



*žene u crnom  
beograd*

**REPORT**

## **Januay - April 2018**

We make a brief report on activities of Women in Black and if you are interested in more information, you can find them on our web site [www.zeneucrnom.org](http://www.zeneucrnom.org) or contact us by email: [office@zeneucrnom.org](mailto:office@zeneucrnom.org)

We solidarity thank you in advance.

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# STREET ACTIONS

In this reporting period we organized nineteen (13) actions, and we also actively participated in other street actions:

**Commemoration / marking of important dates of crimes committed on our name, as well as other crimes against civilian population, during and after wars, in the territory of the former Yugoslavia:**

**Belgrade, February 27th, "We Remember the Crime in Strpce"** - On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the crime in Strpci, Women in Black, the Humanitarian Law Center and the Youth Initiative for Human Rights, organized standing in black and silence, on February 27th, 2018

The event was organized in front of the entrance to the main railway station in Belgrade, from where on February 27th, 1993, a train number 671 departed. The train stopped at Strpci station, by members of the military formation „Avengers“ of the Visegrad Brigade of the Army of Republika Srpska, which was under Milan Lukic's command in the reserve force. 20 people of non-Serb nationality were taken out of the train and were later killed.

The following banners were raised:

- From here, the death train number 671 departed
- The train stopped at 15.48
- They were kidnapped and killed
- The names of the abducted passengers
- 25 years of waiting for justice – How much longer?
- We remember the crime in Štrpce



The event was followed by media, police security was present, and 30 activists attended.

**Prijepolje, February 27th** - In front of the memorial plaque in Prijepolje, 25th anniversary of the crime in Strpci was marked. Activist from women's association Women of Polimlje from Prijepolje (Serbia) and Bona Fide from Pljevlja (Montenegro), who are part of the Women in Black network, together with families of victims, paid tribute to victims of crimes in Strpci.

**Belgrade, April 6th „We Remember: 26th anniversary since the beginning of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina“** – In the main street (Knez Mihailova street), we organized standing in black and silence for to commemorate 26th years since the beginning of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.





Banners were displayed with names of places of crime committed in BH.

The event was attended by thirty (30) activists. This public gathering was duly filed to the Police. However, Simo Spasić from the Association of Families of the Kidnapped and Killed in Kosovo and Metohija, for whole the time interrupted the gathering.

Through the megaphone, he was addressing the participants all the time, sending them insults and defamations:

- Women in Black, pre-war, war and post-war profiteers!
- Women in Black get money from Soros and the West to talk about Muslim victims, and they do not speak about Serbs at all!
- Women in Black get money to slander Serbs that they are only war criminals, and that all the others are victims!
- Why do you wear black when no one was killed to you in the war?
- Here, Stasha wears black, and no one hers was killed. She wear it for money!
- I hope you will spend the money you are getting, on coffins for your loved ones! etc.

For all the time Spasic was standing directly in front of the "Woman in Black" activists on a one meter distance, sometimes even closer, and he was shouting loudly in the megaphone. He also put his banner in front of the activists of "Woman in Black", partly covering Women in black banner. After unsuccessfully addressing to Simo Spasic to stop such a behavior, some twenty minutes later Women in Black activists moved 30m away to continue with the street action. Simo Spasic followed them and stood again in front of them, and continue with the same behavior. Shortly thereafter, Women in Black activists, unable to continue with the street action decided to leave.

This event was held in the presence of a number of police officers, partly in uniforms, and partly in plain clothes. From the very beginning and the moment when Simo Spasić began his actions, we addressed the present police officer who was in charge, and asked from him to enable normal conditions for our street action. We were told by him that he had consulted his superior and that he he was told not to react.

Police officers violated the law, by refusing to react on obvious breach of law, particularly Law on Public Gatherings and article 151 of Criminal Code, although they were repeatedly warned.

Because of these circumstances, Women in Black on April 20<sup>th</sup> 2018 filed an appeal to the police.







**Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina), April 11th „ We are looking for our missing – don't forget genocide in Srebrenica “** – Organized by the Association “Women of Srebrenica” which gathers women whose members were missing and killed during the Srebrenica genocide, July 1995. Since 1996, “Women of Srebrenica” organize in Tuzla on every 11<sup>th</sup> in the month a peaceful protests to sensitize the general public to the extent of suffering of Bosniak civilians in Srebrenica genocide. Women in Black from Belgrade are often involved in the protests in Tuzla, and on this occasion eight activists (8) of Women in Black Network participated in the protest with the women of Srebrenica.



**Belgrade, April 23rd - On the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the killing of 16 RTS workers** activists of Women in Black, at 2:06am and 2:06pm, joined the families, colleagues and friends of 16 RTS workers who died on April 23rd, 1999 in the NATO attack. Women in Black, together with women from the area of Zvornik (Đulici, Klisa, Sapna - Bosnia and Herzegovina) attended the commemoration of the killed RTS workers in front of the monument “Why?“, expressing compassion and solidarity with the families of those killed.



### **Feminist, anti-fascist, anti-war, anti-racist, anti-militarist actions:**

In chronological order:

**Belgrade, January 26<sup>th</sup>, “Stop Turkish aggression on Efrin!”**  
- The Women Against Violence Network and Women in Black organized a peace action in front of the Turkish Embassy in Belgrade.

Banners raised at the protest were in Kurdish, Turkish and Serbian:

*Stop the Turkish aggression on Efrin, Hands off from the autonomous Kurdish region, Support the Kurdish self-government, Stop the killing of the Kurdish population, Women, life, freedom ...*

Approximately twenty (20) activists attended the protest.



**Prokuplje, March 2nd „Solidarity with female workers“** – On the occasion of the dismissal of workers of a Tourism and Sports Organization in Prokuplje, southern Serbia, a protest was organized in front of the court where the trial on the appeal of Emina Rnjak, one of the trade union activists from Prokuplje, was held. Eight (8) activists from Belgrade and Zrenjanin (WiB, Oktobar, Roza – Female Workers Rights Group),





together with activists of the WiB Network from Leskovac and Vlasotince, participated in this solidarity campaign with messages: Solidarity with Workers, Workers are not alone, Right to dignified work, Solidarity with Emina Rnjak.

(To remind: the workers organized a strike, which the regime used to give additionally fired members of the Strike Committee of Prokuplje unions, on the pretext that the strike was 'illegal').

Other solidarity actions have been organized, which will be discussed in the continuation of this report.

**Belgrade, March 8th „Death to fascism - freedom for women“** – Street march on the occasion of March 8th - International Women’s Day organized by the Network of Women Against Violence, Labris - Organization for Lesbian Human Rights, Reconstruction Women’s Fund, Astra, Roma Women’s Network, Woman in Black Serbia Network, Women’s Network of Rasina District, Left Summit of Serbia Consultation for lesbians. The march was part of a global campaign - a feminist strike. The march started at the Republic Square where antifa choir “Our Song” was performed, a feminist-anti-fascist proclamation was read out, as well as a proclamation of support to women in Kurdistan. The march took place on the central city streets, protest actions were in front of the institutions (the Presidency and the Government of Serbia).

The slogans of this March 8th:

- Death to fascism - freedom to women!
- For working women’s rights - for women’s solidarity!
- No nations, no borders!
- Solidarity with Refugees!
- Antifascism is my choice!
- I don’t want a rose, I want a revolution!
- I want salary, not loan and interest rate!
- I do not want a flower, I want labor rights!
- Dignified work, not hunger!
- We are not a cooking and giving birth machines!
- Male violence against women is a crime!
- No woman less, no more dead!
- Roma women are female workers, and lesbians are friends!
- No God near my ovary!
- My body, my territory ...

A protest was organized in front of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, where requests were read out on March 7th, 2018 to the Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veterans’ Affairs and Social Affairs regarding working, reproductive and right to life without violence. About 300 people participated in this event.







**Belgrade, March 21st "Justice for Marielle"** - On the occasion of the International Day Against Racism in front of the Embassy of Brazil in Belgrade, Women in Black organized a protest against the murder of Marielle Franco, prominent African-Brazilian activists, lesbian, human rights activists. Marielle was killed on March 14th, 2018. Activists demanded justice for Marielle carrying pictures of murdered activist and banners:

We remember Marielle Franco!

Marielle Franco: PRESENT!

Justice for Marielle - punishment for murderers!

Justiça para Marielle - CASTIGO para assassinos !!!

One race - a human race!

After the protest, several activists were invited to speak to the Ambassador of Brazil, who justified militaristic measures. At the end of the conversation, she promised that "the Brazilian state will do everything to find and punish the perpetrators."

**Belgrade, March 23rd "Solidarity with feminist in Poland"** - In front of the Polish Embassy, ten (10) activists of the WiB and the Autonomous Women's Center joined the global solidarity with Polish feminists in the fight against abortion ban.

**April 24th, Prokuplje** - Solidarity protest (in front of Court) with Ružica Nedeljković and Verica Stojanović. 20 activists were present and raised banners: *For the labor rights of women, No maidservants, no slaves, but a worker and a friend; Support to workers; Women stand for ourselves, we will return the stolen...*

**Prokuplje, April 26th** - Protest of solidarity with the President of the Strike Committee of the Prokuplje Trade Union, Vanja Stojanovic, in front of the Court in Prokuplje.

"Solidarity is our strength - Solidarity against the oppression of the workers!" The protest march took place on the city streets, with the passing in front of the Court, the Municipal Assembly of Prokuplje and ended in front of the National Employment Service. In front of each of the institutions, the employees of the addressed to the public, as well as representatives of organizations that had participated in the workers' struggle in recent months. About 50 activists from Prokuplje, Belgrade, Nis, Žitoradja participated in the march...







The aforementioned solidarity actions with dismissed workers were organized by: Autonomous Women's Center, Women in Black, Reconstruction Women's Fund, Left Summit of Serbia, Women's Network of Rasina District, NENA Group for Peace and Women's Rights, Leskovac, SOS Vlasotince, Women's Association Pescanik, Krusevac, Portal Masina.

## FACING 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 war in the former Yugoslavia:

January 26th, Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) –(significance of victims, laying flowers in Neretva, visit to the city cemetery where people were buried during the war). The visit was organized by Documenta - the Center for dealing with the past, Zagreb and SENSE - Center for Transitional Justice, Pula / Croatia; Staša Zajović participated on behalf of the WiB.

January 27th, Ahmici (Bosnia and Herzegovina) - Meeting at the memorial center in Ahmići where the HVO killed 116 people on April 16th, 1993, and a conversation with survivors at a local school. Stasa Zajovic was present on behalf of WiB.

April 12th, Srebrenica (Bosnia and Herzegovina), - Participation in the commemorative gathering in Srebrenica - the anniversary of the crimes committed by the Republika of Srpska Army units. Namely, on April 12th, 1993, a grenade was thrown into the school yard and on that occasion 62 people were killed and 152 Bosniak children were injured. No one was prosecuted for this crime so far. At the invitation of the Association of Victims and Families, eight (8) activists from the Women in Black Network Serbia attended the event, and on that occasion we laid a wreath with the inscription "We remember - Women in Black Serbia".





# WOMEN'S SOLIDARITY FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF WAR CRIMES

**Women's solidarity actions - feminist ethics of care and responsibility, mutual support, exchange and cooperation in the region in order to build a just peace. During this period we organized exchanges and visits:**

March 16th, Djulici (Bosnia and Herzegovina) - Meeting of solidarity support with women from Djulić, a town in the area of Zvornik.

April 11th, Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina) - Meeting with women of Srebrenica - relatives of those killed in Srebrenica genocide.

April 22nd and 23rd, Belgrade - Women's Solidarity Meeting organized by Women in Black, Belgrade and Citizens Association "Anima" from Djulici, Bosnia and Herzegovina. This is a continuation of the continuous cooperation, support, friendship, solidarity of Women in Black with women from the area of Zvornik. Within this meeting, a discussion was held in the WiB premises, socializing and visiting Zemun and Belgrade. On April 23rd, activists took part in the commemoration of the murdered RTS workers during NATO bombing in 1999.



## **Punishability of the crime - the path to just peace: monitoring the trial at the Special Court**

Trial for War Crimes in Kravica - Before the War Crimes Chamber / Special Court in Belgrade, eight members of the Special Brigade of the Republika of Srpska Army are charged with war crimes (the murder of 1,313 Bosniaks, within the Srebrenica genocide, on July 13th, 1995).

Recall: The Kravica crime indictment was erected at the beginning of 2016. This was the beginning of the most important trial before the High Court in Belgrade / Special Court, because it is about Srebrenica genocide. However, on July 14th 2017, the Court of Appeal ruled to annul the indictment for this crime, which is otherwise not qualified as genocide, as it was raised at the moment when the War Crimes Prosecutor mandate was expire. The trial continued in November 2017, and the hearings are continually delayed due to non-attendance of some of accused, inaction of the prosecution and the withdrawal of protected witnesses due to the threats they receive.

In this reporting period, two (2) hearings were held: on February 6th and 7th.

**Trial for war crime in Cuska/Kosovo** - On May 14th, 1999, during the armed conflict in Kosovo between





the Kosovo Liberation Army and Serbian military and police forces, nine members of the Shakali unit killed at least 43 Albanian civilians in the village of Cuska, Pec municipality.

To recall: the trial for this crime began on December 10th, 2010 and Women in Black attended all hearings. In the Judgment issued on February 11th, 2014, two indictees were acquitted, and others sentenced to prison terms of 2 to 20 years. The War Crimes Section of the Appellate Court in Belgrade on February 26th, 2015 abolished the first instance verdict and ordered a retrial.

In this reporting period, only one (1) hearing was held: on April 25th.

**Trial for war crime in Lovas/Croatia:** In front of the War Crimes Chamber of the Special Court in Belgrade, the main trial was held for the accused persons charged with having committed the criminal offense of War Crimes against Civilians referred to in Article 142, paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code of the FRY, in co-perpetration, in conjunction with Article 22 of the Federal Criminal Code, . From 10 to 18 October 1991, members of the YPA aggressor, with the help of members of the Territorial Defense, local civilian-military authorities, Dusan Silni paramilitary units and the White Eagles, committed war crimes in Lovas, killing 70 Croatian civilians.

To recall: the trial for crimes in Lovas began on April 17, 2008. 194 witnesses testified. The first-instance verdict issued on June 26<sup>th</sup> 2012 convicted accused to 4 to 20 years in prison. On December 9th, 2013, the Appellate Court reversed the verdict and returned the proceedings to a retrial.

During this reporting period, trials were scheduled for each month, but due to obstruction and delays, no hearing was held.

It should be noted that the processing of war crimes is heavily obstructed in the form of: delaying proceedings, abolishing the first instance verdicts, returning to retrial, absence of witnesses, obstruction by the defense attorneys, ineffective work of the War Crimes Task Force, non-processing of high-ranking perpetrators.

(Reports from the above trials can be found on the WiB website)

## ARTISTIC ENGAGEMENT IN DEALING WITH THE PAST/TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

During this period, the practice of joint work and cooperation between art collectives, professional theaters, artists engaged in artistic design of resistance to war, war crimes, repression, human rights violations has continued. In addition to the aforementioned art-activist initiatives, primarily in the section "Street actions", in this period, several working meetings were organized in connection with the design and realization of activist-artistic actions with art collectives: Multimedia Center Led art / Art clinic, Škart and Dah theater on joint activities in the mentioned period, and working meetings were held in Belgrade and Novi Sad. During this period, the activities were focused on marking the 25th anniversary of the crimes in Strpci, the 26th



anniversary since the beginning of the war in BiH, and the actions of solidarity with refugees.

In this reporting period, the following workshops, circles, debates on activist-artistic engagement were held:

**Belgrade, 16th and 17th February „Activist media strategies in the age of new media“** about the use of public space, digital space - how to take it and use it effectively; development of media strategy; antagonistic media pressure, etc. The workshop was coordinated by Tony Maslić, an independent visual artist Belgrade / Cyprus, and ten (10) activists from WiB participated.

**Belgrade, April 19th „Artistic Cafe“** - Talk with the conceptual and media artist Zoran Naskovski from Belgrade. In a conversation held at the Goethe Institute in Belgrade, Stasa Zajovic took part. The event was organized within the exhibition “Mandala and Cross / Documents 2015/2018 - blackout, refugees and economic violence” organized in CZKD (30.12.2015 - 31.01.2016). The conversation is a continuation of the project.

## 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, promoting Women in Black (WiB), in 2010, a group of video activists was created, which was capable of recording, editing, digitizing and setting up the Internet video and audio material collected during the regular activities of the WiB, so that it, in the form of short films, becomes available to the general public. In this reporting period, the group produced the following video materials:

- **„Kristal nacht – never again!“ (4:03 min.)** – anti-fascist action of WiB on the occasion of the International Day Against Fascism and Anti-Semitism, on November 9th, 2017
- **„She left a mark on us“** – video (12 min) dedicated to activist Borka Begović
- **„death to fascism- freedom to women“** – *Women’s street march in Belgrade on March 8th, 2018*







## **Dealing with the past - mutual consideration - in the organization of WiB and related civil society organizations:**

January 26th, Mostar (BH) "Pushing History and Memories" - a forum organized by Documenta - Center for Confronting the Past and SENSE - Center for Transitional Justice. Activists spoke about blocking the process of dealing with the past in the region. On behalf of WiB was Staša Zajovic).

27th, 28th and 29th January, Sarajevo - Assembly of the Coalition RECOM (Regional Commission for establishing facts about war crimes and other serious violations of human rights committed in the territory of the former SFRY from 1.1.1991 to 31.12.2001). Stasa Zajovic, along with activists: Adnan Hasanbegovic, Center for Non-Violent Action, Sarajevo, Sonja Biserko, Helsinki Human Rights Council in Serbia participated in the session "The Impact of Civil Initiatives on the Establishment of Transitional Justice in Practice".

23rd, 24th and 25th of February "Memory and responsibility" - Educational program "School for youth" organized by WiB. The school aimed to provide new generation of young activists with new knowledge of transitional justice and feminist access to justice. At the school "Memory and Responsibility", 25 young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia and Serbia participated.

Within the theoretical part of the school the following lectures were held:

- Feminist approach to justice - the experience of Women in Black (Staša Zajović)
- Tradition of nationalism and collectivism - historian Dr. Latinka Perović
- Ideological use of myth - prof. Dr Đokica Jovanović
- Resistance to Nazism and Collaboration during the Second World War - historian Milovan Pisari
- Development of the concept of collective political responsibility - prof. Dr Daša Duhaček
- Culture of memory - prof. Dr. Ljubinka Trgovčević
- Court-established facts before the Hague Tribunal - researcher of the Humanitarian Law Center - Nemanja Stjepanovic.

School "Memory and Responsibility" has contributed to empowering young people through the educational process and encouraged dialogue and cooperation.

**Belgrade, March 17th** - A group of 18 students from the International Studies Center (Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, USA) visited the WiB. There were also professors. Mirko Medenica and Mina Damjanović presented the WiB activities (ethical principles of peace policy, feminist access to justice, work with refugees, and attacks on WiB. During the visit, documentaries on street actions of WiB were shown.

**March 25th, Belgrade "Global Summit on Reparations"** - International Conference organized by the Humanitarian Law Center; Miloš Urošević participated on behalf of WiB.

We bring a brief report on the activities of Women in Black regarding the organization of the Women's



# WOMEN'S COURT A FEMINIST APPROACH TO JUSTICE

Court-the feminist approach to justice in this period. If you are interested in more information, you can find them on our web site [www.zeneucrnornom.org](http://www.zeneucrnornom.org) and [www.zenskisud.org](http://www.zenskisud.org) or contact us by mail: [zeneucrnornombeograd@gmail.com](mailto:zeneucrnornombeograd@gmail.com)

**The first Women's Court on the territory of Europe was held in Sarajevo from 07 to 10 May 2015**, organized by 10 women's groups from the territory of the former Yugoslavia (Mothers of 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, Council for Gender Equality, 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 is not the end of the process, but on the contrary, the incentive to continue from the feminist perspective to 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 the continuation of the process of the Women's Court, Women in Black, Belgrade coordinated program and other activities, with the support of organizations: Anima, Kotor (Montenegro), Center for Women Victims of War, Zagreb (Croatia), some members of the former Organizing Committee of the Women's Court who acted until the events in Sarajevo participate sporadically ("Cure" Foundation, Sarajevo) while other members of the CDF support activities without active participation.

## **I Public promotion of the Women's Court - a feminist approach to justice-regional and international level**

Promotions / public presentations of W'sC consist of the following segments:

- What is the Women's Court? What is feminist approach to justice? The history and process of organizing the Women's Court - what is most often said by the organizers of the W'sC
- Women's court - feminist approach to justice (52 minutes) - screening of documentary film
- The witnesses speak about their experience of giving testimony at the Women's Court in Sarajevo (What does it mean to them, as well as participation in the continuation of the W'sC process)
- Discussion with the audience (Effects of the Women's Court, continuation of the W'sC process, the





problems most encountered in their surroundings - suggestions, suggestions for maintaining the mini-W'sC on specific issues, etc.).

During this reporting period, three (3) public presentations were held in three countries of the former Yugoslavia; at these presentations there were 110 people:

**February 26th, Zagreb- Center For Women's Studies** - 35 students attended the public promotion, participated: Nela Pamuković and Renata Jambrešić Kirin from Zagreb, Staša Zajović from Belgrade and Milka Rosić from Leskovac (organizers and associates of W'sC). Witnesses: Jovanka Carević from Zagreb, Marija Kovačev from Novi Bečej and Marica Šeatović from Novska.

Women's Studies students expressed the greatest interest: for the feminist approach to justice, impunity in the whole region, activities in the coming period, about the preparatory activities for organizing the W'sC, Milka Rosić spoke on the violation of women's labor rights in Serbia.

#### **April 10th, Zagreb, Faculty of Political Science (Media and gender roles) -**

Organizers and associates of W'sC (Nela Pamuković, Renata Jambrešić Kirin, Marijana Senjak and Staša Zajović) and witnesses: Mirjana Učakar and Marica Šeatović participated in the public promotion of the Women's Court. There were four (4) female students, professor Smiljana Leinert Novosel and Lino Veljak, professor at the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb.

**April 11th, Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina** - Promotion was held in the city library "Dervis Sušić" organized by activist Nihad Suljić and NV0 "Novi horizonti" from Tuzla. Speakers: Stasa Zajovic, Jadranka Milicevic, CURE Foundation, Sarajevo and Mira Vilusic, feminist therapist of the Women's Court and the witness: Reiha Avdic, Mirjana Mijailovic, Leskovac, Serbia, Rejha Avdic, Tuzla / Bratunac, BiH, Binasa Džigal, Prijepolje, Serbia Sabina Talovic, Pljevlja, Montenegro. There were 62 people present at the promotion.

In addition, the Women's Court was also mentioned at the following regional conferences:



**January 28th, Sarajevo (Rekom):** As part of the session "Impact of civil initiatives on establishing transitional justice in practice", Stasa Zajovic spoke about marking the war crime sites, symbolic reparations / memories of victims, and the Women's Court.

**February 23rd, Belgrade** - As part of the education program for youth from the whole region "Memory and Responsibility" organized by the WiB, Staša Zajović spoke about W'sC.

#### **International Promotion of the Women's Court**

**March 2nd - Bilbao (Hegoa),** University of the Basque Country (Universidad del Pais Vasco / Euskal Herriko Unibersitatea), organized by the Institute for Development Studies and International Cooperation, Staša Zajović spoke about the Women's Court - feminist approach to justice within the framework of the seminar "Building peace from the angle of feminist antimilitarism - the experience of Women in Black, Belgrade"



(Construyendo políticas cotidianas de paz desde feminismo antimilitarista Mujeres de Negro, Belgrado); about 20 students of postgraduate and doctoral students attended the event.

**March 6th, Ondarroa** - A lecture on the activities of the WiB, in particular on feminist approach to justice, held by Staša Zajović in the premises of the local women's group and organized by the Gender Equality Commission of Ondarroa.

*In the past months, Women in Black / Donne and Nero from Italy have organized numerous meetings about the experiences of W'sC: Turin, Milan, Modena, Fano, Udine, Padova ...*

*In this period, we also had a lot of meetings with researchers - whether direct meetings, over skype ...*

## **II Preparatory activities for organizing the Women's Court on the violation of women's labor rights (Serbia)**

During the regional meetings of the W'sC, as well as public presentations organized in Serbia, witnesses at the W'sC, as well as women (to a lesser extent were men) who attended public presentations, spoke of multiple violence (the violence of the state, impunity at all levels, discrimination and persecution on an ethnic, ideological, gender basis, etc.). This is a multilayer violence, various forms of violence are intertwined (ethnic / class / gender / militaristic).

Post / war profiteering, robbery privatization, brutal exploitation of workers, and especially the female workers, is one of the biggest injustices and the causes of women's unsafe in Serbia. On the other hand, the fear of women prevails to publicly speak about it because of fear of loss of job, blackmail, pressure.

In the framework of preparatory activities for organizing the Women's Court on the violation of women's labor rights, in accordance with the feminist ethics of taking responsibility for the continuation of the W'sC process, some of the witnesses at the W'sC from Serbia, activists of the WiB Network, with the support of WiB, Belgrade, in this reporting period the following activities were organized:

### **Workshops / discussions on women's labor rights in this period were held in the following places:**

#### **Zrenjanin, Vojvodina – Roza – group for women's labour rights:**

- During January, individual interviews were conducted with 11 women - workers of the trade chains of the GOMEX and PerSu shops, as well as the Drexel-Mayer workers;
- February 18th meeting with women, seven women participated;
- During the course of February, three individual interviews with women who do not want to get involved in the process, but want to tell someone their story;
- March - socializing with women who had previously participated in workshops (March 4th) and socializing / talking about participation in the women's march on March 8th in Belgrade;
- April 15th - a workshop organized by Women in Black from Belgrade and the Roza Group for Women's labour Rights was held in the Zrenjanin Social Forum, attended by 16 women from Zrenjanin, Zitiste, Novi Bečej and Belgrade.





**Novi Bečej** – Marija Kovačev on behalf of the group Roza organized the following activities:

- During November 2017, she made several first phone calls, followed by individual conversations, most often in her home, with eight women;
- December 15th, 2017, a joint meeting was held in which 6 women participated, who testified, but without recording because they are not sure if they want to get involved in the process;
- On January 26th, 2018, the activists from Roza from Zrenjanin (Vesna and Milica) attended the meeting. Six invited respondents did not want the interview to be recorded, the reasons are different, from the fear to that they are not sure if they want to get involved in the process;
- February 24th, 2018 - a meeting with 4 women who did not want to be photographed; the activists from Roza from Zrenjanin attended the meeting;
- March and April 2018 - Marija Kovačev again performed individual interviews with women, in an effort to empower them and persuade them to agree to be part of the organization of the W'sC.

**Leskovac** - organized by the group for peace and women's rights "NENA":

January 29th - a workshop in which six (6) women participated;

April 17th - a workshop organized by NENA and Women in Black from Belgrade was held at the Association of Dystrophics and attended by 17 women from Leskovac, Prokuplje and Belgrade.

The participants testified about the injustice in the world of work, and they expressed the need and readiness to participate in the W'sC process, primarily as potential witnesses for W'sC.

### III Feminist ethics of care and responsibility

Meetings in safe spaces in which women speak publicly about traumas, and for the purpose of strengthening mutual support, trust, friendship, inclusion of as wide circle of women as possible in the continuation of the process of the Women's Court. We continue with this practice from the previous meetings where it was agreed that where there are no conditions for organizing 'mini' ZS, workshops, circles, meetings are organized ... The feminist ethics of care and solidarity includes the monitoring of war crimes trials; support to legal processes and procedures led by witnesses to the W'sC.

Within this activity, the following activities were realized:

1. **Ljubljana/Slovenia, January 20th** - Workshop with 'Erased' in Ljubljana was held at the Social Center Rog, with participation of women and children from the "Erased" community, as well as activists who supported them. This, as well as the previous workshops, confirmed the deep trauma experienced by women and children - victims of ethnic cleansing in Slovenia (1992).

*To remind you:* Following the recognition of Slovenia's inde-





pendence in early 1992, on February 26th 1992, the Slovenian authorities “erased” from the state registry about 26,000 persons of non-Slovenian origin, who were left without documents, the right to residence, work and social protection. A lawsuit against the state of Slovenia has been filed before the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg for this massive violation of human rights. About this, women also spoke at this workshop, where 17 women participated: three members of the Erased, four witnesses at the W’sC from Croatia and Slovenia, six activists from Ljubljana, while the other four were organizers and associates of W’sC ( Nela Pamuković and Mubera Ždralić from Zagreb and Staša Zajović, Belgrade).



Marijana Senjak, a feminist therapist moderated the whole meeting / workshop. Mariana stressed that the workshop “is part of the feminist ethics of caring for herself - empowering herself, working on herself and not just helping others.” The workshop consisted of the following segments:

- *“my best female friend presenting me”* – dynamic exercise

- *About the experience with the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg* - Mirjana Učakar, the leader of the ‘Erased’ movement and a witness at the W’sC reported that in December 2017 the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg rejected a claim for the return of property (the purchase of a flat that they lost in 1992 because they did not have Slovenian citizenship). It should be noted that Amnesty International has supported the lawsuit. The trauma, as well as the following activities, especially support in this regard, was discussed in this part of the workshop.

There was also support for the organization of the “Week of Erased” in February 2018, which includes several activities (debates, public letters, the requirement to include the ‘Erased’ topic into school textbooks, the request to allocate the location / public space for the construction of the memorial / monument to the Erased.

**2. Pljevlja, Montenegro** – Among Bosniak women in the northern part of Montenegro, fear of public speaking is still prevalent about the crimes of ethnic cleansing during the war (1991-1999). These are unrecognized, unpunished crimes. At this workshop, it was emphasized that the trauma was transmitted by the generational way and ethnic discrimination is still present. The aim of these workshops is to create a safe space, empower women to testify about ethnic violence, and on the other hand, to strengthen mutual support, solidarity and non-violence culture. Workshops include individual and group work, and all workshops were coordinated by feminist therapist Ljupka Kovacevic, an activist from the Peace Group “Anima” from Kotor and a female therapist at the W’sC.

In this reporting period, two (2) workshops were organized by NGO “Bona Fide” Pljevlja:

**March 16th** – Talking about war and postwar trauma and discrimination

(ethnic / militaristic / economic / gender) participated (10) persons (9 women and one man). Topics were agreed for the following workshops: on fear as a dominant feeling, facing the past, antifascism ...

**April 27th** – There were eleven (11) participants who participated in the discussion about fears and iden-





tities (gender, ethnicity). It should be noted that a large number of refugees and migrants from the Middle East countries began to arrive in Pljevlja at the end of February 2018. There were about 300 refugees and migrants in Bona Fide, and activists of Bona Fide actively participate in their care and support every day. Activists said that they work with refugees with the trauma, women, children and men. All women expressed a positive attitude towards working with refugees, but they expressed the need to devote more attention to providing psychosocial support to both refugees and activists in the coming period.

## **VI War Crimes trials monitoring**

(legal processes and procedures conducted by witnesses, organizers, activists in the W'sC):

- Kravica War Crime Trial at the Special Court in Belgrade: together with the relatives of the killed, the trials are followed by activists of WiB (for this trial, you can find more information in this report in the section - Monitoring the war trials at the Special Court.

During this period, witnesses who conducted legal proceedings (return of property, preparatory actions for war crimes proceedings) were supported by female therapists, organizers and activists of the Women's Court.

## **V Joint Work Consultation Meetings**

During this period, operational working meetings of organizations, experts, activists participating in the process continued:

**January 15th, Zagreb:** Seven (7) women (witnesses and organizers from Croatia and Stasa Zajovic from Serbia) took part in the working meeting at the Center for Women Victims of War. It was about preparations for a workshop in Ljubljana, about participation in the meeting of the WiB Network, regional meeting of the W'sC, etc.

**February 26th and April 10th, Zagreb:** working meetings of witnesses and organizers of the W'sC after the public promotions of the W'sC.

**April 11th, Tuzla/BH:** working meetings of witnesses and organizers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia.

**VI Working meetings of Women in Black:** Working meetings (reporting activities, preparation of publications, documentation and archives of the W'sC, preparation of regional meetings of the W'sC.

## **VII Video activism**

Video activism which implies the realization of video material in relation to the feminist approach to justice; includes translation and subtitling of documentary films about the experiences of non-violent movements against the impunity of war crimes, neoliberal economic globalization, etc.

Documentary films made during this reporting period have already been listed ("Video activism - transitional justice - a feminist approach)



## VIII Publishing

### Reports:

- *Women's court: feminist access to justice* (January-December 2017 annual report in bcs language (22 p) and in English (18 p)
- *Public promotions of the W'sC* (reports 25 p)
- *Preparatory activities for organizing the Women's Court on the violation of women's labor rights, Serbia* (Reports 30 p)
- *Feminist ethics of care* (Reports 10 p)
- *Regional Meeting of the Women's Court* (transcript, 28 p)

During this reporting period, witnesses at the W'sC participated in numerous activities of the WiB Network: street actions; dealing with the past (visiting the war crimes scenes, monitoring the trials), meetings of the Network, educational programs.

# NETWORKS, COALITIONS MUTUAL SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Women in Black are initiators or active participants in numerous regional networks, coalitions and associations, active participants in the activities of related organizations, in order to strengthen mutual support, solidarity, civil society and democracy in Serbia and the whole region.

During this period, a number of activities were organized, from which we highlight the following:

### **WIB Network Meeting, 9th, 10th and 11th February 2018, Vrnjačka Banja**

The meeting was attended by sixty-one (61) persons: five (5) from Montenegro, three (3) from Croatia, five (5) from Bosnia and Herzegovina, one (1) from Macedonia, one (1) one (1) from Cyprus and forty-five (45) from ten (10) cities in Serbia.

The meeting started with a brief presentation of the participants and the presentations of activities in previous period: Miloš Urošević (Facing the Past), Suvada Selimović and Ljiljana Radovanović (Feminist Ethics of Care) Stasa Zajovic (on the continuation of the activities of Women in Black and the joint





activities of the Women in Black Network, and responsibility), Shehida Abdurahmanovic, Milka Rosic (Women's Court - feminist approach to justice), Saha Hrustic and Sabina Talovic (Solidarity is our strength).

In the second part, Snežana Jakovljević presented one of the activities that was organized outside of the Network and was important for their environment. There were words about the meeting held by the activists of the Peščanik Association together with the partner organization Women's Human Rights Association from Mitrovica / Kosovo, which was also the first activity on the Belgrade-Pristina negotiations, from the perspective of women. The aim of the project is to empower women activists and women decision makers in South Serbia and North Kosovo to participate more actively in negotiations between Belgrade and Pristina in the EU integration process.



Within the activist art session, documentaries of the Group for Video Activism of Women in Black were screened.

Later in the evening, activists watched the film "I, Daniel Blake", directed by Ken Louch. Discussion after the film's screening was about a movie, but much more on similar experiences in our environment. The participants talked about bureaucratic dehumanization, humiliation in employment bureaus, overcrowding, fear, blackmail, punishment of rebellious work, nationalistic manipulations of labor before the war and after the war, about the failure to organize labor solidarity.

The central session on the following day (February 10th) was dedicated to the world of labor and labor rights in Serbia.

It began with panel titled „What is a working class today ?“, held by Lino Veljak of the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb, moderated by Marijana Stojčić.

In the second part, on the labor rights in Serbia today, spoke: Mario Reljanovic, Faculty of Law, University of "Union", Zoran Stojiljkovic, Faculty of Political Sciences and "Nezavisnost" union, Jelena Veljić, member of the Social Center „Oktobar“, Marijana Stojčić, sociologist and activist of Women in Black and Slobodan Sadžakov, Faculty of Education in Sombor.



During this session, the following questions were discussed: how the nation replaced the class; labor law - the collapse of labor rights; the position of workers in foreign luminaries - investments in the service of exploitation; strikes in Serbia 2017; trade unions in the service of workers or capital; egoism as a source of violations of labor rights, etc.

The conversation was moderated by Snežana Tabacki and Stasa Zajovic

The afternoon work ended with a discussion about the position of independent cultural workers. Participants were: Danica Vukićević, poet and writer from Belgrade, and Tony Maslić, independent visual artist Belgrade / Cyprus.





During the afternoon break, a group of activists discussed the actions related to marking of March 8th.

Afternoon sessions were dedicated to women's labor rights.

In the first part the following texts were presented:

- How to Sisters Do It the Best: a publication in the edition of the Reconstruction Women's Fund - discussed by Marija Jakovljević, from the Reconstruction Women's Fund;
- WiB Reader: WORLD OF WORK (selection of works): spoke: Mina Damjanović, Tanja Marković and Staša Zajović.



The second part was dedicated to the position of women in the labor market. The panel was attended by Maja Krek, a member of the Social Center "Oktobar"; Hristina Cvetinčanin Knezevic, Center for Women's Studies, Belgrade; Senka Rastoder, trade union activist, Bar, Montenegro and Vesna Djordjevic, Working Women's Rights Group 'Roza'

Moderated by: Mina Damjanović and Marijana Stojčić

The session ended with the presentation of several short documentaries on the position of workers in Serbia and the world: About strikes in Serbia 2017; Bolivian Woman and They are Right / Tienen Razon.

During the evening, a feminist reading circle was organized, on which were presented two books: "The Mother of the Reversed Things", Danica Vukićević and "Bite the Life", Radmila Lazić.

About the book by Danica Vukićević. "Mother of the Reversed Things" spoke activists Milica Miladinovic, Stasa Zajovic, Fahrudin Kladnicanin, Sabina Talovic and the author.

Nuna Zvizdic presented the book "Bite the Life".

Bratislav Stamenković, activist from Leskovac and Nuna Zvizdić, Sarajevo, member of the Regional Women's Lobby for Peace and Security in South-East Europe, spoke at the discussion corner "Where and How".

Moderated by Snezana Tabacki.

The meeting ended with an agreement on the activities in the upcoming period.

Moderated by: Milos Urosevic and Stasa Zajovic

(You can find an integral report from the Network meeting on the Women in Black website)

During this reporting period, a number of working group meetings were held on issues related to the WiB Network.





## Educational programs, feminist discussion circles ...

During this period, the following activities were organized:

### I Women's Peace Activism, March 16th, Djulici, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Educational program that the citizens association "Anima" from Djulici and WiB, Belgrade have been organizing since the beginning of 2016. This is the seventh cycle of the above educational program dedicated to the joint consideration of the participation of women in peace building, the role of women's peace activism in achieving just peace. 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 in the work by "Anima" and WiB.

At this meeting, 42 women from the area of Zvornik municipality (East Bosnia) participated: 38 women from the following places: Đulići, Tojšići, Glumina, Sapna, Klisa, Grabovac, Šetići, Goduš, Tuzla, Kobilic and from Belgrade (4 activists from WiB).

We highlight the following segments from the program:



**The struggle for women's labor rights, for women's solidarity** - a workshop and screening of films on March 8 in the region and the world.

**Women and power** - continuation of the workshop from the previous (sixth cycle)

**Women's power to trigger changes ...** Screening of documentaries:

- **Different power is possible - Luiza Morgantini:** a documentary (17 minutes), directed by Jelena Ćelebić, produced by Women in Black (2008) about Luisa Morgantini, a former member of the European Parliament, one of the founders of the International Network of Women in Black; the film was shot in Leskovac, at the conference »Different Power is Possible« (2004) organized by Women in Black and shows the peace engagement by Luiza Morgantini.



„**Women build peace together**“ (15 min.) - documentary about the meeting of women's solidarity (September 20th, 2017) organized by Women in Black, Belgrade and the citizens association "Anima" from Djulici. A group of 49 women from the area of Zvornik (Djulici, Klisa, Tojšić, Glumina, Zvornik, Sapna, Šetić ...) came to Belgrade and on that occasion a series of activities were organized: meeting in the WiB premises, and then tourist-cultural program of joint sightseeing of Belgrade.



## **II Pljevlja/Montenegro, 30th and 31st March, „Feminism is our choice“**

The feminist discussion circle was held in the premises of the open center Bona Fide, Pljevlja. FDC is part of the educational program Feminism is our choice! implemented by Bona Fide, supported by Women in Black, Belgrade and Anima, Kotor.

A total of 18 people participated in the FDC, of which 15 women and 3 men from: Pljevlja, Kotor, Herceg Novi, Prijepolje, Priboj, Belgrade ...

Within this FDC, workshops, lectures, screening of documentary films were organized:

### **Where feminism is going? – workshop**

In the first part, “What is feminism for me / us - here and now?” On the ethical principles of feminist-antimilitaristic politics ... there were talks about the challenges and traps of feminism - violation of women’s rights, especially labour rights, in the context of robbery privatization, religious fundamentalism, militarism in a regional and global context ...

In the second part, the documentary films of the WiB, and related international networks on feminist-antimilitaristic engagement are presented.

**March 31st - Continuity of feminist struggle - the continuation of the discussion on feminism** (On feminist activism before the war, on the Yugoslav feminist network, on feminist-pacifist activism during and after the wars in the former Yugoslavia).

The following films are shown:

“**Neda Božinović Continuity of the Fight for Peace and Women’s Rights**” (17.15 min.) - a documentary about Neda Božinović (1917-2001), one of the founders of Women in Black.

“**Neda Bozinovic – from partisan to antimilitarist**” (15.45 min.) - documentary film, talks with Neda on her participation in the Second World War, the causes of the breakup of the SFR Yugoslavia, etc.

### **Continuity of feminist struggle - continuation of the workshop in the afternoon:**

- March 8 - a short history; What’s for us March 8? why is it important to us?
- From a female strike in Iceland (1975) to the World Feminist Strike of 2017 and 2018

Women’s movement in Montenegro, with special reference to women’s movement in Boka Kotorska - lecture was delivered by Ervina Dabižinović.

*In the final session of the feminist discussion circle, joint activities were agreed in the upcoming period.*

*FDC were moderated by Stasa Zajovic, Belgrade, Ljupka Kovačević, Kotor and Ervina Dabižinović, Herceg Novi.*





## Solidarity is our strength

**I Solidarity with war refugees in Serbia:** Women in Black started 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, 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 has several segments and includes:

Visits to refugee sites - activists of WiB - provided solidarity assistance in self-organized refugee camps (near Šid, at the border between Serbia and Croatia). In this reporting period, we went visit to the refugees in Sid in four times, and in this activity we are working with "No name kitchen", an international volunteer network that continually provides refugees in a self-organized camp in Sid. Women activists from all over Serbia participated in the collection of assistance.



o **Peace action of humanitarian character - sharing** - through humanitarian actions we encourage solidarity, familiarity, friendship, meetings with war refugees, acquiring knowledge about the situation of refugees, information about their position, etc. During this reporting period, the WiB organized weekly, and sometimes several times a week, solidarity visits to WiB, refugees located in a camp in Krnjaca (girls and women from Afghanistan), as well as other refugees.

o **Artistic activist actions of solidarity with refugees** - street peace actions - protests over abuses and militarization of refugee tragedy, fostering solidarity of citizens with war refugees. This segment of activities also includes the aesthetic dimension of solidarity (printing flyers, making badges, banners in Arabic, Farsi, English, Serbian). In this period, street actions were organized: March 21st (more information in the section "Street actions").

o **We are knitting the network of peace and solidarity** - during this period, knitting of hundreds of woolen items (gloves and slippers / claws, scarves ...) for the needs of refugees during the winter period was organized within the WiB Network; activists from Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in this action, and also solidary citizens joined.

o **Documentary films about actions of solidarity:** WiB's video activist group recorded shorter films about street actions, artistic activist programs, which has already been mentioned in this report ('Video Activism Group'). We also have a rich photo documentation on solidarity actions.

**In addition to this, solidarity with war refugees is expressed by other activities:**

**Reports** - in Serbian and English, for domestic and international networks to familiarize themselves with the problems of refugees, their position, their human rights, abuse, discrimination, both at the level of institutions and society.



**Reporting abuses and militarization of the refugee tragedy** - cases of repression, abuse, exploitation of refugees by state and non-state actors in the form of plunder and enrichment at the expense of refugees; About this WiB reports both through reports, as well as in numerous publications.

**Monitoring of the application of measures by institutions**

- fulfillment of the obligations assumed by the state on the basis of international conventions on the situation of refugees and asylum seekers - a gap between factual and normative state (Read more about this in the reports of Mirko Medenica "Refugees in Serbia, March 2018)

**International solidarity** - contacts with international networks for the exchange of information, designing joint actions, organizing visits to the places where refugees reside in Serbia, during this period we organized numerous visits, participated in international conferences, debates. (About this you can find comprehensive information both in this report and on the WiB website).



**II Solidarity with workers** – against violations of labor rights, layoffs for organizing strikes, support for workers in trials, protests ...

**Solidarity with workers** – this has already been mentioned in this report (section Women's Court-Feminist Approach to Justice) and in the framework of preparatory activities for organizing the Women's Court on the violation of women's labor rights in Serbia.

**Solidarity actions against the dismissal of workers of TSO in Prokuplje**

The application of austerity measures led to the cut of the entire hygiene service in the TSO, and the dismissal was given to a bigger number of workers than the number predicted by rationalization plan. After that, the dismissed workers organized a strike, which was later joined by other employees. Under the pretext that the strike was an 'unlawful', the members of the Strike Committee of the Unions in Prokuplje were fired too.

The workers who were fired due to rationalization, as well as three women from the Strike Committee and the President of the Strike Committee, filed a lawsuit against dismissal decisions.

The first hearing in this process, initiated by Emina Rnjak, one of three dismissed workers was held on March 2nd. After that, the workers from the Strike Committee who joined the protest were returned to work by a decision of the Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veteran's Affairs and Social Issues, which annulled the decision on the dismissal of labor inspections in Prokuplje.

In this reporting period, five (5) hearings were held, and on all trials, activists from organizations: Autonomous Women's





Center, Belgrade, Women in Black, Belgrade, Left Summit of Serbia, Women's Network of Rasina District, NENA Peace and Rights Group Women, Leskovac, Reconstruction Women's Fund, Belgrade, SOS Vlasotince, Women's Association Pescanik, Kruševac, Portal Mašina have organized solidarity support actions (protests, march ...), which was mentioned in this report in the section Street Action.

During this solidarity actions, the following requests were highlighted:

1. To bring unlawfully fired workers back to their jobs!
2. To stop the abuse of political power for the purpose of intimidation and to ensure the conditions for a strike!
3. Stop the austerity measures that lead to the dismissal of workers and public sector workers and the reduction in the quality and availability of public services for the population!
4. We demand a fair trial without pressure, blackmail, reprisal!

**March 22nd, Belgrade** – Public commemoration on the occasion of the anniversary of the suicide of the Gosa Factory worker (the factory of railway vehicles from Smederevska Palanka). Namely, the employee Dragan Mladenović (56) hanged himself in the factory (22.3.17) Where he worked for 35 years. He committed suicide because of poverty and because the owner of Gosa (a Slovakian company) owed workers between 15 and 20 wages, and did not pay the social or health insurance. Public commemoration was held on the Republic Square and the choir 'Our Song', which sang antifascist and worker's songs in memory of Dragan Mladenovic, also took part, and activists also spoke about the terrible position of workers in Serbia. Activists of WiB were also involved in the action.

**III Solidarity with Roma Women** – on March 21st (International Day Against Racism) a protest walk in the campaign "The Month of Roma Women's Activism" (March 8th) was held. Under the name "Women's rights are human rights" dedicated to "the right to free choice of partners, warning of juvenile marriages as violations of the rights of children and women." On behalf of WiB, Mina Damjanović and Staša Zajović participated in this action.



**IV Solidarity Against Repression Against Human Rights Defenders, April 20th "What to do?"** - A joint reflection of the activists of the Autonomous Women's Center and WiB. Continuation of the practice of joint working meetings of the AWC and WiB, topics were attacks on WiB, obstacles in feminist-antimilitarist activism (external and internal obstacles, challenges, common strains of non-violent feminist resistance ...); 15 activists from the AWC and WiB participated.

(On the attacks on WiB in this period, information can be found in Dossiers 9 and 10)

**V Solidarity with independent media – Solidarity with Kikindske, April 20th at CZKD, Belgrade** - On the occasion of the 1001st issue of the "Kikindske". Supporting "the struggle for the survival of independent media in Serbia, exposed to enormous political and economic pressures because they do not want to be propaganda of the regime. Several hundred people from the media, civil society gathered and on this occasion the campaign of the Media Freedom Group "I Defend Kikindske" was launched. A dozen activists from the WiB were present at this event.





## **Discussion circles, lectures, debates at the Women in Black premises - "Wednesday in the WiB"**

The practice of regular discussion circles, lectures and joint reflections on important social and political issues in the country and in the world continued in this reporting period, fifteen lectures, debates, book presentations, screenings of films were held, 180 persons participated:

**January 17th - Discussion on the book "Women's Liberation: Feminist Texts (1964-1975) (eds.) Sanja Pavlovic and Milos Urosevic;** Publishers: Autonomous Women's Center and Women in Black, September 2017. Ten (10) people participated in the discussion.

**January 24th "Holocaust in occupied Yugoslavia"** - lecture by Nenad Milosevic, writers and political scientists, with the participation of 13 people.

**February 14th "She left a mark on us", memories of Borka Begovic (1928 - 2018),** an activist of Women in Black. Twenty (20) people attended.

**February 21st** – debate on book of **Josip Sruc, "Why I am not a believer - essays on the belief, work and future of religion"**, published by 'Razlog', Zagreb, 2017. Josip Sruc (1928) is a retired professor at the Faculty of Law in Rijeka, he lives in Zagreb. The author of the book declares himself in the title of the book as an unbeliever / atheist. It does not deal with the Bible, but the current issues: the relation between religion and morality, church and politics, religion and state, religion and science, family planning / demographic issues, etc. Given that in Croatia (and Serbia and the rest of the world) there is a re-radicalization, that states and societies are clericalized, the public display of atheism becomes less and less desirable. Lino Veljak, Faculty of Philosophy, the book reviewer gave introductory remarks, and then the activists commented on selected essays from the book. At this event, 28 people were present.

**February 28 "Local Elections in Belgrade"**, 12 people participated in the discussion - joint consideration with experts from IPSOS - Strategic marketing.

**March 14th "The Feminist Workshop on Menopause"** moderated by feminist activist and physician Vera Litricin. The workshop was attended by 14 women.

**March 28th "Marginalization of marginalized - child marriages among Roma" research by Ljiljana Gavrilovic and Ivan Djordjevic (Ethnographic Institute SANU).** The authors of the research spoke about systematic discrimination against the Roma population in Serbia, as well as about violence within Roma communities, discrimination against Roma girls and women, with a focus on child marriages. Within the framework of the research, with the support of UNICEF, the statements of women and their life stories about the violence were collected. 21 people attended the event.

**April 4th "New Europe - between populism and rebellion"** - lecture by Prof. Dr. Stefan Surlić Faculty of Political Science in Belgrade. 22 people participated.

**April 18th - A feminist workshop on women's sexuality,** moderated by feminist activist and physician Vera Litricin; 14 women participated in the conversation.

**April 25th, "Habap Fountain - The Story of Restoration" (59:56 min.) By Dilen Aydon.** The documentary talks about the village of Habap in the Turkish province of Elazig-Kovancilar, where Armenians lived



for centuries until the 1915 genocide. At the initiative of the Hrant Dink Foundation, two historic fountains in Habap were rebuilt (2011) thanks to the noble efforts of locals, as well as Armenian, Kurdish and Turkish volunteers from around the world. After the screening of the film, Dr. Aris Movsesian from Belgrade gave a lecture on genocide against the Armenians, attended by 20 people.

## Publishing

In addition to the already mentioned publications, in this period we also published:

**Feminist fanzin– February 2018-** dedicated to the struggle for the law on registered same-sex communities in Serbia. The law model was created in cooperation with the organization: Center for the Advancement of Legal Studies / CUPS, Labris - Organization for Lesbian Human Rights from Belgrade and AIRE Center from London. The feminist fanzine number 13th has 20 pages and the creation of this issue has been solidly supported by Labris and Women in Black.

**We will never forget the crime in Štrpci** - on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the crime, WiB published a monography of the same name. It contains the following sections: Facts about the crime in Štrpci; Letters by Milka Zuličić (mother of abducted Zvezdan Zuličić); About the abduction in Štrpci - activists and associates. In the second part, the activities of the WiB related to the crime in Štrpci: statements, street actions, visits to the crime scene committed on our behalf; documentaries and video materials of the WiB Video Activist Group. The monography was published on February 27th, 2018 and has 52 pages.

**“She left a mark on us” - a publication dedicated to Borki Begovic (1928-1988)**, an activist of the WiB. The publication contains memories of Borka by activists of the WiB collected during a event on February 14th, 2018 in the WiB premises. The second part of the publication is anti-war / antimilitarist texts and exhibitions by Borka Begovic. The publication was prepared by Miloš Urošević and Staša Zajović, edited by Marija Vidić, and has 32 pages.

## 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; over refugees.

**Stop Turkish aggression on Efrin!** - In a January 25th statement, Women in Black and the Women's Network Against Violence sent requests to the relevant institutions of the state of Turkey to “stop armed aggression in the autonomous Kurdish region of northern Syria; that the international community should do everything in its power to exert pressure on the Government of Turkey to stop violating international humanitarian law and to withdraw its military forces” and that “the investigators of the International Criminal Court will carry out an investigation that would end with the indictments for war crimes and crimes against humanity against officials of the Turkish army, as well as Turkish President Erdogan.”

**Threat messages at Women in Black Office** - In a statement from February 23rd 2018, the WiB informed the public: “On the night of February 22nd-23rd, 2018, members of the extreme right-wing organization, the Zavetnici, left threat messages at the front door of the Women in Black Office. Two types of stickers



are glued on the door: Foreign agents - closed since March 4th; Closed on March 4th. This attack is only a continuation of violence and attacks on the WiB, since "none of the cases of physical attacks or threats to activists of Women in Black has been resolved so far. This climate of impunity is an encouragement and a call to the perpetrators of new attacks. For this reason, as well as for previous attacks, we consider responsible the authoritarian regime headed by Aleksandar Vucic." These attacks are aimed at intimidation, they spread the climate of fear and insecurity, serve to isolate activists of Women in Black from the rest of society, and represent a strategy for deterring political engagement, "the statement said.



**The crime in Strpci - 25 years without justice for victims** - In the statement of the WiB, the Humanitarian Law Center, the Youth Initiative for Human Rights and the Sandžak Committee for Human Rights from Novi Pazar, it is recalled that "27th of February 2018, marks the 25th anniversary of the crime in Strpci, when members of the Republika Srpska Army (VRS) at the railway station in Strpci (BH) carried out and killed 20 passengers, a non-Serb civilian, from a train that operated on the Belgrade-Bar route. The Humanitarian Law Center (HLC), Women in Black, the Sandžak Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and Freedom and the Youth Initiative for Human Rights remind that victim's families have been waiting for 25 years for judicial justice in Serbia and for recognizing of the status of families of civilian victims of war."

**Death to Fascism - Freedom to Women** - In a proclamation on March 8th, the WiB and other feminist groups are joining the initiative of women around the world, from Argentina to Poland, from Ireland to Mexico, who under the slogan "Women's Strike" are gathering to oppose the decades of economic inequality, criminalization and police repression, racial and sexual violence, and the endless global war and terrorism. That is why today we are marching in the face of international solidarity, anti-fascism, and against all the policies that endanger our - women's - lives. Death to fascism, freedom to women! etc.

**One race - a human race!** - On the occasion of March 21st - the International Day Against Racism, the WiB statement said, among other things: "Wires, walls, hate speech have become the symbols of Europe, the rise of hatred, racism, extreme right-wing movements is the current state of affairs." The WiB announced solidarity actions on March 21st: a visit to refugees in Sid, as well as to friends from the international activist collective No Name Kitchen who are "helping refugees day by day in the most difficult conditions and showing better – solidary face of Europe".

**We will not give birth for a state, a nation, a church, an army, or a party!** - In a statement issued by WiB (19.3.18), signed by other feminist organizations, the statement of the President of the Republic in which he "asked" women to understand the need of Serbia and give birth to more children is most strongly condemned, because without a higher birth rate, as he said: "We can not survive as Serbia".

"This statement is humiliating and degrading women because it brings them down to birth machines to reproduce the nation and cheap labor. In addition, from this statement, but also from the statements that





preceded it, as well as the shameful campaigns, it can be read that this call for birth is addressed to women of Serb ethnicity, while the others are excluded ... "It also warns that" the austerity measures that the Government of Serbia is implementing the most affects women because in the times of the crisis they are the first ones to get fired "etc.

**We Remember!**- In a statement on the occasion of 26 years since the start of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the WiB recalls that "The war in Bosnia and Herzegovina is the largest in Europe after the Second World War. Over 97,000 people were killed, 2.2 million citizens had to leave their homes, 20,000 women were raped, mostly Bosniaks. The consequences of the war are still ubiquitous. " The WiB reiterates its request to the Republic of Serbia to "accept the judgments of the highest international legal instances, as well as the views of other international bodies and to act in accordance with them. We recall that many representatives of today's government in Serbia, led by Aleksandar Vucic, actively participated and were part of a policy that supported crimes and led to genocide on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This fact indicates that they have not only moral responsibility, as representatives of the state, that as the ICJ ruling says "did not prevent genocide", but also personal responsibility and duty to act in accordance with the established facts about the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and on the elimination of the consequences of the war. "

**Vojislav Šešelj Verdict** – Women in Black, in a statement issued on April 11th, welcomed the decision of the Appel Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, by which Vojislav Seselj was convicted of persecution on political, racial and religious grounds, deportation and inhumane treatment: "This judgment is primarily a partial satisfaction for victims and families of victims. Vojislav Seselj and his notorious Serbian Radical Party were paradigms and one of the greatest generators of hatred during the 1990s. By their actions they contributed to numerous crimes, both directly, by organizing armed groups that committed crimes, also indirectly through hate speech, inspiring and calling for the persecution, deportation and commission of other crimes. " At the time of committing incriminated acts by convicted war criminal Vojislav Seselj, current President Aleksandar Vucic was his "right hand" and the general secretary of the infamous Serbian Radical Party. WiB request that A. Vucic clearly fenced off the politics of the crime he was a part of and stop with the practices of the 1990s when he was spreading hatred as part of that criminal policy"

**We Remember!** – In a statement on the murder of 16 RTS workers, the WiB recalls that "On April 23rd 1999, in the NATO bombing of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Radio Television of Serbia in Abdareva Street, Belgrade was hit. At that time, there were 16 workers in the building, who were killed on that occasion. The responsibility for their deaths, according to the court-established factual truth, is borne by former director of RTS Dragoljub Milanovic. Despite having clear knowledge that the building of the television would be bombarded, he did not inform his employees about it. Dragoljub Milanovic, as well as the criminal regime of Slobodan Milosevic, in which then the information minister was Aleksandar Vucic, decided to sacrifice innocent people. " On this occasion, the WiB reiterated the demands to the Serbian state authorities to "pay reparations to the families of victims and to admit their responsibility for this crime".



## International activities

In the previous sections, this report lists participation in numerous international conferences, as well as visits at the international level.

In addition to the already mentioned, from the participation in international conferences we highlight:

January 18th, Ljubljana / Slovenia - Opening of the anarcho-feminist space, Social Center 'Rog'; on behalf of WiB participated Staša Zajovic

January 19th, Ljubljana - Staša Zajovic's participation in the 'Erased' Assembly (on problems, preparations for the 26th anniversary of the 'Erased').

January 19th, Ljubljana - The debate on the militarization of the refugee tragedy at the Info-shop - the social center in Metelkova, on behalf of WiB attended by Staša Zajovic.

*Activistic tour (stasa Zajovic.) in Basque Country/Spain 1st-6th march 2018:*

**March 1st – Basauri**, near Bilbao, event was held in Mariene's premises (Basauriko Emakumeen Etxea) of the feminist collective, on the feminist antimilitarism of the WiB, a feminist approach to justice, working with refugees. Marta Chuc, an activist from Guatemala, spoke at the event. The event was attended by over 50 activists.

**March 1st – Bilbao (Hegoa)**, The University of Basque Country (Universidad del Pais Vasco / Euskal Herriko Unibersitatea), organized by the Institute for the Development and International Cooperation (Instituto de estudios sobre desarrollo y cooperacion internacional), Stasa Zajovic spoke about the Women's Court - a feminist approach to justice in the framework of the seminar "Peace Building, the angle of feminist antimilitarism - the experience of Women in Black, Belgrade (Construyendo politicas cotidianas de paz desde feminismo antimilitarista Mujeres de Negro, Belgrado), attended by about twenty students of postgraduate and doctoral studies.

The organization of the feminist movement from Bilbao, Stasa Zajovic spoke about the feminist antimilitarism of the WiB, work with refugees, the event was held in the premises of the feminist group in the evening and attended by about forty people, mostly feminist activists.

**March 3rd – „Feminist approach to justice“** (Enfoque feminista de la justicia/Justizia ikuspegi feminista-tik), discussion in Getxo, near Bilbao, held in the premises of the local women's group and organized by the Commission for Gender Equality. Stasa Zajovic talked about the experience of WiB, with the screening of short documentary films.

**March 4th** – Meeting in Artea, near Bilbao, organized by the Platform for Refugees Support (Plataforma de





apoyo a personas refugiadas); on the exchange of information on refugees, on joint activities in the coming period. Artea is home to a refugee center; About fifty activists attended this event.

**March 5th, Ermua** – Lecture “Feminist analysis of refugee tragedy” (Un analisis

feminist de los desplazamientos forzados / Nahitaezko lekaualdatzeen azterketa feminista), a lecture held at the premises of the local Women’s House and organized by the Commission for Gender Equality of the City of Ermou.

**March 6th** – Participation in the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the work of the Ermou Women’s House, one of the most important points of the feminist movement in the Basque Country.

**March 6th, Ondarroa** – A lecture on the activities of the WiB (feminist approach to justice, dealing with the past ... held in the premises of the local women’s group and organized by the Gender Equality Commission of Ondarroa.



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**Women in Black**  
*Belgrade, August 2018*







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