to the victims at the Memorial Center in Bijeli Potok** - visit to the memorial in Bijeli Potok, which lists the names of all 675 victims killed, of which 22 people are still being sought, and 442 in the entire Zvornik area;
- **Karakaj - visit to the former concentration camp in the High School Center in Karakaj**, where more than **700** men were deported, including minor children and those over 80 years old, where they were killed;
- **Burial rites at the cemetery in the Memorial Center Memići/Kalesija Gornja**, where the remains of three people were buried.

June 19th

Foča, June 19th – Meeting with the families of the victims, after the commemorative event in Foča (Bosnia and Herzegovina) on the occasion of June 19 - the International Day of Combating Sexual Violence in War.

July 11th

July 11th, “Solidarity and responsibility” – in accordance with the policy of solidarity and responsibility, Women in Black participated in the commemoration/burial rites in Potočari/Srebrenica, where, together with the families of the victims of the Srebrenica genocide, we attended the burial of 50 remains of the victims. Thirty (**30**) activists from the Women in Black Network from Serbia (Leskovac, Kruševac, Vlasotince, Kraljevo, Novi Bečej, Novi Pazar, Belgrade, Krakow, Italy, Germany) participated in the Memorial Center in Potočari. In the Memorial Center, we also held a commemorative gathering with messages/banners (We will never forget the genocide in Srebrenica, Solidarity, Responsibility, Women in Black - Srebrenica, etc.).

July 14th

July 14, Bukovica, near Pljevlja/Montenegro – **on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the ethnic cleansing of the Bosniak population in the area of Bukovica** (municipality of Pljevlja, north of Montenegro, along the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina), a commemorative meeting was held in the organization of the association ‘Anima’ from Kotor, in which women activists from Montenegro (Podgorica, Herceg Novi) Tivat, Pljevlja) participated, as well as WiB activists from Belgrade. In the period from 1992 to 1995, six people were killed in that area, two committed suicide as a result of torture, 11 were kidnapped and taken to prison, about 70 were subjected to physical torture, and about 125 Bosniak families with 330 members were displaced. The aforementioned crimes were committed by members of the Yugoslav Army, members of paramilitary formations and the Montenegrin police, who tortured, searched, robbed, mistreated and abused Bosniaks from Bukovica. No one has yet been held accountable for the aforementioned crimes.

July 15

July 15, Kaluđerski laz (village in the north of Montenegro, near the border with Kosovo) - on the occasion of the 23rd anniversary of the murder of Albanian civilians, a commemorative gathering was held in the organization of the association 'Anima' from Kotor, in which women activists from Montenegro (Podgorica, Herceg Novi, Tivat, Pljevlja) participate, as well as WiB activists from Belgrade. *Namely, from April 18 to May 21, 1999, the Yugoslav Army killed 22 people of Albanian nationality, among them old men, women and children, in the Montenegrin village of Kaluđerski laz.* During the war in Kosovo in 1998/1999, tens of thousands of Albanians sought salvation and protection on the territory of Montenegro. Although the government in Montenegro had nothing to do with the crime in Kaluđerski Laz, the Montenegrin judiciary proved ineffective in this, as well as in other trials for war crimes. All suspects for this crime (eight of them) were acquitted before the court.

August 3

August 3, Lučani "Solidarity with the Milivojević family from Lučani" - as a sign of solidarity and sympathy with the Milivojević family from Lučani (Western Serbia), Women in Black activists from Belgrade attended a commemoration at the cemetery in Lučani on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the death of Milomir Milivojević. Workers Milomir Milojević and Milojko Ignjatović died in a gunpowder explosion in the factory "Milan Blagojević-Namenska" from Lučani on July 14, 2017. For more than two years now, the Milovanović family has been asking the state authorities to shed light on the circumstances of the tragedy in the factory. Criminal proceedings have been pending before the Basic Court in Ivanjica since October 2019, and WiB activists followed all the hearings.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE CRIMES – THE PATH TO PEACE WITH JUSTICE: MONITORING THE TRIALS AT THE SPECIAL COURT

In this period as well, the hearings were often postponed for several reasons: due to the epidemiological situation, absence of witnesses and lawyers, about which the public following the trials (victims' families, NGOs, media) was not informed beforehand, but mostly on the day of the scheduled hearings.

Trial for the war crime in Štrpci

– **on February 27, 1993,** the train on the Belgrade-Bar railroad number 671 was raided at the station of Štrpci, when members of the military formation Osvetnici (Avengers), operating as part of the Višegrad brigade of the Army of Republika Srpska, abducted 20 persons from the train (18 passengers of Bosnian nationality, one passenger of Croatian nationality, citizen of the Republic of Yugoslavia and one unidentified person), took them to the village of Mušići first, and from there to the village of Prelovo, in the community of Višegrad, where they were killed. So far, the remains of four persons have been found. This trial began on March 4, 2019; the following persons were accused

of this crime: Gojko Lukić, Ljubiša Vasiljević, Duško Vasiljević, Jovan Lipovac and Dragana Đekić.

In this period, three hearings were held:

May 11th

May 11th – Defendant Jovan Lipovac did not enter the courtroom, because on May 10, 2022 he was admitted to the hospital emergency department; lawyer Stanković had a death in his family; lawyer Novak Ninic was not present for family reasons.

May 17th

May 17 – The defense attorney for the accused Jovan Lipovac informed the Court that his client had an operation for stomach cancer. At the proposal of the deputy prosecutor, the court panel made a decision to separate the main trial in relation to the accused Jovan Lipovac.

13. junth

June 13th – At today's hearing, the presentation of written evidence continued.

Kravica War Crime

Eight members of the Special Brigade of the Republika Srpska Army have been charged with war crimes (the murder of 1,313 Bosnians, within the Srebrenica genocide, on July 13th, 1995).

(Let us remind: The Kravica crime indictment was brought at the beginning of 2016. This was the beginning of the most important trial at the High Court in Belgrade / Special Court, the Srebrenica genocide. However, on 14 July 2017, the Court of Appeal ruled to annul the indictment for this crime, which is otherwise not qualified as genocide, since it was raised at the time when the War Crimes Prosecutor's Office did not have a Chief Prosecutor. The trial continued in November 2017, and the hearings are continually being delayed due to non-attendance of witnesses, inaction of the prosecution and the withdrawal of protected witnesses due to the threats they receive).

12. majth

May 12th – Today's main trial was not held due to the absence of lawyer Goran Petronijević.

Trial for the crime in Bratunac

The indictment charges *Goran Stjepanović*, a member of the Republika Srpska Army, with crimes against Bosniak civilians in early June 1992 and with raping A.A., a Bosniak woman. The main trial began in January 2021; however, due to the epidemiological situation, hearings were often postponed.

In this reporting period one hearing was held:

1. junth

June 1th – The trial was canceled because the witness Fata Hasanović was ill and therefore could not testify, while the witness Mustafa Ibišević, immediately before the hearing, informed the court that he was outside Bosnia and Herzegovina. Witness Damir Omić was not served with the summons.

The trial of Milenko Živanović

The Prosecutor's Office for War Crimes of Serbia filed an indictment against the former general and commander of the Drina Corps of the Army of Republika Srpska (VRS) Milenko Živanović for war crimes against the civilian population in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

Živanović is charged with having ordered and participated in the forced relocation of Bosniak civilians from Srebrenica and Žepa in the east of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In March 1995, he issued an order to "create conditions of total insecurity, intolerability and hopelessness for the further survival and life of the villagers in Srebrenica and Žepa through daily planned and designed combat activities."

On July 12, 1995, he ordered the provision of 50 buses for the "evacuation of the civilian population from the Srebrenica enclave". On July 13, 1995, he issued an ultimatum to the Bosniaks that they had to leave, etc.

The main trial began on May 30, but was postponed until the BH Prosecutor's Office submits its files, since the indictment was also filed against the accused in BH.

(You can find reports in Serbian from these hearings on the WiB website)

VIDEO ACTIVISM: TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE – A FEMINIST APPROACH

In order to improve the visibility of the effects of various models of transitional justice, especially those from the feminist point of view, a group of video activists was created in 2010, which was capable of recording, editing, digitizing and setting up on the Internet video and audio materials collected during the regular activities of the WiB, so that it, in the form of short films, becomes available to the general public. During this reporting period, the group produced the following video materials:

- **Not a woman less** (2 min.) – documentary film about the action of the same name in Belgrade, May 18th
- **We remember women raped in War! We remember women of Foča** (4 min.) documentary about street action held in Belgrade June 17th
- **Srebrenica – the name of genocide (9)** – documentary about street action on 27th anniversary .

ART ENGAGED IN DEALING WITH THE PAST/ TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

During this period, the practice of joint work and cooperation among art collectives, professional theaters, artists engaged in artistic design of resistance to war, war crimes, repression and violations of human

rights has continued. In this reporting period we organized following several working meetings with art collectives Škart and Dah Theater – preparation of street activities regarding 27th anniversary Srebrenica genocide, Foča crimes etc.

In this period, WiB also participated in the following activist-artistic events:

3.jul i 25. julth

July 3 and July 25th, Novi Sad – ReCAPITULATION: Disobedient objects/subjects 1992-2022 – marking the 30th anniversary of the founding of the **Multimedia Center/MMC Led Art**, an artistic-activist collective, at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Novi Sad. With this collective WiB continued to collaborate in designing and implementing street actions related to dealing with the past.

CONFRONTING THE PAST – JOINT REFLECTION

(meetings, lectures, book promotions,

Zoom conferences, media conferences...) organized by WiB and related civil society organizations. In this period, we highlight the following activities:

We remember Trešnjevac, May 10th, 1992 – a history lesson - marking the 30th anniversary of the nonviolent uprising in Trešnjevac against forced mobilization.

The meeting began in front of the local elementary school, where on May 10, 1992, a gathering of local men and women against the war and forced mobilization began. The following spoke: *Balla Lajos, Almasi Vilmos, Staša Zajović* and other actors and actresses of the event... The history lesson continued with a walk through Trešnjevac to the place of resistance - Zicer pizzeria, where the discussion continued.

Departure to Ada - tribute/memorial at the cemetery of Vera Veibel (1943-2020) and István Veibel (1945-2022)

Peace meeting and promotion of the publication "Trešnjevac – May 1992 - May 2022 - Civil disobedience, women's courage, solidarity" in Serbian and Hungarian (at the 'Laguna' restaurant in Ada).

Twenty-five (**25**) activists from the following places participated in this event: Ada, Belgrade, Novi Sad, Pančevo, Segedin, Sombor, Trešnjevac.

May 10^h

"Trešnjevac – May 1992 – May 2022th – Civil disobedience, female courage, solidarity" - promotion of the book as part of the 30th anniversary of the anti-war resistance in Serbia:

May 28th

May 28th, Sremski Karlovci – at the feminist discussion circle 'Feminist ethics of care - activism and ethics of care - old age and activism' in the presence of **25** activists from: Belgrade, Kotor, Kruševac, Kraljevo, Novi Sad, Subotica...

June 12th

June 12, Radmilovac near Belgrade – at the discussion group 'From vulnerability to impunity - about the (in)security of human rights defenders, journalists of independent media, free-thinking citizens. Twenty-nine (**29**) activists from the following cities participated in the rally: Belgrade, Novi Pazar, Vranje, Leskovac, Bajina Bašta, Pančevo, Prijepolje, Zagreb, Split, Krakow, Saint Petersburg.

June 25

June 25, Subotica – 'Women's Peace Policy': basic principles and characteristics of the women's peace movement: analysis and criticism of war from the point of view of gender; women's peace movement - tendencies/currents - feminist anti-militarist and maternal/maternalistic current; anti-war engagement of WiB; peace agreements - some of the key problems from a feminist/anti-militarist point of view - the lecture was given by Staša Zajović as part of the celebration of the program '*Women's studies after 25 years*' - Subotica branch of the Center for Women's Studies and Research, Novi Sad'. The event was held in the Contemporary Gallery of Subotica, in the presence of **a dozen** women, whereas about **15** women followed the lecture online.

May 24th

May 24th, Kruševac "Laughter under the gallows - Everything you wished you didn't know about the war in Kosovo" – author Rade Radovanović, journalist and editor of Danas, anti-war/anti-fascist activist; published by: **Most Art Yugoslavia (2021)**. The following persons spoke about the book: the author, publisher Dragan Stojković, activists of the association Peščanik from Kruševac and WiB Belgrade, organizers of the event attended by **25** people.

June 3th

June 3th, Novi Sad – About anti-war resistance in Vojvodina during the 90s - a discussion about protests, the experience of the "Spiritual Republic of Zicer", about resistance to forced mobilization, violence, war policy of the Serbian state. The event was organized by the Conceptual Policy Group/GKP Novi Sad: Branka **Ćurčić**, GKP participated in the debate, and on behalf of WiB: Lino Veljak, Staša Zajović and Violeta **Đikanović**.

The documentary film "**Unconditional peace**" - Remembrance of anti-war resistance - 30 years of the "Spiritual Republic of ZICER", Trešnjevac, May 1992 - May 2022, was also shown. Event organization: Women in Black, film production: Group for Conceptual Politics,

June 24th

June 24th – International Day in Support of Victims of Torture - Zoom conference **attended by 10 female activists and 1 male activist: from Tuzla, Belgrade, Kruševac, Kraljevo.**

On the occasion of June 26, the international date, VIVE women from Tuzla and Women in Black Belgrade organized this debate:

In the first part, the following topics were addressed: the concept of torture, the importance of the date and the activities of VIVE women in connection with it. The most important points were: "Torture is not recognized by law in BH"; 'It was easiest for me to work with traumas when they were fresh; it is more difficult to work online now than it

was during the war”; “The current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is very unhealthy for young people: the Dayton peace is unfair, and we are very tired and exhausted”.

Milena Vasić, lawyer of JUKOM (Lawyers’ Committee for Human Rights) from Belgrade.

She spoke about cases of torture in Serbia: among refugees and political activists, etc.

The second part was dedicated to the War in Ukraine - anti-war non-violent resistance and women’s peace activism.

On sending weapons to Ukraine, the West’s responsibility, peace negotiations: The participants’ views are divided: some believe that sending weapons does not contribute to peace, but rather prolongs the war and increases the suffering of civilians, while others believe that “the state that is attacked has the right to self-defense by armed means”, that shows me the experience of the war in BH’, etc.

As for the responsibility of the West, a good part of the participants shares the opinion that in “Ukraine it is a conflict between the East and the West, neither the Russian nor the Ukrainian people have a say in it; there can be no talk of peace as long as Ukraine is the scene of the East-West conflict’. All the participants agree that Russia is responsible for the aggression, but that the responsibility of the West for Putin’s aggression is huge: the EU and the entire international community generally silently observed Russia’s attacks and invasions of Chechnya and Syria until the annexation of Crimea and attacks in the Donbass. I am afraid of the strengthening of the right that has been on the rise since the time of the pandemic and that climate makes negotiations difficult’. They also expressed their fear of ab/use of women because ‘the abuse of women is only talked about when it comes to crimes committed by the aggressor army, while the crimes of Ukraine are kept silent and even not allowed to be discussed because it is ‘unpatriotic’; there are 50,000 women in the army of Ukraine, with a distinctly patriotic militaristic orientation’, etc.

All of them expressed concern about the lack of peace initiatives and that in order to “achieve peace agreements, it is necessary for citizens to participate and to put pressure on international actors.”

Messages/advice to women in Ukraine and to all those who reject the war (conscientious objectors, deserters, mothers’ movement... - based on the experience of the war in BH, our shared experience of anti-war activism in the former country. Here are some of the suggestions:

Women’s peace initiatives should be above and beyond national divisions: Russian women should rebel en masse and put pressure on their aggressor state; Ukrainian women should get out of the armed forces - they should shed the armor of lighthearted alignment; networking of women above and beyond state borders and divisions is necessary; incrimination of war crimes is a prerequisite for peace...’ etc.

July 1th

July 1th, Belgrade “We remember the persecution of the Barbalić family” – 25 years since the seizure of the apartment of the family of Croats from Zemun - the Barbalić family.

The following persons spoke at the forum:

Milena Vasić, the lawyer of the Barbalić family before the European Court of Human Rights, who emphasized: “If the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg decides in favor of the Barbalić family, the state of Serbia would be obliged to pay material and non-material compensation.” If the aforementioned Court does not make such a decision, it will be the legalization of the expulsion of people of other nationalities, robbery and serious violation of human rights.

Dragan Stojković, organizer of protests and actions of solidarity with the Barbalić family in 1997, warned that the same matrix of hatred is repeated today: ‘In the post-war situation, the state continues to use nationalism as a cover and justification for robbery and extortion. The state must admit what happened to the Barbalićs, establish responsibility, apologize to the Barbalić family, etc.

Ivan Barbalić, the injured party, who lives in Croatia, joined via video link. He expressed hope that the European Court will make the right decision and that justice will be served. Barbalić also recalled the public brutal acts of violence by the Serbian Radical Party, in which the former President of Serbia Tomislav Nikolić and the current President Aleksandar Vučić participated, who threatened the Barbalić family and called all those who showed solidarity with them ‘Ustasha’, etc.

The forum moderated by journalist *Jelka Jovanović* was held in the premises of the Youth Initiative for Human Rights.

WOMEN’S COURT – A FEMINIST APPROACH TO JUSTICE

We bring a brief report on the activities of Women in Black regarding the organization of the Women’s Court - a feminist approach to justice in this period. Should you be interested in more information, you can find it on our website www.zeneucrnom.org and www.zenskisud.org or contact us by mail: zeneucrnombeograd@gmail.com

The first Women’s Court in the territory of Europe was held in Sarajevo, May 7 to May 10, 2015, organized by 10 women’s groups from the territory of the former Yugoslavia (Mothers of the Srebrenica and Žepa Enclaves, Cure Foundation, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Center for Women Victims of War, Center for Women’s Studies, Zagreb, Croatia, Center for Women and Peace Education Anima, Kotor, Montenegro, Gender Equality Council, Skopje, Macedonia, Women’s Lobby, Ljubljana, Slovenia, Center for Women’s Studies and Women in Black, Belgrade, Serbia). The Women’s Court was attended by more than 500 people from all the countries of the former Yugoslavia, but also from Argentina, Algeria, Palestine, Israel, the United States, Spain, Italy, Sweden, Austria, Belgium, Great Britain, etc.

The final event in Sarajevo was not the end of the process, but on the contrary, an incentive to continue from the feminist perspective towards the creation of new models of justice. It is an obligation first of all to the witnesses, but also the expression of our responsibility towards the enormous burden of the recent past.

In continuation of the Women's Court, Women in Black, Belgrade coordinates the program and other activities, with the support of organizations: Anima, Kotor (Montenegro), Center for Women Victims of War, Zagreb (Croatia), The Foundation CURE, Sarajevo (Bosnia & Herzegovina), and some members of the former Organizing Committee of the Women's Court continue to participate sporadically (Council for Equality, Skopje, Macedonia), while the other members support the process without active participation.

During this reporting period, the following activities were organized:

IREGIONAL MEETING, SARAJEVO (BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA)

The fifteenth (15th) regional meeting was organized by the CURE Foundation, within the project "Women and Peace Building in Bosnia and Herzegovina", with the support of: Novi Horizonti, Tuzla, Women in Black, Belgrade, Anima - Kotor and the Center for Women Victims of War, Zagreb. At this Regional meeting of the Women's Court, **22** women participated – W'sC witnesses from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia and Serbia, as well as organizers, therapists, associates of the W'sC.

In the course of this meeting, the following activities took place:

Report on the activities of the Women's Court since the previous regional meeting (June 2021 to May 2022)

A new war in Europe - joint reflection on the consequences of the war in Ukraine; about the influence on our region, on the elections; on the hierarchy among refugees; about the current socio-political situation in the region - challenges, problems...

Moderated by: *Mira Vilušić*, Novi Horizonti, Tuzla

The participants showed a high level of empathy and solidarity, complete readiness to use their huge experience to support and help Ukrainian women, especially victims of the war crime of rape, since they have extensive activist and expert experience. There was talk about the importance of the policy of internationalist solidarity - about the necessity of joint work of Ukrainian and Russian women ('overcoming borders'), as well as the visibility of the anti-war-feminist engagement of Russian activists against aggression, etc.

Duga resa (62 min.), directed by: *Škart*, an artistic-activist group from Belgrade. Roles: Milica Savić -- Mica and many others; production: *Faction – film revolutionary action*; production: 2021; at the international festival Slobodna zona (Belgrade, November 2021, this film won the first prize of the audience. The film shows how traditional

women's handwork turns into a struggle for dignity, the imagination of women, how different human and artistic experiences intersect, social activism in the space of the former Yugoslavia...

The screening was followed by a discussion moderated by:

Jadranka Miličević.

“The truth in the transition period – a feminist approach - the concept and importance of truth in the lives of women and the community” workshop on the connection between lies as patriarchal domination over women and among women in their everyday experience (family, relationships in the environment) and patriarchal lies at the state level in relation to the past of wars and war crimes. The template for the conversation is Adrienne Rich's essay *“Women and Honor: Notes on Lying.”*

The participants, prompted by the essay, highlighted the following problems related to the transitional justice process:

Going back in the processes of transitional justice/dealing with the past:

Absence of empathy towards victims, manipulation of victims, state-organized lies - inefficiency of the legal system - unsatisfied justice, which causes complete distrust in criminal justice.

The crimes of war rape in Foča continue to cause deep trauma among the victims - impunity is manifested in the small number of verdicts for these crimes - in the run-up to the 30th anniversary of the crime, frustrations are growing among the victims, and ethno-nationalist leaders are catering to the interests of profit (e.g., investments of Chinese capital at the crime scenes in Foča, etc.) and not to the needs of the victims; Sheer disappointment in the international community, especially in the European Union, which is guided by ethnic principles and divisions, plays into the hands of ethno-national leaders - lack of pressure on state bodies in BH and the entire region in the direction of satisfying justice, etc.

The participants warned about the lack of institutional support and responsibility for all levels of truth:

Even after 30 years, there is no relevant list of all victims - except what was done by civil society organizations/CSOs.

There is no solidarity among the victims - primarily due to inter-ethnic mistrust, the victims are often opposed to each other, not in solidarity, favored by various centers of power, and this is especially evident in the war crime of rape.

Inequality of victims, hierarchy between victims and crimes - mainly caused by judgments (primarily of the Hague Tribunal), which further increases frustrations.

The participants rely mostly on their own efforts in the fight for truth, justice, and dignity - they expressed a high degree of trust in **restorative truth and justice** - aimed at self-healing, trust, reconciliation and recovery. The survivors testified to this, as well as

their concrete actions of mutual support and help, enormous efforts towards building a culture of remembrance - memorials, monuments.

On women's / feminist code of honor - a joint reflection

In accordance with the feminist ethics of responsibility and "honor", the participants indicated the necessity of harmony between action and words, the moral imperative of fulfilling the given word and mutual agreements. The whole discussion was extremely participatory, emotionally strong and touching. The importance of exchanges and joint consideration of this topic was confirmed by the joint viewing and discussion after the screening of the film "Parallel Mothers"/*Madres paralelas*" by the Spanish director Pedro Almodovar. The final session was devoted to agreements on the activities of the Women's Court in the following period.

July 23 to August 13th

II FEMINIST ETHICS OF CARE – Active women's holiday in the women's house 'Seka' Brač/Croatia from July 23 to August 13.th

Ten (10) women - witnesses, W'sC activists from BH, Croatia and Serbia:

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Reiha Avdic, Bratunac/Srebrenica; Suvada Selimović, Đulići/Zvornik

Croatia: Marica Šeatović, Novska; Jovanka Carević and Milica Miladinović, Zagreb

Serbia: Mirjana Mijailović and Milka Rosić, Leskovac, Aleksandra Jelić and Nastasja Radović, Belgrade and Snežana Obrenović, Kraljevo and Svetlana Šarić, Vlasotince.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

In addition to the aforementioned, were realized within the Network (women's peace activism, feminist discussion circles, debates...):

MAY 27, 28 AND 29, SREMSKI KARLOVCI

"FEMINIST ETHICS OF CARE – ACTIVISM AND ETHICS OF CARE – ACTIVISM AND OLD AGE..."

- feminist roundtable discussion/FRD was held in the Ecological Center/Scouts' Movement of Vojvodina, and 19 women from 13 cities: Novi Sad, Sremski Karlovci, Beočin, Leskovac, Vlasotince, Kruševac, Kraljevo, Subotica, Kotor, Trstenik, Planinice near Kruševac, Belgrade. This FDK took place in the form of interactive lectures, workshops, screening of documentary films, artistic and recreational activities. FRD was organized by Women in Black, Belgrade, with the support of the Center for Women's Studies and Research, Novi Sad.

Friday, May 27th

Friday, May 27th

THE FEMINIST CONCEPT OF ETHICS OF CARE (concept, development of ethics of care, practices based on feminist ethics of care, contribution of feminist ethics of care to the order of peace, etc.). The interactive lecture was held by **Ljupka Kovačević**, Anima - Center for Peace and Women's Education, Kotor.

At the beginning, she asked the question: *What is the purpose of my care?* The participants' answers were mostly focused on *caring for others*, which is mostly related to the health of family members, to help those "weaker than yourself", to "satisfaction of another person", to "help others more than yourself" etc.

When asked if there are differences in the care of men and women, the participants expressed a clear difference: *'Women take care of children, family, survival, parents, everyday life; men care about comfort, about work, about status, achievement, money.'*

In the discussion that followed the lecture, the women reflected on the contradictions, pitfalls of empathy, but also the emotional and moral value of empathy:

Discriminatory and racist attitude towards refugees: 'At the institutional level, Poland supports accepting refugees from Ukraine, but not others, which means that they cannot accept diversity. Poland is a white Catholic country' (*Magda*).

Empathy is burning and draining: 'Empathy is dangerous, it eats up your life. You burn, they stretch you. You can't achieve it all. With empathy, you never know when it's over' (*Svenka*).

Empathy as understanding and communication: 'Empathy is understanding someone's position. You can approach that person and establish contact' (*Nastasja*).



FEMINIST APPROACH TO HEALTH, ACTIVISM AND ETHICS OF CARE – WORKSHOP

Women believe that health is influenced by numerous factors:

SOCIAL AND CLASS POSITION OF WOMEN; REPRESSION OF WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS: 'Health is a social and societal issue. What is

important to women and what they require is not available to women. Health is a privilege. Gynecological examinations and contraception are not available in Poland. Access to health is controlled for women' (*Magda*); "On the one hand, the demographic policy campaign is directed against women, that they should give birth to as many children as possible, and on the other hand, the conditions in maternity wards are terrible, women give birth in unhygienic conditions where you can get sepsis" (*Nastasja*); "Psychiatric hospitals and delivery rooms are the most inhumane institutions in the health system" (*Ljupka*).



HEALTH INSECURITY AFFECTS THE ENTIRE CITIZENRY, ESPECIALLY POOR WOMEN AND THE ROMA POPULATION: 'Most women are unsafe because they do not have adequate health care. Some people don't have a health care ID, they don't have health care. The Roma population is an invisible category in healthcare' (*Svetlana*).

WIDESPREAD CORRUPTION IN THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM: 'The medical profession is not only highly corrupt, but there is a law in Serbia that allows them to receive money. That does not exist for any other profession' (*Nastasja*).

MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: "Every year, tens of thousands of women disappear from the planet because men kill them." When women are exposed to violence, it reduces their capacity at every level. Institutions do not recognize the gender aspect of violence against women' (*Snežana J.*).



MEDICALIZATION OF THE BODY FOR THE PROFIT OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY: 'Pharmaceutical industries use poor sections of the population for various drug experiments' (*Nadežda*); 'Doctors, for the sake of profit, are in conjunction with pharmacists. It is the industrial production of prescriptions that causes people to get sick because of supplements and drugs with side effects' (*Snežana O.*) etc.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION: 'I'm from Trstenik, I live on the outskirts, it's an agricultural area. People use various pesticides unprofessionally and to a huge extent. In every household, one person died of cancer. It is connected with water pollution in our area' (*Ljilja*).

MILITARISM - THE ARMS INDUSTRY, THE ARMY PRODUCE ECOLOGICAL, HEALTH AND OTHER PROBLEMS: 'Because of the arms industry, people's crops have been destroyed for the whole year. Yesterday, when I was coming from Kraljevo, a column under full police escort passed by the station' (*Snežana O.*).

Caring for others: the conversation revealed a wide range of experiences –the fulfilment of caring for others, through bullying,

neglect, self-blame, emotional blackmail to unlearning the patriarchal role of women's care and a fairer distribution of care and care work...

"I already take care of my mother, who is 90 years old, whose muscles have atrophied and she can't walk. It greatly affects my activism. I reached the breaking point both physically and mentally, so I called my brother and told him that. He reacted a little angrily at the moment, but when he thought about it, he said that we will take turns every ten days' (*Nadežda*).

'My two brothers and I shared our time and took care of our infirm mother. This division of care and responsibility establishes good relationships in the family' (*Ljupka*).

"I'm an only child and I looked after my mother for three or four years and I didn't have time for anything. At that moment, life stopped. Fortunately, I had the support of both my husband and my (xx).

"For six years I took care of my sick father, who died, and for three years I've been taking care of my mother. I have no one to share it with because my brother has been living abroad for thirty years. I have ethical dilemmas whether to help myself or my mother. I can't find the right solution. Besides taking care of my mother, I take care of my students and my 18 cats. I somehow manage to cope. On top of all that, I want to be responsible to my friends, so I come to the activities of the Network. (*Snežana O.*)

Caring for others affects our activism: for some women, activism is a support and a source of strength; due to long-term exhaustion, some women lose the need for activism, while others decide to devote themselves more, finding relief in socializing, laughing, humor...

'I shared the care of my mother with my sister. She died in 2014. Activism helped me a lot' (*Milka*).

'I was more active when I had more problems. I have no strength now. My sick husband used to stay with a neighbor. I am exhausted from worry' (*Senka*).

'We don't have to worry all the time, so we can direct our thoughts in another direction. When my husband was dying, I went to my neighbor's house and we would tell exchange jokes. I needed to laugh. We have to protect ourselves (*Dragana*).

*The discussion was moderated:
Mina Damjanović and Staša Zajović.*

Saturday, May 28th

Saturday, May 28th

“AGE AND GENDER IN TIME AND SPACE: WHAT OLDER WOMEN OVER 65+ CANNOT DO IN SERBIA TODAY”

During 2020 and 2021 (February 1, 2020–April 30, 2021), the Association “Women’s Studies and Research” implemented the project “What can women aged 65+ (not) do in Serbia today?”

The result of the research and collaborative work is a book called *Old Age and Gender in Time and Space: What Older Women (Can’t) Do in Serbia Today?* edited by *Margareta Basharagin*. The book contains, in addition to the introductory text, six contributions: *Eva D. Bahovec, Beauvoir, The Other Sex and Age*, *Svenka Savić Language and Age in Interaction*, *Margareta Basharagin “Don’t worry, age is a number” - ageism and sexism in media discourse: TV advertisements and anti-age newspaper ads*, *Sanja Kojić Mladenov Portrayals of older women in visual art*, *Staša Zajović Solidarity in the age of corona* and *Tatjana Radojević ‘What can women aged 65+ (not) do in Serbia today?: research based on a questionnaire.’*

(The book is available on the Women’s Studies and Research website).

HOW DO YOUNG ACTIVISTS SEE OLD ACTIVISTS? – deliberation

“Young female activists convey stereotypes that older female activists will not be the focus of discussion, they are not interested in their experiences” (*Svenka*).

“It’s easier for women in old age than in youth because of experience” (*Senka*).

“Where you walked, we are now running” (*Svetlana*).

THE GAP BETWEEN ACTIVISTS OF THE OLDER AND YOUNGER GENERATIONS MAKES CONTINUITY AND TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE DIFFICULT:

“Younger activists perceive older women as a hindrance because the space for projects is narrowing”; “Among young people there has been a utilitarian/clientelist attitude towards activism, similar to the parties”; “I tried to build a relationship with young people, but I didn’t succeed. There was no transfer of activist knowledge, experience and skills. I see in young people the strength to suppress activism in order to get different kinds of gains, both at school and at work”; “It is possible to achieve continuity, but we should actively work to ensure that the older and younger generations discuss this topic openly.”

WHY IS OLD AGE BEAUTIFUL? WHY DO WE FEEL GOOD IN OLD AGE? WHAT DOES THAT BEAUTY CONSIST OF? WHY IS IT GOOD TO BE AN OLDER WOMAN? - asked *Svenka*, a here’s summary of the conversation about the advantages of age:

- *I feel that I don't have to do everything*
- *Now I have more freedom to say that I worked under duress, now I can choose to say No*
- *I got tired of 'musts' and I don't have to do anything anymore*
- *I can do anything I want*
- *I have fewer fears, less depression*
- *I started to live in greater harmony with myself, in greater peace*
- *Old age is a privilege and a luxury*
- *This is youth in old age. Woe to the aging mind...*

HOW TO BEHAVE IN A FEMINIST WORLD WITH OLDER PEOPLE?

'Don't shout. We assume that the elderly person is deaf. On the bus, the young man is sitting and I am standing. I tell him that if his father had used a condom, now I would have a place to sit' (Svenka).

"When we had a vigil 'Stop the war in Ukraine', they said there were three nannies and women with split brains. That was one of the comments. They called men women and us nannies" (Milka).

"We have to make some recommendations for the media on how they should report on the elderly. When journalists are older, they are bards, and female journalists are nannies" (Snežana J.).

WHY IS THE OLD FEMALE BODY A PROBLEM?

'I found out that there is a beauty salon in Belgrade for girls from 4 to 12 years old, before they enter puberty. What will happen to them when they get old?' (Margareta).

"We must make women aware that they have the right to be old, that it is beautiful. I want my right to be old. We worry about the grandfather and the offspring, but not the grandmother" (Svenka).

ACTIVISM AND OLD AGE – INTERACTIVE LECTURE AND WORKSHOP

(Is public and political engagement linked only to 'youth'? Is the engagement of seniors, especially older women, linked to social and political changes? Are older people really rarely engaged or is their activism neglected, underestimated and stigmatized? etc.

Lecturers: **Magdalena Sztandara**, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland and **Ildiko Erdei**, Faculty of Philosophy - Department of Ethnology and Anthropology, Belgrade

Do these ageist practices (discrimination of the elderly) also exist within activist circles? Is it so, and if so, how is the experience gained over the years valorized? How is it included or not acknowledged and deleted? Is there anyone who wants to continue what was started earlier? What is the fate of those organizations and of what they have done? What do you associate these questions with? (Ildiko)

Summary of the deliberation:

The discriminatory attitude towards the elderly intensifies the already widespread fears of old age: *'Stigma, hatred and rejection dominate towards the elderly, and many female activists internalize such an attitude, they even blame themselves for engaging in activism. The pandemic had the effect of shedding light on the existing hatred of the elderly at the level of the state and society'; 'There is a fear of loneliness. I'm afraid of falling off the bus'; "What scares me the most in old age is weakness"; "Fears are denying me freedom and freedom of movement"; 'My fears are related to sexuality and the erasure of sexuality in women. I'm a lesbian. I have a fear of loneliness. I know only one lesbian in Serbia who is over 65 years old' etc.*

Activism changed the experience of old age, as well as self-perception: *'Activism helped me feel differently about old age'; 'Activism helped me a lot to overcome the feeling of social redundancy, it enriched my knowledge and experiences'; "We have all broadened our horizons owing to activism"; 'Activism helps me in everything. It lifts us up. We have become aware of where old age is taking us; 'Activism has changed me, changed our perspectives, our attitude towards ourselves. Women who have the most energy are those who are 65+'; "The pandemic increased my activism. All my friends were locked down, and I serviced them'.*

Activism transcends age limits, erases years: *'Activism erases your years'; "I don't feel old in activism. Age is not important for activism"; "My activism in connection with WiB is that I don't even know activism without women who are politically active, strong, tenacious in their years. Women who are older than me are the bellwethers of the idea of activism'; 'Activism enriched and gave meaning to my life, my age didn't count in activism; 'Can one be retired in activism?', etc.*

Old age is a privilege: *'My old age brings me more space of freedom to read more, to argue with people than I have had so far'; "Old age is a privilege and a luxury." There are no demands placed before me as before the youth', etc.*

What message do you have for the second generation of activists?
(Magda)

Solidarity – Responsibility - Disobedience – Perseverance – Knowledge - Friendship – Future – History.

Support - Death to fascism - Revolution... - the participants' messages

A brief summary of the deliberation – Ildiko and Magda

The biggest fears: from the weakness of the body, physical limitations, fear of not being able to take care of ourselves, fear of uncertainty, fear of loneliness, it is connected with the fear of weakness, there will be no one by our side...

Hopes: Mistresses of our time - we decide what we will do in that time. Aging as the conquest of freedom - that we don't have to, that's freedom. Gentleness towards ourselves - to moderate our expectations towards ourselves and to accept ourselves. To receive help and support, because we mostly think of ourselves as support providers...

Activism: Social capital. Activism is a lifelong requirement – there is no retirement in activism. Transfer to future generations, prejudices between generations, lack of dialogue, disappointment in younger generations - open issues...

“Svenka” (45 min.): screening of a documentary film about Prof. Dr. Svenka Savić, psycholinguist, feminist theoretician and activist, produced by the WiB Video Activism Group; screenplay and direction *Fahrudin Kladničanin*, cinematographer *Neđo Gavrić*, editing *Marija Arandžević*.

Sunday, May 29th

Sunday, May 29th

We celebrate women's struggle for peace and justice...

- **Trešnjevac - May 1992-May 2022:** *Civil disobedience, female courage, solidarity...presentation of the publication Women in Black, May 2022.*
- **Trešnjevac - women's resistance to forced mobilization (5:30 min.):** German television DW documentary film about the women's rebellion in the village of Trešnjevac/North Bačka; translation and subtitles by WiB Group for Video Activism.
- **“Shared dreams”/Suenos compartidos (21 min.):** a documentary film made on the occasion of 30 years of activities of Mothers from May Square. The film shows the search of mothers for their missing sons and daughters during the military dictatorship in Argentina (1976 - 1983), the fight for the sanctioning of crimes, but also the enormous efforts that the Mothers from May Square achieved in the field of education, social justice, and human rights.
- **Besne bake/The Raging Grannies (6 min.):** a presentation about the anti-militarist-feminist actions of the 'grandmas' from Canada (1987), which grew into a symbol and an international women's movement against nuclear weapons and militaristic violence.

Evaluation - what lessons do we take with us from this feminist circle? (Ljupka)

- **Joint reflection on old age** - changing attitudes towards old age; the importance and evaluation of activism in old age: 'I realized that I am not old; 'I realized that in old age one can have a lot of will and strength, especially mental; 'Old age can only be beautiful if we don't underestimate ourselves; 'To accept



June 11 and 12th

old age and continue activism'; 'I heard attitudes about old age that I hadn't thought about before'; 'I realized how activism rejuvenates/regenerates'; 'Activists age more slowly, we have more energy'; etc.

- **It is necessary to keep talking about old age and learning together:** 'It is important to keep talking about this topic'; 'This is an important topic, repeat it as soon as possible...! Let's continue learning together'; 'Old age is constant learning'; 'To deepen the theme of activism and old age'; 'This kind of meeting and exchange gives me strength', etc.
- Activists expressed enthusiasm for documentaries about the activism and resistance of women of the older generation...

(The full transcript of this roundtable can be found on the WiB website)

JUNE 11 AND 12, RADMILOVAC NEAR BELGRADE "FROM VULNERABILITY TO IMPUNITY"

on the (in)security of human rights defenders - journalists of independent media - free-thinking citizens – roundtable discussion.

With the participation of **29** activists from the following cities: Belgrade, Novi Pazar, Vranje, Leskovac, Bajina Bašta, Pančevo, Prijepolje, Zagreb, Split, Krakow, Saint Petersburg.



June 11

Map of attacks on human rights defenders, independent media, opposition parties - wall newspaper – *The map was installed by: Jelena Jaćimović, artist and activist*

As part of this dynamic exercise, newspaper articles about attacks on human rights defenders, independent media, opposition parties were hung on a line, and then the participants chose one article and answered questions about why they chose that one. Article. Moderated by: **Miloš Urošević**, *Women in Black, Belgrade.*



The following views have emerged, which we convey in order of frequency:

- **The state is the main generator of violence, the state is responsible for the violence of both state and parastate actors; impunity for perpetrators of violence incites, encourages and justifies new attacks...**
- **Professional and independent media are exposed to continuous attacks, threats - complete insecurity...**
- **Low-intensity war, both by the state and society, against free-thinking citizens, especially those who are against war and war criminals - intimidation, retaliation, isolation, dissuasion from activism...**
- **Normalization and internalization of violence against female activists - gender connotation of violence...**

Experiences from the field: (in)visibility of repression against civil society activists/women, independent media outside the center... - testimonies

Participants:

Aladin Paučinac, Initiative of Free Citizens, Novi Pazar - spoke about the misuse of the pandemic for political purposes in Novi Pazar: *"In June 2020, large pre-election rallies were held, without any protection measures." Up to 20 people died a day, and more than a thousand died in total. We knew it, but they concealed it... The citizens were furious and we gathered informally and expressed our protest. Nearly 200 citizens gathered despite the intimidation, and after that there were twenty of us left, who were the most persistent. After a year of daily protests, no measures were taken, no one was held accountable for anything, no proceedings were initiated against anyone, and the prosecution did not react. We simply stopped with those protests...there are several cases against me for organizing protests. I already have three convictions. I filed complaints against them..!*



Dejana Cvetković, journalist, Vranje: she referred to continuous attacks on journalists throughout Serbia, especially in Vranje:

2020 was a record-breaking year for the number of attacks on journalists (physical attacks, attacks on property, pressure, verbal attacks, hacker attacks), which can be seen in the report of the Independent Journalists Association of Serbia/NUNS.

In 2020 and 2021 – the number of attacks on women in journalism increased drastically, as shown by UNESCO, OSCE and Female Journalists data: a total of 13 attacks on journalists were recorded in Vranje.

In 2021 and 2022 - journalists were pressured several times by members of the MI from Vranje, and in Bujanovac there was also a verbal attack on a journalist by a plainclothes police officer. The ruling Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) verbally confronted journalists several times in public.

Attacks on a media house, death threats to a journalist and his family, verbal attacks in the online space and hacker attacks were recorded. In the course of 2020, two criminal charges were filed for endangering the safety of journalists, and in 2021, no criminal charges against journalists were recorded, according to the data of the Basic Public Prosecutor's Office in Vranje.

Journalists in the south of Serbia are exposed to pressure, verbal attacks, but also threats and the risk of physical violence, as well as death threats, while female journalists, in addition to pressure and verbal attacks, are also exposed to sexual violence and persecution, and some of them did not turn to anyone for help, according to the survey results. Journalists are not encouraged to speak out about sexual harassment, persecution and threats of sexual violence that they experience online and offline and are less likely to report attacks to institutions and media associations' etc.

Verica Marinčić (via Zoom): *"The conditions in which I work are catastrophic, as in all professional and independent media. I have been in the media for twenty years, and as of 2015, my problems have started. At that time, I was working on television, before that on radio. I received an offer to join the ruling party or lose my job. I chose to lose my job. My mom got sick and needed oxygen to die with dignity. They said there was no oxygen. A local chieftain from Inđija was persecuting me for months. The court ruled that it was his 'right to an opinion'. A young man tried to hit me with his car, he threatened me and nothing came of it. These problems are not decreasing, they are only intensifying and continuing. No one is responsible before the law for what he tried or did. However, they responded to my text about a local priest who was drunk in a grocery store and I received threats. Now it is in the Prosecutor's Office for high-tech crime and on July 20 (2022) I am going to testify about it. In this case, all journalist associations and media organizations reacted. This is a small environment, so it means a lot to me when someone stands by me'.*

Harassment, slander and the rest... - Dossier on attacks on Women in Black - 30 years of continuity... presentation of the publication Women in Black

*Participants: **Tamara Spaić**, journalist and WiB activist, Belgrade; **Mirko Medenica**, lawyer, WiB activist, Belgrade; **Lino Veljak**, philosopher, activist, Zagreb/Belgrade; **Staća Zajović**, WiB activist; moderated by Fahrudin Kladničanin.*

Here are some highlights from the presentation of the publication:
"For me, this is a very important book, there are not many books that document all the attacks on female activists who bravely opposed the regime and crimes." It is a cross-section of a thirty-year manhunt and a thirty-year struggle for the rights of victims, but it is also a cross-section of society, because through these attacks it is actually

very clear how society developed and where the thinking matrix of the regime, and ultimately, of the whole society, originates. Through the media, of course, and other repressive agents, one can see where the attacks come from, how they are carried out, who are the groups that carry them out, how they are explained in the media, how WiB is demonized. In their 30-year history, WiB came to this by the systematic endeavors of the state to become a standard of the negative. If you want to swear at someone, you say WiB! And on the other hand, WiB women have become a standard of courage, because with all free-thinking people, when you say that you are WiB, or that you support them or that you went to their protest, you get a wide-open door. (Tamara Spaić)

“Attacks on WiB and harassment and curses are a completely normal and understandable phenomenon, which does not mean that this phenomenon is justified, that is, it is justified to the extent that it is justified to forget the past or to remember shameful and criminal episodes, such as I am afraid that this case will be celebrated in some new history textbooks as an expression of the heroism of the Serbian people’ (Lino Veljak).

‘When someone reads this book, they will see that none of this has been processed, there is no legal outcome - legal satisfaction. All that is happening, impunity and all these attacks, all of this is happening in a certain context, first of all, the media hype that is the preparation for all these attacks. That part is important. When you read how WiB is referred to in the media, then all those attacks and all that impunity somehow become logical” (Mirko Medenica).

“The publication is a written record of our experiences, and testimonies of human rights violations help to *break the culture of silence*, especially among women victims of violence. The publication not only testifies to the experiences of WiB, but it is a ‘small’ contribution to the exposure of the context in which we operated. The publication is also *a counter memory - a disturbing memory - a subversive memory* against the dominant patriarchal nationalist-militaristic discourse. The publication is also *an act of recognition and tribute to brave activists.*’ (Staša Zajović).

International experiences – women’s struggle for reproductive rights

“**Cry it out, it’ll make you feel better**”, about the position of women in Poland and the right to abortion

Magdalena Sztandara, Jagiellonian University, Kraków – here are some highlights from the power point presentation:

“Poland is one of the countries in Europe that has the strictest abortion laws.” Abortion is almost prohibited, i.e., its execution is practically

impossible. Inside hospitals there is a so-called “Crying Room” - a special room whose purpose is to allow women to relieve themselves. In response to state legislative campaigns to almost completely ban abortion, women’s protests across the country have been called the “Women’s Strike” and “Black Monday” (2017-2019). The protests that started on October 20, 2020, culminated on January 27, 2021.

Campaigns to ban abortion in Poland are led by the extremely conservative Catholic Church. In the public space, there is an extremely strong pro-life propaganda that displays anti-abortion billboards all over the country.

They also organize buses (embriobus, homobus) that circulate around the cities.

An alternative for women in Poland is “Abortion without borders” which is advertised under the slogans:

- *Do you want to have an abortion? Dial this phone number...*
- *34,000 abortions with the organization Abortion without Borders;*
- *Abortion means life.*

The case of Serbia - impunity at the state and society level - violence against journalists dealing with dealing with the past

Participants:

Dejan Kožul, journalist, **Snežana** Čongradin, journalist, **Bojan Tončić**, journalist, **Nikola Krstić**, journalist

Moderated by: **Tamara Spaić**, journalist, WIB activist, from whose text about this panel (published in Cenzolovka) we convey certain conclusions:

- **Journalists who deal with this issue confront the public with the war past:** because of this, they are exposed to threats, attacks and - lack of solidarity from their colleagues;
- **The few journalists who do not give up writing about war crimes belong to the group of professional journalists and critics of the government:** they all testify that in terms of the number of threats and their monstrosity, no critical text on any other topic can be compared to what the texts on war crimes;
- **The strongest magnet for attacks on journalists are the following topics:** genocide in Srebrenica, war crimes and criminals, accountability, facts and data related to the wars of the 1990s, judgments of the International Court in The Hague, turning Serbian state institutions into prisons for hiding war criminals, mentioning innocent victims of nationalist murderous campaigns committed in the name of Serbian nationalism;
- **Weak solidarity with journalists who address the topic of crimes:** they feel lonely and isolated, and often face disapproval

and reproach, with sentences like “it’s your own fault that you’re harping on it, try dealing with something else” etc.

- **The state is responsible for attacks on journalists:** *Aleksandar Vučić is directly responsible for the atmosphere of impunity and hatred, and indirectly and directly for the threats (Bojan Tončić).*

(You can find the integral text of Tamara Spaić on the WiB website in Serbian and English)

ATTITUDES TOWARDS WAR CRIMES IN THE 2022 ELECTION CAMPAIGN - REPORT OF THE YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS/YIHR

Presented by:

- **Marko Milosavljević** (*Youth Initiative for Human Rights/YIHR*)
- **Anđela Savić** (*Center for Investigative Journalism/CINS*)

Moderated by: Miloš Urošević (WiB)

Here are the most important parts from the presentation of the *Report*:

Back in 2020, the Youth Initiative for Human Rights produced a similar publication on the participation of war criminals in the election campaign, and this year they expanded it with a section on the attitude towards war crimes and criminals. The report refers to the period from *January 23 to March 23, 2022* (the elections were held on April 3, 2022); six convicted war criminals were on the election lists nominated by the ruling coalition (SNS and SPS).

The report warns of the following phenomena:

Widespread glorification of convicted war criminals - political support for those who were either indicted or suspected of war crimes.

As for the denial of the genocide in Srebrenica, there is little difference between the parties of the regime, the extreme right close to the regime (Dveri, Zavetnici, etc.) and the opposition parties: gathered around the coalition United for the Victory of Serbia, they denied and continue to deny the Srebrenica genocide, celebrating themselves because of the Declaration of the Assembly of Serbia on the condemnation of crimes (2010).

The law is a dead letter because there are no obstacles for people who have been convicted of certain crimes to run again in the elections - the law prohibits the candidacy of individuals who have been sentenced to a minimum of six months in prison, but this is never respected. We cite only two cases: war criminal V. Šešelj was sentenced to 10 years in prison at the Hague Tribunal, but his mandate was not revoked, he remained a member of parliament until 2020; *Božidar Delić*, who was on the list of the Nada coalition this year, commanded the 549

motorized brigade during the crimes in Kosovo, the Human Rights Fund/HLF filed criminal charges against him for crimes against civilians in Trnje and Landovica, he appeared as witness before the Hague Tribunal for the crime in Trnje, as well as in the trials of Milošević, Lazarević and Milutinović, etc.

From the comments after the presentation, we highlight the following:

“Only criminals get all the benefits from the state, especially when they are convicted, when they end up in prison, when they serve their sentences. They are privileged, they are in open departments, penitentiaries, they have the right to annual vacations, free weekends. In Serbia, we have 90 judgments since 2003. 1700 cases are pending, and at this rate, they can do half the cases in a hundred years. 2013: In the previous year, the prosecution filed three indictments. There are fewer indictments than the deputy chief prosecutor. Something is wrong here. We are aware that all criminals will be favored. (Bojan Tončić).

(The integral text can be found on the WiB website)

WOMEN'S PEACE ACTIVISM, ĐULICI, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Educational program that the civic association “Anima” from Đulići and Women in Black Belgrade have been organizing since the beginning of 2016. Meetings within Women’s Peace Activism are strengthening trust, mutual support and solidarity, wider areas of women’s autonomy and self-confidence. This meeting is a continuation of many years of cooperation, friendship, mutual support and mutual cooperation of “Anima” and WiB.

In this reporting period, one meeting was organized:

June 27th– The twenty-third (23rd) cycle was attended by **17** women from the following places: Đulića, Grbavci, Kučić kula, Šetići, Klisa, Sapna, Belgrade and a guest from Krakow - anthropologist Magdalena Sztandara, Jagiellonian University from Krakow.

We highlight the following workshops/talks:

HOW WELL DO WE KNOW EACH OTHER? THE BETTER WE KNOW EACH OTHER, THE BETTER WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER... – workshop

The participants showed a high level of mutual communication and connection. They expressed their interests ranging from caring for their environment (agricultural work); taking care of your home (tidying, cooking, handicrafts); caring for relationships with others (community through activism, socializing, joint learning); leisure time (most of all they like joint trips organized by Anima) etc. For women, joint activities give meaning to life, it is part of their struggle

June 27th

for dignity and freedom ('I want to be free, so that they don't see us as victims...').

Feminist ethics of care: What do I give to the Anima association?

– a workshop where the participants expressed their sincere devotion to their association, in the following way:

- *Regular participation in Anima activities* – as an act of self-care ('I like us to be together as much as possible'), but also as taking responsibility for the group's work ('it's like an obligation I chose myself'; 'to respect the agreement and give your contribution');
- *Joint building of women's community and human/alternative family* - "Anima is like a home for me"; 'that is my family'; 'this place has a soul, together we take care of this home of ours'; 'when I can't fulfill a given word, mostly for health reasons, I feel bad';
- *A place of joint learning, but also of relaxation* – 'here I can say everything freely'; nothing can replace the living word and women's gatherings' etc.

The war in Ukraine – the discussion concerned the relationship between peace and justice. To the question whether it is more valuable and important for them to achieve PEACE or it is more important that justice be served, i.e., to sanction the perpetrators, the participants opted for PEACE - an immediate stop to the war because 'nothing is more valuable than human life', 'to avoid human casualties', etc. Of course, that serving justice is important and that peace without justice is negative peace, but they believe that at this moment the most important thing is to stop the war!

What is tolerance? How tolerant are we of each other? - workshop on tolerance...

The participants were handed out exercises - questions that they answered individually, and then we talked together about tolerance as: patience, actively listening to the other person, understanding... Tolerance is not 'patience' and fear of expressing one's own views, but on the contrary - freely and honestly expressing disagreement. They believe that they should not be 'tolerant' towards people who threaten the freedom of others, who have racist, nationalist, misogynist attitudes and that hate speech should be combated at the level of society as well as in legislation. Namely, those persons who incite ethnic hatred, glorify war criminals and discriminate against others on the grounds of gender, race or social status should be sanctioned.

SOLIDARITY IS OUR STRENGTH

Solidarity actions – with members of vulnerable and disadvantaged minority communities (social-class, ethnic-racial, sexual), citizens whose human rights (working, educational, cultural) are endangered.



I Solidarity with War Refugees: Women in Black addressed this situation in 2013, when solidarity campaigns against racist attacks were organized that culminated at the end of 2013, and since then, Women in Black have organized a lot of activities, about which you can find information on the WiB website. Solidarity activities are interconnected, at the same time, they include more dimensions - peace, humanitarian, artistic-activist, informative ...

Direct actions – solidarity assistance in the field:

July 15th

Pljevlja, Montenegro (on the border between Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina) – July 15th – the visit of WiB activists (Staša and Violeta) to the open center Bona Fide, consisted of help and support to refugees. Bona Fide activists organized aid for refugees from 2017 and till now several thousand refugees / migrants passed through this center. WiB network activists provided humanitarian aid (food and hygienic products etc.) and WiB used to support solidarity activities to Bona Fide center.

II Solidarity support and assistance to Ukrainian refugees and anti-war activists from Russia in Belgrade – since the beginning of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, in February 2022, WiB has established contacts with Ukrainian refugees, as well as anti-war activists from the Russian Federation, who sought refuge in Serbia, fleeing war or repression in Russia. Solidarity was manifested through support and participation in anti-war protests organized by the RUBS initiative (Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians and Serbs together against the war); through involvement in various activities of WiB: protests, debates, gatherings, activists-art events...

In addition to the afore mentioned, during this reporting period, we also monitored the following trials:

I Solidarity with the Milivojević Family from Lučani

- The Ivanjica trials

Criminal proceedings against the Director General of the Milan Blagojević-Namenska Arms Factory, Lučani - Radoš Milovanović and two executives from the same factory (Vladimir Lončarević and Toma Stojić). They are charged with 'committing a serious crime against general security' because on July 14th, 2017, workers Milomir Milojević and Miloško Ignjatović were killed after a gunpowder explosion.

In this reporting period three (3) hearings were held:

June 2th

June 2th– Violeta Djikanović and Nastasja Radović attended the trial on behalf of Women in Black. It should be noted that interest in this trial declined after the first defendant, *Radoš Milovanović*, died on April 21, 2022, which is why the proceedings against him were suspended.

Three Prosecution witnesses testified: *Rade Obrenović, Boris Kaplarević and Nikola Živković*. They repeated the claims of previous witnesses

about non-compliance with safety measures at work, that they had informed the authorities about it, as well as about the fact that there had been several times more gunpowder than the permitted 450 kg (up to 1,200 kg) in the provisional warehouse. Because of his testimony, Kaplarević was exposed to threats, he was fired after 30 years of work. All three experienced, after testifying at the Prosecutor's Office, some kind of "retribution" - they were transferred to another workplace or fired.

15. junth

June 15th – Witness *Petar Janičijević*, who was fired after the accident, explained that after the accident he'd been on sick leave and that he'd been seeing a psychiatrist because of the consequences of his traumatic reaction to what he'd seen and experienced. Witness *Velibor Marinković* was not at the scene of the accident; however, the father of the deceased Milomir (*Milovan Milivojević*) entirely denied Marinković's testimony.

6. julth

July 6th – The testimony of two witnesses proposed by the defendants' lawyers continued; all were employed in the military factory at the time of the accident: *Milovan Marić* and *Radmila Stevanović*, who gave vague and confused statements. In contrast to them, the witnesses of the victims repeated their statements about the responsibility of the factory management for the fatalities (*Radovan Kaplarević* and *Ivan Vasilijević*). They no longer work in the factory, due to the pressures of the factory management, revenge and persecution by the CEO R. Milovanović.

II Trial of Miroslav Mika Aleksić for rape and sexual abuse

January 2021 - several former students of the "Matter of the Heart" acting school made accusations of rape and sexual abuse against their former acting teacher Miroslav Aleksić.

April 21, 2021 - an indictment was filed against Miroslav Mika Aleksić. He was arrested and spent eight months in detention, when he was released to defend himself.

February 2022 – the court proceedings against Aleksić began after several delays and final preparatory hearings.

In this reporting period, two (2) hearings were held:

May 24th

May 24th – the main trial was canceled due to the illness of the defendant, and the continuation of the evidentiary proceedings was scheduled for June 23.

23. junth

June 23th – in the continuation of the evidentiary proceedings, the presentation of the defense of the accused Miroslav Aleksić continued. He continuously discredited the victims of sexual abuse: "There is no eyewitness to these events and it must not be overlooked." I am an eyewitness. I know why she (Iva Ilinčić) says what she says, she

has a memory disorder, and she said herself that she has black holes and doesn't remember everything.' Denying the allegations of the indictment, Aleksić tries to present himself as a 'fatherly' authority: 'At that time, Iva had serious family problems and she was unwell. It was my duty to help her because I believed in her potential. Her memory is fabricated' etc.

The main hearing was suddenly interrupted due to a report of a bomb planted in the courtroom, and the next one is scheduled for September 12, 2022.

III Trial for setting journalist Milan Jovanović's house on fire

Former President of the Municipality of Grocka, Dragoljub Simonović, has been accused of inciting the burning of the house of journalist M. Jovanović, working for Žig Info. On 12/12/2018 somebody set fire to this journalist's house, in which his house burned down. Former president

of the municipality of Grocka, Dragoljub Simonović, was sentenced to 4 years and 3 months in prison while the other perpetrators of this crime: Vladimir Mihailović, Aleksandar Marinković and Igor Novaković were sentenced to several years in prison.

However, on December 24, 2021, the Court of Appeals in Belgrade overturned the conviction for setting fire to the house of journalist Milan Jovanović, returning the case to the Second Basic Court in Belgrade for a retrial.

The repeated trial was also accompanied by constant obstructions, so the hearing scheduled for *June 30* was postponed due to the absence of the accused Igor Novaković, and a new hearing was scheduled for September 6, 2022.

IV Trial for the burning of the US Embassy and the attack on the embassies of Turkey, Germany and Croatia - on February 21, 2008 (after the declaration of Kosovo's independence), a group of hooligans attacked some embassies after the "**Kosovo is Serbia**" rally, organized by the Government and the Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, during which the US embassy was set on fire and one of the attackers was killed there.

In 2019, the trial of the seven immediate suspects for these attacks ended with acquittals and conditional verdicts, which were later revoked. In October 2020, the trial of five, at the time of the event, high-ranking officials of the Ministry of the Interior of Serbia began: **Slobodan Vukolić**, former head of the Belgrade Police Directorate and his deputy **Zoran Rašković**, general **Stevan Bjelić**, the then chief of police for the City of Belgrade and former head of the Police Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior of Serbia, general **Mladen Kuribak**. **Bojan Marković**, at the time of the incident the commander of the Gendarmerie platoon from Kraljevo, was also charged. They are accused of the criminal offense of 'serious crime against general security', i.e., not taking measures within their jurisdiction to protect the US embassy.

May 17th

In this period, three **(3)** hearings were held:

May 17th – witnesses *Dragan Miletić, Goran Dragović and Stevan Pavković* were heard in the continuation of the evidentiary proceedings. On February 21, they were on duty as part of the plan of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia and the two headquarters that managed the security situation during and after the “Kosovo is Serbia” rally. All of them testified about that event in 2015 before the Prosecutor of the Higher Prosecutor’s Office in Belgrade. They mostly confirmed the statements they gave then, although *Goran Dragović* changed his statement in one small segment. The witnesses stated, among other things, that they barely remember the details of their own and other people’s activities on the day of the rally...

June 21th

June 21th – The Chairperson of the Judicial Panel, Judge **Ivana Ramić**, explained that this procedure is being repeated because one member of the Judicial Panel was replaced. However, the indicted five high-ranking officials of the MI had to plead again about their guilt, which, as could be expected, they denied.

The evidentiary proceedings, after the defendants’ statements about the criminal acts they were charged with in the indictment, continued with the hearing of three new witnesses: *Dragan Vasiljević*, at the time of the incident, Gendarmerie commander; *Nemanja Bojičić*, the deputy chief of staff of the Minister of Police *Dragan Jočić*, denied responsibility, while the third witness, *Radislav Stalević*, a member of the Novi Sad Gendarmerie, mainly stuck to the confirmation of the testimony he gave earlier at the Prosecutor’s Office.

July 12th

July 12th – *Senad Kostić*, the former commander of the Niš detachment of the Gendarmerie, testified that the orders to defend the embassies were issued late: when they were ordered to go down to the embassies, they were met by a mass of protesters, who pelted them with stones, bottles, and pieces of broken flowerbeds, the US Embassy was already on fire, *Kostić* testified.

Dušan Puača, at the time of the incident in charge of commanding Gendarmerie units in the field, stated that he did not have the authority to issue any orders, but that his role was limited to providing information from the field and possibly making remarks, as well as carrying out the orders of his superiors.

(You can find integral reports in Serbian from the above trials on the WiB website)

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS, LECTURES, DEBATES AT THE WOMEN IN BLACK PREMISES - “WEDNESDAYS AT WIB”

The practice of regular discussions, lectures and joint reflections on important social and political issues in the country and the world, continued in this reporting period, which included ten **(10)** lectures, debates, book presentations, film screenings, with the participation around **200** persons.

May 4th

May 4th, “Where are we going now?” – About the results, scope and disappointments of the elections on April 3, 2022. Keynote speakers: *Vesna Pešić*, sociologist; *Dušan Spasojević and Dušan Vučićević*, Faculty of Political Sciences/FPN Belgrade; *Filip Balunović*, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, Belgrade. The debate was moderated by *Tamara Spaić*, journalist and WiB activist, with the participation of **24** people.

May 18th

May 18th, “The degree of social integration of LGBT people” - research by the NGO Geten, Belgrade on attitudes towards the LGBT population was presented by **Dr. Zorica Mršević**, sociologist, moderated by: *Miloš Urošević*, in the presence of **12** people.

June 8th

June 8th, “The Left and the War in Ukraine – Controversies” - Speakers: *Zlatoje Martinov*, writer, publicist, Alliance of Anti-Fascists of Serbia; *Slobodan Milovanović*, citizens' association “Levica” (The Left) from Belgrade; *Zoran Solomon*, director, Berlin; moderated by: *Stasa Zajović*; **33** people attended.

June 15th

June 15th, “History of relations between Yugoslavia and China (from 1945 to the present); China, Russia, Serbia vs. the war in Ukraine” – keynote speaker *Sanja Radović*, historian; debate held as part of the cycle ‘*International political controversies*’ - **18** people present.

June 22th

June 22th, “Problems of general and specific health care of underprivileged and marginalized people” - research was presented by **Nora Janković**, a Talas activist, TIRV Belgrade. The author of the research, Nora Janković, dealt with the issue of the availability of general and specific health care to underprivileged and marginalized members of society in Serbia, with a focus on the experiences of transgender people. The discussion was moderated by *Stasa Zajović*, **14** people were present.



June 29, “The rise of the right, the case of Serbia (extremism, terrorism, foreign fighters)” - a publication of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia was presented by **Izabela Kisić**. In the publication that came out in 2022, ten texts by eight authors deal with the emergence of extremism in Serbia from different

angles: analysis of the current state strategy, institutional capacities, experiences related to the deradicalization and reintegration of members of extremist groups and movements; relations between the state and the Islamic community and the Muslim population in Serbia; ideological matrices of the right and right-wing extremism, as well as analysis of media texts that encourage extremist beliefs and radicalize divisions in society, etc. **Lino Veljak** also presented data from research on extremism and radicalism among young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which were published in **Srđan Dušanić's** book ***Youth and Extremism*** (Perpetuum mobile - Institute for Youth and Community Development, Banja Luka 2020).

The debate was moderated by *Miloš Urošević*,



July 6th

July 6th – Operational meeting on the commemoration of the 27th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica in WiB premises, attended by twenty (20) people.

July 13th

July 13th – “Are peace talks to stop the war in Ukraine(im)possible? - keynote speaker: **Srđan Hercigonja**, senior researcher at the Belgrade Center for Security Policy; the deliberation was held as part of the cycle “*Controversies of international politics*”, moderated by Staša Zajović, in the presence of 21 persons.

July 20th

July 20th – “Activism and old age” – an interactive lecture and workshop addressed the following questions: Is public and political engagement only related to ‘youth’? Is the engagement of older women linked to social and political changes? Are older people really rarely engaged or is their activism neglected, underestimated and even stigmatized? etc.

Lecturers and moderators: **Magdalena Sztandara**, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland and **Ildiko Erdei**, Department of Ethnology and Anthropology (Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade); 18 people participated.

July 27th

July 27th – Friendly meeting in solidarity between WiB activists and anti-war activists from Russia, about twenty (20) people participated.

(You can find extensive reports from the mentioned circles on the WiB website, in Serbian language)

PUBLISHING ACTIVITY

In this period, we published the following:

Always disobedient, and still in the streets... Women in Black

- **30 years of resistance** – this publication presents brief survey of activities of WIB: *Basic ethical principles of Women in Black*;

Aesthetics of resistance – symbols of Women in Black; On the activities of Women in Black – a short survey: *Dealing with the past – feminist approach*; *Women's Court* – a feminist approach to justice; *Women's peace networks*; *Antimilitarist/antifascist/internationalist* antiwar networks and coalitions; *Women's Peace and Security* – Resolution 1325 – feminist-antimilitaristic approach to security; *Alternative history* (on publishing activities); Group for Video activism of WIB; *Educational programs*; *Solidarity is our strength* - actions of solidarity; *Wednesdays at WiB* – roundtable discussions, lectures, debates; *Prizes and awards*.

This publication has **55** pages; edited by Staša Zajović; layout: Zinaida Marjanović.

“Trešnjevac – May 1992 - May 2022 - Civil disobedience, women's courage, solidarity/Oromhegyes - 1992 májusa – 2022 májusa - Polgári engetlenség, női bátorság, szolidaritás”

–is an updated edition of the publication issued by Women in Black in 2007, on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the nonviolent rebellion in Trešnjevac. The publication was published on the occasion of thirty years of the “*Spiritual Republic of Zicer*” - one of the most significant anti-war initiatives not only in Vojvodina and all of Serbia, but also beyond. This edition, like the previous one, is bilingual: in Serbian and Hungarian. The publication contains, in addition to the introduction, **11** articles by feminist-anti-militarist activists and Women in Black activists from Vojvodina, Serbia, Italy, residents of Trešnjevac, conscientious objectors/deserters about: non-violent rebellion against forced mobilization in Trešnjevac - acts of civil disobedience; testimonies about the female courage of the Trešnjevac residents who organized themselves against the regime's terror and militaristic violence. The publication also testifies to solidarity beyond ethnicity: about 98% of Hungarians live in Trešnjevac, and the Trešnjevac deserters were joined by deserters of all nationalities from Temerin, Senta, Ada, Moravica, Mali Idoš... Women in Black immediately showed solidarity with the non-violent riot in Trešnjevac; lasting relationships of the deepest trust and mutual support were created. This is evidenced by the largest number of texts in this publication. Women in Black, with the support of the residents of Trešnjevac, held two meetings of the International Women in Black Network (1993 and 1995), as well as numerous anti-militarism meetings, seminars, and workshops.

The publication has **68** pages, edited by: Staša Zajović, Miloš Urošević and Gizella Toth Stanyo; cover design: Škart; layout: Nebojsa Čović.

Persecutions, curses and the rest - Dossier on attacks against Women in Black - the book contains, in addition to the introductory text, nine more appendices:

*Chronicle of attacks on Women in Black - 30 years of organized persecution; Srebrenica – a paradigm of Serbian crimes; Their attacks – our defense; Whores and traitors - On misogynistic attacks on Women in Black; Militarization of street actions – repression in the name of “protection”; Court chronicle of 36 attacks - 0 convicted (2014 – 2021); Study of court proceedings and institutional abolition of violence; Human rights defenders in the media – analysis of media reporting on WIB; Afterword. Authors: Staša Zajović, Tamara Spaić, Miloš Urošević, Miloš Urošević, Mirko Medenica, Marijana Stojčić i Lino Veljak. Editors: Staša Zajović and Tamara Spaić; published by: Women in Black, Belgrade and MOST ART JUGOSLAVIJA; Design of the cover: Škart; Layout: Kaligram. This book has **105** pages.*

(The integral version of this book in Serbian and English can be found on WIB website)

CAMPAIGNS, APPEALS

In addition to the above initiatives in this reporting period, we have also initiated or actively participated in numerous campaigns, first of all in relation to requests for dealing with the past - responsibility for war crimes, violence against women, against repression of political opponents; in relation with the refugees, etc.

We remember! – on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the beginning of the persecution of the Croatian population in the town of Hrtkovci/Vojvodina, the *Humanitarian Law Fund, Women in Black and the Youth Initiative for Human Rights* reminded of the fact that on May 6, 1992, the Serbian Radical Party (SRS) held a pre-election rally in Hrtkovci in front of more than a thousand people, at which Vojislav Šešelj called for the expulsion of the local Croatian population. “In 2018, Šešelj was sentenced before the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Courts to 10 years in prison for inciting persecution, deportation and other inhuman acts, as well as for committing persecution as a crime against humanity in Hrtkovci, Vojvodina.” The verdict found that Vojislav Šešelj’s speech, held on May 6, 1992 in Hrtkovci, incited violence against the Croatian population of Hrtkovci, which resulted in their departure. The Croats were pressured, through bullying and intimidation, to exchange their properties for the properties of Serbs from Croatia. Also, the Court found that the local authorities did nothing to protect the Croatian population and prevent their exodus. In the period from May 10, 1992 to July 1, 1992, about 20 Croatian families were physically evicted from their houses in Hrtkovci, while many succumbed to pressure and agreed to exchange property. From May to August 1992, about 450 Croatian and ethnically mixed families moved out of Hrtkovci under pressure. The campaign of intimidation and pressure on the

Croatian population, which began even before the rally in Hrtkovci, resulted in the persecution of several tens of thousands of Croats from the area of Vojvodina until 1995. The main advocates and inspirers of this campaign in Vojvodina were Vojislav Šešelj and the Serbian Radical Party (SRS). The exodus of Croatian families took place under the pressure of various groups close to the SRS, and members of the MI of the Republic of Serbia, as well as members of the YNA reserve, took part in some acts of violence against Croats, with the significant participation of the Department of State Security. The campaign of intimidation took place with the knowledge and tacit approval of the political structures of the Republic of Serbia," *the statement of May 6 emphasized.*

Stop fascism! Stop the war in Ukraine! – in the press release on the occasion of the Victory over Fascism Day, it was emphasized that 'Nazism and fascism have been defeated, but their followers are raising their heads again throughout Europe (and beyond), by revising the results of the Second World War, rehabilitating fascist and Nazi ideas and relativizing the criminal character Nazism and fascism. In recent times, neo-fascism/neo-Nazism has emerged in Serbia as a support for Greater Russian neo-Nazism, which led by V.V. Putin launched an invasion of Ukraine, where atrocities were recorded that we believed would never happen again, after the wars of the 90s in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, at least not on European soil. In the post-Soviet period, after certain vacillations, the Russian Federation took shape as an imperial power that continues the tradition of Tsarist and Stalinist autocracy legitimized by ethno-phyletism and Greater Russian chauvinism. Its current leadership has no right to refer to the Soviet merits in the fight against Nazism, because it spat on the graves of fallen anti-fascist fighters with its criminal aggression against Ukraine, which has lasted for more than two months. *This year's celebration of Victory Day is therefore an occasion to once again express our public and unequivocal support to all the numerous citizens of Russia who are resisting the criminal aggression against Ukraine in various ways, including desertion from the ranks of the aggressor's army. We express our solidarity with the citizens of Ukraine, who through no fault of their own became the targets of the crazed Russian militaristic campaign,*' reads the joint statement of Women in Black, Belgrade, the Anti-Fascist Association of Serbia, the Anti-Fascist Association of Vojvodina and NENA - the group for peace and women's rights, Leskovac.

NO to military service - YES to conscientious objection! – participants of the peace meeting **on May 10 in Trešnjevac/Vojvodina "Remembrance of the anti-war resistance - 30 years of the "Spiritual Republic of ZICER" - May 1992-May 2022."** adopted a joint statement against renewed campaigns on the introduction of mandatory military service in Serbia because:

- The right to conscientious objection was recognized in August 2003 thanks to the campaign (2001-2003) of civil society,

primarily the Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights (Jukom) and Women in Black, with the support of a huge number of civil society organizations and citizens throughout Serbia.

- The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia adopted at the beginning of 2011 the Decision on the suspension of the obligation to serve in the military.
- The Constitution guarantees the right to conscientious objection, so there is no possibility of introducing military service for those who do not want it, and those who do can do so through voluntary military service.
- The re-introduction of military service would cost the state huge resources - instead, it is necessary to invest money in human security - health, education, environmental protection, protection of women from violence, etc.

The statement was signed by the following organizations: *Spiritual Republic of Zicer, Trešnjevac; Women in Black, Belgrade; Center for Anti-War Action, Ada; Civil Action, Pančevo; Conceptual Policy Group, Novi Sad; Youth Center CK13, Novi Sad, Peace Group Ravangrad, Sombor; Independent Society of Journalists of Vojvodina, Novi Sad; Bečej Peace Movement, Novi Bečej and Civil Resistance, Senta.*

Not one woman less! – on the occasion of May 18 - the Day of Remembrance of Women Victims of Violence, the Autonomous Women's Center/AWC and WiB warned that at least 363 women have been killed by a family member or partner since 2010. One in three had previously turned to the competent institutions for help. We demand the responsibility of the representatives of the institutions to carefully apply the obligations established by domestic and international laws and policies to report violence against women, as well as to investigate whether there have been omissions, sanction for those responsible and ensure that they never happen again. It is necessary that the institutional system and society in Serbia immediately apply the motto "Not one woman less" in practice. We owe that to the women we lost and their descendants, as well as to future generations of women; the announcement emphasizes.

We remember the brave resistance of women in 1999 – on the occasion of the **23rd anniversary of the war in Kosovo**, which was the culmination of the warmongering policy of the nineties in the Western Balkans, and **23 years since the May protests**, when hundreds of citizens raised their voices daily on the streets of Kruševac and Aleksandrovac against the war, suffering and destruction and the mobilization and the sending of men to the war in Kosovo, it is stated that about 12,000 men were forcibly mobilized in the Rasina district, and 52 people died.

The Women's Association 'Peščanik' from Kruševac and the Women in Black Network reiterated their request **that the State of Serbia and the local administration in the Rasina District declare May 24**

the *Day of Women's Actions for Peace and Disarmament, as the Day of Remembrance of the May Protests and Brave Resistance of the Citizens of Kruševac and Rasina district*. We ask state officials **to assume full accountability** for Serbia's participation in the wars of the 1990s. We tell the public that memory is a responsibility and that *there is no reconciliation without confronting the past*, and facing is impossible without knowing the facts and the truth', the appeal emphasizes.

We remember the crimes in the area of Zvornik! – on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of mass crimes, WiB reminded that “during May and June 1992, Serbian armed formations committed crimes of ethnic cleansing, robbery, torture, killing...” On May 31, 1992, several thousand civilians of Bosniak nationals were expelled from 13 villages in the area of the Zvornik municipality, and around 700 men were then killed in the Gerina slaughterhouse. The trial for the Zvornik 2 case was held before the Special Court for War Crimes in Belgrade from December 2008, which was monitored by the Women in Black together with the families of the victims. On November 22, 2010, a verdict was passed for the crimes in Zvornik. The first accused Branko Grujić was sentenced to prison (6 years), while the second accused Branko Popović was sentenced to 15 years in prison. “We fully supported the victims' families, who found the verdict extremely cynical and insulting to the victims. The verdict conceals the responsibility of the criminal regime of S. Milošević for ethnic cleansing and other crimes organized in collaboration with the YNA, Serbian paramilitary formations, the Army of the Republika Srpska, and also proves that the climate and practice of impunity is still at work in Serbia at all levels (criminal and legal, political, moral). Together with the families of the victims from the area of Zvornik, we will continue to advocate for the punishment of crimes, just peace and the dignity of the victims’, *the press release of May 31 emphasized*.

We remember women raped in War! We remember women from Foča”! – in statement in occasion of June 19 – International Day of Elimination of sexual violence in war, Women in Black and *Autonomous Women's Center* reminded that:

- During the wars in the area of the former Yugoslavia, members of Serb armed formations systematically sexually abused non-Serb women in Croatia, BH and Kosovo. Over twenty thousand women were raped in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The most numerous victims were Bosniaks, while the majority of perpetrators were Bosnian Serbs.
- During the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1992-1995), Foča was the site of the most massive systematic sexual violence and rape in the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- In its verdict against the Troika (Kunarac, Kovač, Vuković), in 2001, for the first time in the history of international humanitarian law, the Hague Tribunal determined that sexual slavery in war is a crime against humanity.

- Women in Black and the Autonomous Women's Center remind of the fact that in Serbia, women survivors of sexual violence in war remain invisible to the institutions - they are not recognized as civilian victims of war, nor as victims of gender-based violence against women, who deserve special rights, support and protection.

In connection with the war in Ukraine, AWC and WiB warned that "testimonies of women and women's organizations from Ukraine today remind us that sexual violence is still used as a war tactic of the invading army." Patterns of perpetration are repeated - and women of Ukraine are experiencing rape and sexual slavery. The international community must not remain silent on wartime sexual crimes!

Continuity of the Radical's fascism – on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the expulsion of the Barbalić family from Zemun, Women in Black and the Youth Initiative for Human Rights recalled that in July 1997, in the absence of the Barbalić family, a gang of robbers belonging to the Serbian Radical Party, with the order of Vojislav Šešelj, occupied someone else's home and robbed everything from them. Violent actions against the Barbalić family were led by **Tomislav Nikolić, the former and Aleksandar Vučić, the current President of Serbia.** After that, Ljiljana Mioković, then an employee of the Zemun Business Area, later a radical MP in the Serbian Parliament, moved into the apartment of the Barbalić family. She presently lives there with her husband Ognjen Mihajlović, editor of the Radicals' publishing house Velika Serbia and Vojislav Šešelj's books. Citizens of Zemun and Belgrade gathered for protests every evening; the organizers of the gathering were exposed to threats, and one of them had a bomb thrown into his photocopying shop. The Barbalić family's efforts to recover it through the courts were unsuccessful, and the case is currently at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. "The Barbalić case is undoubtedly a manifestation of naked violence against members of non-Serb nationality, and a manifest form of fascism, which Vojislav Šešelj and his followers have demonstrated since 1992 and the persecution of Croats from Vojvodina," *the press release of June 30 emphasized.*

Solidarity with women in the USA – in the announcement of AWC and WiB (July 4) regarding the abolition of the right to abortion, they warned that the shameful decision will not prevent abortions, it will make them more difficult. 'This decision will have far-reaching consequences on the lives of all women, setting them back half a century. This decision will mean that millions of women will continue to bleed to death on kitchen tables where illegal abortions are performed.'

We will never forget the Srebrenica genocide! – on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide WIB remind: The genocide in Srebrenica is the biggest war crime after World War II in Europe. The regime of S. Milošević is complicit in the genocide for

having provided enormous political, military and logistical-financial aid to the Army of Republika Srpska. Once again, we remind you that:

- The state of Serbia is the first and so far, the only country in the world that has been declared accountable for the violation of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide by the ruling of the International Court of Justice (2007).
- The Hague Tribunal proved, beyond any doubt, the individual criminal responsibility of a large number of members of Serbian armed formations and political institutions that acted in the spirit of realizing the territorial project of Greater Serbia, and the genocide in Srebrenica was part of that project.
- **In Serbia, there is not only a continuity of denial, but also the celebration of war crimes and criminals.** Namely, the instigators and followers of the war crimes policy led by President A. Vučić are in power, who are proud of all the crimes committed in our name and that is why there is no justice for the victims. The regime's media have unlimited space to celebrate criminals as heroes, and the absence of sympathy for the victims of genocide prevails in the public discourse.
- **In Serbia, the state policy of genocide denial is at work.** This is mostly encouraged by the persistent refusal of the President of the Republic A. Vučić to name the crime in Srebrenica as genocide. In this, he is followed not only by members of the regime, but also by a significant part of the opposition. Admirers of war criminals and deniers of genocide play a key role in almost all institutions.
- **Murals celebrating the war criminal Ratko Mladić, convicted of genocide in Srebrenica and others are found all over Serbia.** With that, the regime has completely exposed itself – so far it has never condemned war criminals, and now it openly supports and protects them. The murals are not only an act of rehabilitation of R. Mladić - they are a symbol of the official ideology of the Serbian state.

On this occasion, we reiterate our demands:

- **That the Srebrenica genocide be recognized,** primarily as a sign of respect for the dignity of the victims, and not only as one of the preconditions for Serbia's accession to the European Union.
- **That the president and all other state representatives stop denying the genocide and all other war crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and elsewhere.**
- **That the denial of genocide and all crimes against humanity and war crimes be qualified as a criminal offense.**
- **That July 11th be declared the Day of Remembrance of the Srebrenica Genocide.**
- **That the murals glorifying the war criminal R. Mladić be removed.**

- **That the state of Serbia abandon the policy of instigating regional instability** by interfering with the internal affairs of neighboring countries, primarily Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The premises of the Women in Black attacked again! – On July 12, 2022, around 2:55 p.m., an unidentified man, posing as a postman, entered the building where the Women in Black premises are located. He threw a can of red paint at the front door of the premises, which he spilled on the door and on the staircase. “This attack happened in the context of commemorating the 27th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica and numerous activities organized by Women in Black on July 10 and 11, 2022. This is yet another in a series of attacks in a year, both on the premises and on the activists of Women in Black. The context in which the attack took place is the climate of impunity spread and maintained by the ruling regime in Serbia headed by Aleksandar Vučić, both at the level of the state and at the level of society.

We believe that behind this attack, which was carried out by an unknown perpetrator, are state institutions that allow, legitimize and dose violence against all those they see as political dissenters. If the competent institutions do not do anything this time to identify and then prosecute the attacker, their inaction will once again show that they are turning a blind eye to the violence that Women in Black are exposed to for the umpteenth time, but also encouraging and inciting new attacks. Despite all the open threats and attacks, Women in Black will continue to demand justice for the victims and sanctions for the perpetrators of the genocide in Srebrenica and for all other crimes committed in our name,” reads the statement from July 12.

International politics – participation in international conferences, meetings, of which we mention:

May 15-22th

May 15-22th, Cologne, Germany – “Amplifying Voices of Women affected by war-related SGBV in the Western Balkans - For a culture of recognition and reconciliation”. An operational meeting within the framework of the regional project in which the activists of partners from Kosovo, BH, Serbia (Autonomous Women’s Center, Youth Initiative for Human Rights and Women in Black) participated, as well as conference organizers-representatives of the Medica Mondiale foundation, Germany, who support the mentioned project. Staša Zajović participated on behalf of WiB.

July 5th

July 5th – Visit of representatives of the Medica Mondiale Foundation/Cologne, Germany. On this occasion, an operational meeting was held at which the following was discussed: the regional project supported by Medica Mondiale “*Amplifying Voices of Women affected by war-related SGBV in the Western Balkans - For a culture of Recognition and Reconciliation*”.

On this occasion, WiB activists informed the guests about the problems in the process of transitional justice in Serbia; about the

outcome of the recent elections (April 3, 2022), about the collapse of all institutions, about the repression of independent media; about the consequences of the pandemic on the position of women; on the negative effects and impact of donor policy on the position of NGOs; on the financing of the extreme right by the Serbian state; on EU policy towards the state of Serbia, etc.

July 8, 9 and 10th

July 8, 9 and 10th – Visit of representatives of the ISCOS foundation

- peace and trade union activists from Italy (Reggio Emilia, Bologna, Rome). At this peace meeting, there was talk about the war in Ukraine (challenges, controversies regarding the responsibility of the international community - the absence of peace initiatives at the institutional level; about sending weapons to Ukraine; increasing military costs in Italy; about the reaction of the peace movement in Italy and beyond) in relation to the war in Ukraine, etc.

The documentary film *'La Guerra fredda'/Cold Peace* (59 min.) was also shown; director Marcella Menozzi; production (2019): ISCOS Emilia Romagna/Emilija Romagna. The film refers to the obstacles to peace in BH even after more than 20 years of the Dayton Agreement, etc. Representatives of ISCOS, as well as Medica Mondiale participated in *actions on the occasion of the anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide*, etc.

In this period, there were also many international visits - activists and researchers from all over the world.

Report prepared by:

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Women in Black, September 2022