



*žene u crnom*  
*beograd*

**REPORT**

**for the period**  
**May – August 2016**

As we have done in the past, we are providing you with a brief report regarding our action in this period. If you are interested in more detailed information you can find it on web-site **[www.zeneucrnomo.org](http://www.zeneucrnomo.org)** or by contacting us by mail at **[zeneucrnombeograd@gmail.com](mailto:zeneucrnombeograd@gmail.com)**

We would like to thank you in advance, in solidarity.

*žene u crnom*



# STREET ACTIONS

In this reporting period we organized twelve (12) actions, but we were also actively involved in other street actions:

- Commemorations / marking significant dates of crimes committed in our name
- Feminist, anti-fascist, anti-war, anti-racist, anti-militarist actions ...

## Commemorations / marking significant dates of crimes committed in our name, as well as other crimes against the civilian population, during and after the wars in the former Yugoslavia:

**Krusevac, May 16<sup>th</sup>, "We remember the brave resistance of women"** - Peace Action / homage to the brave women who in 1999, in Krusevac rebelled against the forced mobilization of men for the war in Kosovo. The action was organized by activists of the Association of Women Pescanik from Kruševac and Women in Black from Belgrade. During this action, on the main square, there were two commemorative plaques: **We remember the brave resistance of women! Square of brave women of Rasina County** - to commemorate the resistance of Rasina County who in May 1999, showed their revolt against the forced mobilization of men for the war in Kosovo. With this act, activists repeat their request for entering into the history of women's resistance to war, but also expressed opposition to the refusal of local authorities for the placing of those activists memorial plaque and a request to declare 24th of May International Day of Women's Actions for Peace and Disarmament as a day of commemoration of the rebellion of women in 1999. The action was attended by about thirty women (30) from Belgrade, Krusevac, Brus, Cicevac, Varvarin.

**Belgrade June 17<sup>th</sup> "We remember the women raped in the war"** - protest on Republic Square in Belgrade, on the occasion of June 19 - International Day Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, organized by Women in Black, Autonomous Women's Center and the Humanitarian Law Center.

At the protest were following banners: *Women Against Rape, Women against sexual slavery, Forced pregnancy against women, Women against prostitution, Against the forced sterilization of women, Women against all other forms of sexual violence, Stop the war!, We remember the women raped in wars!, June 19<sup>th</sup> - Day of the fight against sexual violence in war.*

A peace action was followed with stage action - Mapping a rape war crimes committed in the twentieth century with twenty countries or regions in the world.

The action was attended by about forty activists (40). Although the protest was reported, the police did not react to the attacks of a group of men, members of the pro-fascist organizations Zavetnici, which already attacking the actions of Women in Black's. Therefore, the Women in Black filed a criminal complaint against them.







**Belgrade, July 10<sup>th</sup> , “We will never forget the genocide in Srebrenica”** - on the occasion of

21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica, Women in Black organized a standout in black and in silence. During this peaceful protest following banners were raised: *We will never forget the genocide in Srebrenica; Responsibility; Solidarity; We remember; Memory.* Stage action was performed “Srebrenica 8372”. The installation of the symbolic / living memorial, Women in Black

continued construction of the monument to the victims of the Srebrenica genocide since authorities rejected our perennial persistent demands to approved the construction of a permanent monument to the victims of the Srebrenica genocide. This symbolic act entered into the collective memory of those who negates / denied / reduced - the genocide in Srebrenica. The protest was attended by about one hundred (100) activists of Women in Black Network Serbia and the Autonomous Women’s Centre, the Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Reconstruction Women’s Fund and other human rights organizations.

**July 11<sup>th</sup> “8372-Srebrenica”** - protest in front of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, organized by the Youth Initiative for Human Rights, with the support of Women in Black, Humanitarian Law Center, Human Rights House. This action has expressed solidarity with the victims of genocide in Srebrenica. It also reiterated the request to the competent institutions to take into account demands of civil society organizations from Serbia for the proclamation of the Day of Remembrance on the Srebrenica genocide, the adoption of the Resolution on Srebrenica which respect the decisions of international courts; also repeated a request to legally sanction the denial of genocide, so it will be declared a criminal offense, and so on. This action was attended by few dozens of activists.

**Zagreb, August 4<sup>th</sup> Antiwar protest on the occasion of celebration of the war victory”** - peace action on the occasion of 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the crime against the civilian population (‘Storm’) is prohibited on August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016 with the decision of the Ministry of Interior. Due to the banning of anti-war protests, the organization Centre for Women War Victims - Rosa (Zagreb), Women in Black (Belgrade), Women’s Network Croatia, Serbian Democratic Forum (Zagreb), Libertarian activists (Zagreb), Center for Civil Courage (Zagreb) held a peaceful protest action on August 4<sup>th</sup>. The protest was held against the ban and compromising of their rights to freedom of assembly. During the protest “Homeland War veterans” attacked the activists.







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

Listed chronologically:

**Belgrade, May 9<sup>th</sup> "Antifascism is our choice - Antifascist Europe is possible"** - the Day of Victory over Fascism, May 9<sup>th</sup>, Women in Black organized in Knez Mihailova Street peace action - anti-fascist public time. At the protest, following banners were raised: *Antifascism is our choice; Women in Black against fascism; Against Fascism May 9<sup>th</sup> - Day of Victory over Fascism Day of Europe, Lesbians and Feminists Against Fascism, Life imprisonment for fascism-freedom to the people*, and so on. The action was divided into two parts. The first part was dedicated to the prosecution of war refugees - militarization and fascist tendencies in Europe and Serbia, and finally the anti-fascist resistance. In the second part of the campaign, activist choir performed the anti-fascist songs. The action was organized by Women in Black, with the support of the Association of anti-fascists of Serbia and Youth Initiative for Human Rights. The action was attended by about sixty (60) activists.



**Belgrade, May 18<sup>th</sup>, "Not a single woman less, not a single more dead"** - Network of Women Against Violence, Autonomous Women's Center and Women in Black organized a protest on Republic Square in Belgrade against crimes of femicide in Serbia. Specifically, around May 18<sup>th</sup> 2015, within 72 hours 7 women were killed, since the beginning of 2016 in Serbia were killed 9 women. The protest demand from the authorities to declare May 18<sup>th</sup> as a *Day of Commemoration of women killed in femicide* in Serbia. At the protest were following banners: *Not a single woman less, not a single more dead; May 18th - Memorial Day for the women victims of male violence; Punish irresponsible behavior of institutions; Violence against women is a crime; Stop femicide in Serbia; React until it is too late; Stand up for women whose voice is not heard!*, etc. The same day the protests were also held in Krusevac, Kraljevo, Leskovac and Novi Sad.



**Belgrade, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, "No to rehabilitation!"** - An anti-fascist protest in front of the Higher Court (Timočka 15) in Belgrade, where another hearing for rehabilitation of Milan Nedić, a Nazi collaborator was held. As head of the Serbian government during the Nazi occupation in Second World War. M. Nedić is responsible for the Holocaust and crimes against antifascists during World War II. Women in Black have so far followed all the hearings. At the protest were following banners: *"No to rehabilitation"; "Stop Fascism"; "Antifascism is my choice"*, etc. During the protest, members of neo-Nazi organizations were constantly shouted insults to activists of Women in Black (traitors, mercenaries, creeps, lesbians ...). The police did not prevent, nor warned the Fascists hate speech - insults and threats to Women in Black, which indicates the climate of fascist tendencies in Serbia, both at the level of society and the state.







**Leskovac, May 24<sup>th</sup>, "All for peace, health and knowledge, nothing for armament"** - on the occasion of the 24<sup>th</sup> May - *International Day of Women's Actions for Peace and Disarmament*, Women for Peace Leskovac and Women in Black Belgrade, with the support of activists of Women in Black from several cities in Serbia (Vlasotince, Nis, Pirot, Krusevac) organized the feminist anti-militarist march entitled *All for peace, health and knowledge, nothing for armament*. During the march through central city streets activists chanting slogans *All for Peace, Health and Knowledge - nothing for armament; Women Peace, justice, solidarity !, Always !, Will demand social justice !, Give us labor rights !, I don't want to live on loan, I want to live on the wages !, Stop terror in the factory Jura !, Food Not Bombs !, Stop Nationalism !, Stop Cluster Munitions, stop militarism !, Stop Fascism! Freedom !, Women Solidarity is our strength*, etc.

During this march, there were three stage actions:

- **"Stop the war, not the people - solidarity with refugees from the Middle East"** - the action of solidarity with refugees from the Middle East (*Refugees are welcome !; No borders, no nations !, No wires, no limits !, we don't want a fortress Europe - we want open borders !, Stop the expulsion of refugees !; Support the Syrian deserters and conscientious objectors; Stop the abuse and robberies of refugees, Stop the war, not the people !, Stop the war in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq ...*).
- **Food Not Bombs - Freedom without masks** - action against demolition in Savamala in Belgrade, during which we chanted the following slogans: *"Freedom without masks" and "Food Not Bombs"*.
- **'Let's go slowly so that we can arrived safely "or" Peace caterpillars** - two 'peace tracks with the slogan *"All for peace, health and knowledge, nothing for armament."*

The peace march was attended by about **50** people. From the very beginning of the march, a group of persons of pro-fascist orientation (Dveri) were constantly insulted activists by chanting sexist, racist, nationalist, homophobic slogans. All that time the police did not react, even though our rally was duly reported. At the end of the march fascists physically attacked activists, hitting them with eggs and various objects. Women in Black, the next day filed a criminal complaint against the perpetrators of violence.

**Belgrade, June 18<sup>th</sup>, "Solidarity with feminists in Poland"** - in the context of the global campaign of solidarity with the feminist women's movement in Poland, on the occasion of the current situation regarding the denial of the right to abortion, feminist groups from Belgrade organized a solidarity action in front of the Embassy of the Polish Republic in Belgrade. This solidarity action was attended by **10** activists of Women in Black and the Autonomous Women's Center. Feminists held the following banners, which were printed on a Serbian, Polish and English: *Solidarity with Polish Women; We demand equality and respect for women's dignity; Not your body, not your decision; My body, my right, my choice; Keep your rosaries off my ovaries;*







**Belgrade, June 27<sup>th</sup>, "Zone free from hatred"** - on June 27<sup>th</sup> - International Day of Pride, Women in Black and Gayten - LGBT organized protest called Zone free from hatred. This action is organized on June 27<sup>th</sup>, for four years, with the aim to sensitize the public on the situation of LGBT people in Serbia. The move aims to strengthen solidarity with other marginalized social groups. This year the campaign is dedicated to the solidarity with war refugees from the Near and Middle East. The protest was organized in Savamala area, the place where at the end of April brutal violence happen - demolition of buildings, including the aid center for refugees. Following banners were raised: *Zone free from hatred; Savamala - free from hatred; Solidarity with the refugees; We want open borders, not a fortress Europe; Solidarity (in Serbian, English and Arabic)*. Protest was followed by peace and antifascist songs (*Power to the people, Get up stand up, Ay Carmela...*) and before that press release was read. Then, in the area of the ruins, large flags rainbow flag was spread. The protest was attended by thirty (30) activists.



**August 29<sup>th</sup>, Beograd "Remembering Hande Kader"** - a protest rally in memory of brutally murdered trans woman sex worker and activist for the rights of trans people. Hande Kader (22) was raped, killed and burned in Istanbul in early August 2016 and her remains were found on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Hande Kader is the second person from the LGBT community who was murdered in Turkey in the past few weeks, and since 2008 in Turkey forty trans people were killed, according to LGBT organizations. In memory of Hande Kader, during the action in silence, activists laid flowers and lit candles with messages against violence against LGBT people. During the meeting, we warned on more frequent attacks on LGBT people in Serbia. "The attacks on LGBT activists are a practice that remains unpunished, such as the recent attacks on Boban Stojanovic, Predrag Azjedkovića and Dragoslava Barzut and her three friends.



Protest rally was organized by Gayten-LGBT - Center for Promotion of LGBTIQ and the Association We should Know, joined by activists of Women in Black.

**Civil protest "Ne da(vi)mo Beograd" - the mass protests (May 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, June 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>)** - Protests were

organized against the brutal violence and demolition in the area of Savamala Belgrade. Namely, in the night between 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of April, organized group of dozens of uniformed personnel under the masks, with threats and physical force and bulldozers were demolishing buildings in an area of 1000m<sup>2</sup>. The demolition was carried out at the site intended for the construction of "Belgrade Waterfront" Project, which is concluded in violation of the law. The protests were organized by the movement "Ne da(vi)mo Beograd", which deals with issues of public space. During the protests are set numerous demands: the resignation of the Minister of Police due to the demolition of buildings in Savamala, the resignation of the mayor of Belgrade, as well as the director of police, municipal police, cancellation of illegal BWF contracts, etc. Despite protests, involving tens of thousands of citizens, the authorities still did not investigate the event. In all these protests participated activists of Women in Black.







# FACING THE PAST TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE - A FEMINIST APPROACH

This is one of the most important activities of Women in Black. It consists of many parts: street actions, workshops, lectures, creating different models of transitional justice from a feminist approach, in cooperation with similar organizations in joint actions (campaigns, consultative meetings).

## Visiting places where crimes were committed in our name

In this reporting period, Women in Black visited:

**Prijedor, May 31<sup>st</sup>, "World Day of white ribbon"** - peace action organized by the initiative "*Jer me se tiče*" from Prijedor (Bosnia and Herzegovina), against the denial of the truth about crimes committed because of race, ethnicity or political beliefs of the victims. On behalf of the Women in Black in this action participated Goran Lazin.

**Zvornik, June 1<sup>st</sup>** - to mark the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of crimes against Bosniak civilians in 1992 in the municipality of Zvornik (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Women in Black activists participated in the following commemorative occasions: Peace March "*Path of Death*" with the families of victims and survivors; visit mass grave Crni top; funeral in the Memorial Centre Kalesija; commemoration organized by the Association of Victims of the Zvornik municipality, attended four activists of Women in Black.

**Tuzla, June 11<sup>th</sup>, "We are looking for our missing - not forget genocide in Srebrenica"** - five (5) activists of Women in Black participated in the eponymous march, which since 1996 is on 11th of each month, organized by the Association "Women of Srebrenica", based in Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

**Srebrenica, July 11<sup>th</sup>, "Solidarity and Responsibility"** - trip to the commemoration in the Memorial Center Potocari / Srebrenica, where on that day was a funeral of 127 remains of victims of genocide. The commemoration was attended by thirty (30) Women in Black Network from all over Serbia.

On the way back, on whole trip through Serbia, Women in Black have been accompanied by heavy police protection, who performed numerous obstructions (not allowing the bus driver to drive the prescribed speed, frequent and unnecessary stopping, etc.). In fact, we were prevented from taking part in the commemorative event - the anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica, in front of the Serbian Assembly (organized by the Youth Initiative for Human Rights with the support of Women in Black) at 8pm. It was evident that it was a deliberate obstruction advance. This is the way how police in Serbia exhaust and humiliate our activists. (*More on this in the 'Dossier 7 - Repression of human rights defenders - Women in Black'*)





# WOMEN'S SOLIDARITY FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF WAR CRIMES

Actions of women solidarity - feminist ethics of care and responsibility, acts of mutual support, exchange and cooperation in the region in order to build a just peace. In this period we organized exchanges and visits:

**May 1st and 2nd, Đulići, Bosnia and Herzegovina** - a meeting with women from the towns in the Zvornik area (Đulić, Klisa, Setici, Srebrenica); during this meeting, five activists of Women in Black organized a peace workshops, and they also agreed joint activities in the future.

**May 31 and June 1, Đulići** - meeting support and solidarity with women from Đulić and surrounding areas in the Zvornik (BiH) and before and during the anniversary of the crimes committed against Bosniak civilians in 1992 by Serbian armed forces. Four activists of Women in Black visited these locations.

**June 8th, Vukovar, Croatia** - solidarity support of activist of Women in Black to Jelena Baketa, witness at the Women's Court.

**June 10th and 11th, Tuzla** - solidarity support to the women of Srebrenica who live in Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina); during this meeting, five activists of Women in Black talked with the women of Srebrenica on joint activities in connection with the celebration of 21st anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica.

**May, June** - solidarity visit of support and solidarity to Rosa Jakovljevic during her stay of several months in a hospital in Belgrade. Women in Black activists visit her several times a week. Rosa Jakovljevic from Bela Reka near Sabac (Serbia), the mother of a soldier killed in the army barracks in Belgrade in 2004, who testified on the Women's Court in Sarajevo.



## Punishment for crimes - the path to a just peace: attending trials of the Special Court

Before the War Crimes Chamber of the Special Court in Belgrade, the proceedings against the accused Pavle Gavriločić and Rajko Kozlina, and for war crimes in the village of Trnje (Suva Reka / Therandë), March 25<sup>th</sup> 1999, Kosovo.

On March 25<sup>th</sup> 1999, members of the Serbian Army and the Ministry of Interior of Serbia killed 31 Albanian civilians (including 22 members of the Gashi family); 19 of them are still missing.

In this reporting period, we followed a hearing held on 20 and 27 May and 6 and 7 June.

All of the above hearings were followed by WIB activists Milos Urosevic and reported accordingly to organizations within the Women in Black Network, and international networks with which we cooperate.





# ARTISTIC ENGAGEMENT IN CONFRONTING THE PAST / TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

During this period the practice of joint work and cooperation with art collectives, professional theaters, artists engaged in the artistic expression of resistance to war, war crimes, repression and human rights abuses was continued. Besides the above mentioned artistic and activist initiatives, primarily in the section "Street actions" in this period were organized several working meetings related to the conception and implementation of activist-artistic actions with artistic collectives: Multimedia center Led Art / Art Clinic and Dah Theatre on joint activities in that period, a working meetings were held in Belgrade and Novi Sad. In this period, activities were focused on making a documentary film about the Women's Court - feminist approach to justice and ten working meetings were held.



## VIDEO ACTIVISM: TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE - FEMINIST APPROACH

In order to improve the visibility of the effects of various models of transitional justice, particularly one from a feminist point of view, Women in Black (WIB), created in 2010 a group of video activists, who are trained for recording, editing, digitizing and posting on internet video and audio material gathered during regular activities of Women in Black, in the form of short films, it became available to the general public. Group for video activism of Women in Black is coordinated by Marija Vidic and Goran Lazin, in cooperation with Marija Arandjelovic, Zinaida Marjanovic and other activists of Women in Black. In this reporting period, the group has produced the following videos:



- **"Decent work and not hunger"** (6:02 min.) - Street march in Belgrade on March 8th - International Women's Day.
- **Antifascism is our choice** (7:36 min.) - anti-fascist actions of Women in Black in Belgrade on the occasion of the May 9<sup>th</sup>, the International Day of Victory over Fascism; film is translated and subtitled in English.
- **"No woman less, no more dead"** (4:12 min.) - Feminist action against femicide, the action was held in Belgrade on May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- **"All for Peace, Health and Knowledge - Nothing for Armament"** (9:25 min.) - Feminist antimilitarist campaign in Leskovac, on May 24<sup>th</sup> - on the occasion of the International Day of Women's Actions for Peace and Disarmament.
- **"We will never forget the genocide in Srebrenica"** (4:03 min.) - Peace action organized in Belgrade on July 10<sup>th</sup> on the occasion of 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica.



**"Women's Peace Meetings"** - a documentary film (translation and subtitling), are provided in this report under the heading of the same name of the educational program.

**Women's Court - feminist approach to justice** - documentaries (translation and subtitling), are provided in the eponymous section in this report.

In this reporting period, the Group for video activism has also been translated and subtitled following documentaries:

#### **Documentary film Woman in Black translated and subtitled in Albanian:**

- **"Kujtojmë"** (6:52 min.) - Documentary film 'We remember' shows the standing and performance of the Women in Black organized on March 26<sup>th</sup> 2014, at the Republic Square in Belgrade, on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of NATO bombing and persecution of the Albanian population in Kosovo .
- **"20 vjet nga në gjenocidi Srebrenica"** (13:36 min.) - Documentary about the action of Women in Black ( 'We will never forget the genocide in Srebrenica'), on the 20th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica.
- **"Ju kthejmë tankun"** (3:40 min.) - (We'll return tank), a documentary film produced by Women in Black (2010) follows the street action of Women in Black and Art Klinika, Škart since October 2010, which was an homage to deserters and rebels against the war in Serbia.
- **"Kerkojme DREJTESI, kerkojme përgjegjësi Topčider"** (6:04 min.) - ( "We're looking for the truth, we demand accountability - Topčider"), a documentary about street action of Women in Black, which was dedicated to the commemoration of 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the murder of two soldiers in the army barracks Topčider in Belgrade (5.10.2004.); the action is performed in Knez Mihailova Street in Belgrade (10.05.2014.).
- **"Nenat Solidarite - paqe"** (31:04 min.) - Documentary film 'Mothers Solidarity for Peace' of regional meetings for mutual support of women - victims of the worst war crimes in Srebrenica, Vukovar (Croatia), Bela Reka, Belgrade (Serbia). These are the meetings off women who their tragedy and the pain turned into a common struggle for peace and justice. This informal network is launched by the Women in Black.
- **"Resistance Kujtojmë e guximshme grave Krusevac"** (6:04 min) - ( "We remember the brave resistance of women"), peace action on the 15th of May 2014 - a tribute to the courageous activists who have been in 1999, in Krusevac, rebelled against forced mobilization of men for the war in Kosovo.





**Other documentaries for various educational programs - translated and subtitled in this reporting period:**

- **Habap Fountain - The story of the restoration of the fountain** (Habap Fountains: The Story of a Restoration) by *Dilen Aydon*. Documentary film (60 min.) Speaks of a village Habap in the Turkish province of Elazig-Kovancilar, where for centuries lived Armenians until genocide in 1915. At the initiative of "Hrant Dink" Foundation, two historic fountains in Habapu have been renovated (2011) and thanks to the noble efforts of residents, as well as Armenian, Kurdish and Turkish volunteers from around the world.
- **The day I became a woman** (74 minutes), directed by *Marziyeh Meshkini*; Iranian film consists of three stories of the patriarchal restrictions imposed on women in the name of customary law and religion. The film testifies about struggle and desire for freedom of women.
- **The International Network of Women in Black** (11:17 min.) - translation and subtitling docu-film Woman in Black Seville of feminist anti-militarist principles of the Network, as well as the meetings of the International Network of Women in Black.
- **Women make change - Score Card Rwanda** - film directed by Alistair Waterson lasting 24:59 minutes; talk about the experience of *Felicity Niyitegeka*, founder and director of women's sports organizations Akwos from Kigali in Rwanda. The film is about the empowerment of women through football, in the aftermath of genocide (1994), in which women are the biggest victims, especially of sexual crimes.

## WOMEN'S COURT FEMINIST APPROACH TO JUSTICE

Here's a quick report on the activities of Women in Black in connection with organizing the Women's Court-feminist approach to justice in this period. If you are interested in more information, you can find them on our web-sites [www.zeneucrnornom.org](http://www.zeneucrnornom.org) and [www.zenskisud.org](http://www.zenskisud.org) or contact us by mail: [zeneucrnombeograd@gmail.com](mailto:zeneucrnombeograd@gmail.com)

**The first Women's Court on the territory of Europe, was held in Sarajevo from May 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> 2015**, organized by 10 women's groups from the former Yugoslavia (Movement Mothers of Srebrenica and Zepa; Cure Foundation, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Centar for women victims of War; Centre for women's studies, Zagreb, Croatia; Center for women and peace education Anima, Kotor, Montenegro; The Council for Gender Equality, Skopje, Macedonia; Women's Lobby, Ljubljana, Slovenia; Center for women's studies and Women in Black, Belgrade, Serbia. Women's Court was attended by over **500** people from all the countries of the former Yugoslavia, but also from Argentina, Algeria, Palestine, Israel, USA, Spain, Italy, Sweden, Austria, Belgium, Great Britain, etc.

*Women in Black*, during the five years, are the leaders of program activities of the Women's Court. The final event in Sarajevo is not the end of the process, but rather an incentive to creating new models of justice out of the feminist perspective. It is the responsibility primarily to the witness, but also an expression of our responsibility to the enormous burden of the recent past. In continuation of the Women's Court, Women in Black, Belgrade coordinate the program and other activities, with the support of organizations: Anima, Kotor (Montenegro), Center for Women War Victims, Zagreb (Croatia), the Foundation 'Cure', Sarajevo, 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



without active participation. In this reporting period, we are reporting activities of Women in Black and other organizations participating in the continuation of the process of Women's Court:

## I Feminist ethic of care - support witnesses

**Regional meetings of the witness** - the meeting is part of the continuing process of the Women's Court - the process of feminist ethics of care and responsibility, and after the final event in Sarajevo (7-10 May 2015).

During this period, we held a regional meetings:

### **Banja Koviljača (Serbia), 27, 28 and 29 May 2016**

This meeting was attended by **32** women from 19 cities. The meeting was organized by Women in Black from Belgrade in cooperation with: Anima, Kotor, Foundation CURE from Sarajevo and the Center for Women War Victims, Zagreb. In the meeting took part the following witnesses:

**Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Edina Karic, Nura Mustafic, Refija Hadžibulić, Šehida Abdurahmanović, Reiha Avdic, Zumra Šehomerović, Kadeša Rizvanović, Suvad Selimovic and Saha Hrustić

**Montenegro:** Anka Vukicevic, Roksanda Pekovic, Zagorka Matovic and Sabina Talović

**Croatia:** Jovanka Carevic, Ljubica Anđelković-Đukić, Marica Šeatović

**Slovenia:** Mirjana Učakar

**Serbia:** Binasa Džigal, Kovačev Marija, Mirjana Mijailovic, Nadezda Kostić i Lidija Kostic Radičević

**The organizers:** Ljupka Kovacevic (Anima, Kotor), Ljiljana Radovanovic, Violeta Đikanović, Stasa Zajović and Zorica Trifunovic (Women in Black, Belgrade), Nela Pamuković (Center for Women War Victims, Zagreb) and Jadranka Milicevic (CURE Foundation, Sarajevo) Mira Vilušić (feminist therapist SC, Tuzla). In addition, participants were also the guests: Rada Žarković (Sarajevo, WIB activist) and Marta Drury (Foundation Heart and Hand Fund, USA).

The program includes the following segments:

### **Friday, May 27th**

**Feminist ethics of care** - in the first session led by Ljupka Kovačević participants exchanged their personal, family experiences; the common thread that links the witness of WC are:

- *sense of belonging to a community of WC* ("You guys are like my family ...");
- *a safe space for sharing* ("I love when I'm with you because we share what is happening to us");
- *mutual support, the necessity of working together* ("We will not stop, we must continue ...")
- *Women's Solidarity* ("I still streaming female solidarity, our desire and willingness to be each other's support is recognized..."), and so on.

**My symbol** - dynamic exercise in which women talked about the symbols that they brought (meaning, emotional values, associations...).







Women brought symbols related to war trauma, which testify to the personal brave struggle to overcome the trauma, reconstruction of destroyed houses, creating a new home for children; Some women have revived memories of a time of peace as a source of strength to continue; other items were brought from loved ones, mostly friends as a symbol of a strong emotional presence despite the physical absence; there was also a symbol of resistance activist - women's peace activism as inspiration for further fight ...

**The activities related to the process of the Women's Court of the previous period (from December 2016 to date)** were reported by Stasa Zajović, Ljupka Kovačević, Nela Pamuković, Jadranka Milicevic.



### **The projection of the working version of the documentary film about the final event in Sarajevo, May 2015.**

Professional art team is taking into account the opinions and suggestions of the witness, produced a working version of about 50 minutes. In the meeting, the witness said that *"the film is very well done, because: witness expresses emotions, their pain, but also the power"*, I also assess that the film has *"a high professional level"* and represents an *"important contribution to transitional justice and understanding the context of the evidence"*. The witnesses put forward some suggestions, which will be accepted in the preparation of the definitive version of this documentary scheduled for September 2016.

### **Saturday, May 28th**

**The feminist ethics of responsibility: A continuation of the Women's Court:** *problems, difficulties, challenges in the continuation of the process ...*

In this session we discussed about: **the legal protection of testimony** (documents of Conformity / Approvals for audio and video testimonies, archives of WC, the publication of testimonies, the use of material for feminist research...). During long-term work with the witness, as in regional meetings and in meetings at national level (authorization testimony texts, revision of the text, etc.). **34** women who testified in Sarajevo (from a total of 36 witness) signed those documents. The entire work was conducted in accordance with the Code of feminist WC, but still a member of the International Judicial Council sent a few questions that are unclear at this meeting.

**A legal procedures leading witness:** misdemeanor and criminal proceedings, war crimes trials before national courts, appeal proceedings before the International Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, and so on. Some witness legal procedures relating to the elements testimony before the County Court (war crime of rape, forced disappearances, murders...), violations of labor rights; property disputes, etc. Some witnesses have launched legal proceedings against them or have initiated actions that are not directly related to the testimony at WC. In this session, as well as later during the meeting, agreed at the concrete measures of *psychological and legal support* to women witnesses that link various legal proceedings.



**Financial problems:** there was a talk about the lack of funds to continue the process of project applications, the rejection of projects, in particular on the policy of international aid (victim-paternalistic approach, reduced interest of "donors" in for the former Yugoslavia and for activities related with dealing with the past in general, etc.).

**Marta Drury - Passionate activist, a good friend**, coordinator of the Feminist Foundation Hand and Heart, took part in our meeting and spoke about her anti-war engagement, about her experience of being a mother, about feminist



activism. She also commented the campaign for the next presidential elections in the United States, the brutal xenophobic, populist campaign of D. Trump; the misogyny, racism, xenophobia.

### **The feminist ethics of responsibility - a joint reflection on the current political situation in the region – Saturday afternoon**

About the impact of the recent judgment of the ICTY (Radovan Karadzic, who was sentenced to 40 years in prison and Vojislav Seselj, freed of charges), the participants shown that verdict led to a number of negative consequences:

- **Strengthening of nationalism throughout the region** (*"After the judgment, people from my environment who have not declared themselves as nationalists, now declare loudly, it's a shame not to be nationalists ..."* *"In my surroundings (Vojvodina) it affects the proliferation of nationalism and fascism on all sides"; "it's worse than the nineties. Every where nationalism swells ..."; "After these verdicts I am afraid. Patriotism does not mean how much you love and care it is how much you hate the other"*).
- **Celebrating as the heroes of war criminals, at the state and society level, especially among young people** (*"They become national heroes and on matches and concerts youth wearing T-shirts with their faces. In every game can be heard"* *Knife, wire, Srebrenica "instead of enjoying in sports, is revived everything that is ugly and it is worrisome"*); *"War criminals are celebrated in all former Yugoslav republics. And for society and for the country criminals are idols"*).
- **Fully distrust of institutional justice - both internationally and at the national level:** (*"All judges and all courts do not meet justice. The greatest punishment is in this world victims waiting for justice. My desire for justice"; "the courts reward criminals and humiliate the victims"; "I shudder to all vessels, whether national or international. I have gone through all the courts, they are unjust and terrifying"*).
- **A deep disappointment in Hague tribunal** (*"the International Tribunal in The Hague is a farce, a partner in crime"; "The Hague Tribunal is a political court because it did not achieve what he had founded for. Instead of condemning criminals, criminals winning" nor do I believe the international community nor I believed that through the Hague Tribunal we can reach justice"; "I was a big supporter of Hague Tribunal, since its founding. For me it is sad that this court is a big disappointment"*);
- **Resentment because Radovan Karadzic has not been convicted of genocide not only in Srebrenica than in seven other municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina** (*"I'm sorry, that has not been convicted of genocide in other municipalities. No one was convicted for Zvornik"*).
- **Peace is not related to justice and criminality:** (*"This soulless world of such judgments would like to make "peace". If criminals were properly condemned, faster and better would come coexistence and reconciliation in the region"*), and so on.



**In second part of talks were discussed other aspects of the crisis: strengthening the nationalist forces, the persecution of activists, economic misery, coupled crime and political elite. The participants testified about:**

- *atmosphere of fear and panic after the recent elections in Serbia (April 2016)*
- *the strengthening of Catholic fundamentalism, ultra-nationalist forces in Croatia, but also in the whole of Europe;*
- *ethnic and political tensions in Montenegro, in the context of accession to NATO;*





- *deepening ethnic, economic tensions throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the risk of growth of Islamist tendencies, etc.*

### **Sunday, May 29th**

In the session on future activities were arranged various forms of support within the framework of feminist ethics of care and responsibility of WC: support the prosecution of war crimes; psychological support to the witness (individual and group); Regional meeting of witness of WC (proposed theme); joint activities in the field of dealing with the past; street actions - the anniversaries of the crimes and the important international dates; continued work on a documentary film about WC and the book *Female Paper testimony*; promotion of documentary about the events in Sarajevo; witness participation in the activities of Women in Black, etc.

During the final session, participants expressed their emotional, moral, political significance of regional meetings (solidarity, trust, friendship, mutual learning, political maturation ...).



## **II Promotion of Women's Court - Feminist Approach to Justice**

In this reporting period, activists of the International Network of Women in Black presented the Women's Court:

**May 20th, New York** - at New York University (New York University) Indira Kajošević-Skoric (during 90s was activists of Women in Black in Belgrade) had a presentation of the WC and gender justice in the Western Balkans. The session was attended by a large number of prominent feminist, scholar and activist (Ann Snitow, Nanette Funk, Sonia Robbins, Pamela Spees), and colleagues from NYU.

**May 28th, Udine (Italy)** - Women in Black Italy organized a public presentation of the Women's Court in the former Yugoslavia, where they spoke to the participants of events in Sarajevo (May 2015): Marianita D'Ambrogio (WIB Padova) and Melita Richter, researcher at the University of Trieste. The interview was moderated by Annalisa Comuzzi, Women in Black activists from Udine.

On this occasion, also was announced the publication of a translation of the book "Women's Court-the process of organizing" in the Italian language. The book was issued in May 2015, by Women in Black and Women's Studies in Belgrade, in Serbian and English language (*Women's Court: About The Process*).

## **III Joint working consultative meetings**

In this period maintained the operational organization of working meetings, expert, activist participating in the continuation of the process of WC: the regional meeting in Banja Koviljaca (end of May), with the participation of organizations that actively participate in the continuation of the process of WC and numerous other bilateral working meetings.

## **IV Working meetings of Women in Black**

As leaders of program activities in continuation of the process of WC, we held working meetings (reporting activities, preparation of publications, documents and archives of WC, prepares regional meetings witness, prepares Women book of testimony, the coordination of the working group for making a documentary film about WC, etc.



## V Video Activism

*Video activism* which includes the implementation of video material related to feminist approach to justice; includes the translation and subtitling of documentaries about the experiences of non-violent movement against the impunity of crimes, neoliberal economic globalization, etc. In this reporting period, following videos were made:

**Work on the documentary Women's Court** - in this period, there was a dozen of working meetings in Belgrade, in the premises of Women in Black, along with a professional film crew working on the definitive version of the film.

## VI Women's book of testimony

Work on the book in coordination of Women in Black includes the following segments:

- *Editorial of testimony*: the testimony that the witness gave consent were examined, were made the changes, footnotes are viewed by associates of the Women's Court Masa Malesevic, in the coming period followed by another revision.
- *Documents from the Women's Court*: decisions and recommendations of the International panel of judges were established.
- *Texts associate to WC*: screened, followed by an English translation.
- *Other elements*: analysis of continuation of the ongoing work, the text on the work of the feminist therapeutic team of WC is in the works, etc.

## VII Participation of the witness and the organizing of CS in the activities of the Women in Black (street actions, visiting the crime scene, the educational programs ...)

### 1. Visiting places of war crimes

- On 11 Julyth, Potocari / Srebrenica - witness of the WC from Serbia together with other activists from Women in Black Network Serbia attended the celebration of 21st anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica.



### 2. Women's peace meetings (which will be discussed later in this report)

- Bečej (Vojvodina), 13, 14 and 15 May: Kadefa Rizvanović, Edina Karic, Jadranka Milicevic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as witness from Vojvodina.
- Prizren (Kosovo) 24, 25 and 26 June: witness participated in the WC from Kosovo, as well as witness Marijonka Anastasovska from Veles, Macedonia.

### 3. Women build peace together - support of Women in Black

- Đulići, May 2<sup>nd</sup> - (Suvada Selimovic, Saha Hrustić, Reiha Avdic, Šehida Abdurahmanović, witness at the WC from BiH).

### 4. Street actions

- Krusevac, May 16<sup>th</sup> - participation of witnesses and activists from Krusevac on peace action "We remember the brave resistance of women"







- *Leskovac, May 24<sup>th</sup>* - witness participation from Leskovac and Krusevac on feminist-militarist march "Everything for Peace, Health and Knowledge - Nothing for Arms"
- *Belgrade, Krusevac, Leskovac, May 18<sup>th</sup>* - witness of WC took part in feminist action against femicide.
- *Belgrade, July 10<sup>th</sup>* - "We will never forget the genocide in Srebrenica."

(For all the above actions can be found details in chapter "Street actions" of this report).

## VIII Publishing

During this reporting period, we have arranged the following publishing units:

- *the report on the activities within the continuation of the process of WC in English* (from May 2015 to February 2016, 16 pages)
- *Regional Meeting on Women's Court witness*, Banja Koviljača, May 2016 - report (35 pages).

## Women's peace policy - education programs

In this reporting period, we held the following educational programs:

*Women's peace meetings* are devoted to consideration of joint participation of women in peace building, obstacles and challenges in building peace, the role of women's peace activism to achieve just peace. *Women's peace meetings* form a visible active contribution of women in non-violent conflict resolution and experience of international women's peace movement, encourage the strengthening of networks of women's solidarity, peace alliances and coalitions against the war, sexism, nationalism, militarism and all forms of patriarchal discrimination ...

*Women's peace meetings* - educational program runs from March to December 2016 and will be held in three regions in Serbia, as well as in the two regions in Kosovo. Each meeting lasts three days.

This educational program consisted of the following workshops, lectures, documentary films:

### **First day: workshops**

- **Relationships among women: the policy of peace and / or war?**
- **Mechanisms of patriarchal control over women** - identifying and overcoming
- **The Peace Culture and female friendships**
- **Solidarity among women - a policy of peace**
- **Always disobedient** - ethical and political principles of Women in Black

### **We pray that devil go back to hell**

*Documentary film* (38, 35 min.), The author Gini Reticker. The film concerns a civil war in Liberia (1989 -2003.). The film testifies to the initiative of the brave women who forced the warring parties to sign a peace treaty (2003).

### **Second day**

#### **Are women peaceful by nature? - workshop**

#### **Towards feminist concept of peace and human security - workshop**

**About the history of the peace movement, the women's peace movement** (*brief history, main features of the women's peace movement, the currents in the women's peace movement*).



## **The experiences of women's peace movement Peace - at international, regional level**

- *A brief history of women's peace movement* - international level
- *The experience of non-violent struggle of women for peace* - before the Second World War - Yugoslavia
- *Peace action against the war against women, violence in war and in peacetime* - for peace, solidarity, justice - impunity for war crimes, women's campaigns for the preservation of the environment - interactive lectures,

A group for video activism of Women in Black for the purpose of this program is organized following documentary films:

### **I cycle of movies: Women's struggle for peace, justice, impunity for war crimes**

**1. International experience of women** - PP presentations (*Mother of the May Square - Argentina, Mothers of Russian soldiers, Mother Saturdays ...*)

### **2. The experiences of women in the region**

- **Solidarity mothers for peace** (32 min) - Regional meetings for mutual support of women - victims of the worst war crimes in Srebrenica, Vukovar (Croatia), Bela Reka, Belgrade (Serbia). These meetings gathered women who their tragedy and the pain turned into a common struggle for peace and justice. This informal network was launched by the Women in Black.
- **We are seeking the truth, we demand justice** (2:19 min) - Documentary film is about street action, which was dedicated to the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the murder of two soldiers in Topcider, 05.10.2004. year, which was carried out in Knez Mihailova street in Belgrade, 05.10.2014. years. The author of the film is Marija Arandjelovic.
- **We will never forget the genocide in Srebrenica The Actions of Women in Black on the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide**
  - **"Stumbling rock - Srebrenica for Serbia"** - (4:31 min): Docu- film about action of setting up a symbolic memorial of Women in Black and Art Klinika / Led art on July 7<sup>th</sup> 2015 in the Srebrenica Street in Belgrade . The action was organized in the framework of the 20th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica.
  - **"When the Serbia looked in the mirror - it will see Srebrenica"** (4:29 min.): Docu-film about the staging operation executed on July 10<sup>th</sup> 2015 in front of the Presidency of Serbia, organized by Dah Theatre, Women in Black Network Serbia, Women in Black Italy and Spain, activists of women's organizations from Belgrade. The action was organized in the framework of the 20th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica.

### **II cycle of films - against femicide**

**1. "No woman less"** - street actions of Women in Black and Women's Network Against Violence on December 7<sup>th</sup> 2015 in Belgrade, on the occasion of the International Day against femicide

### **III cycle of films - on women's struggle to preserve the environment**

**1. Green Belt** - PP presentation of women's actions in Kenya

**2. Creative campaigns wife to preserve the environment** (*The New Environmentalists*)

**From Kenya to the Arctic ...**

**Production: Mill Valley Film Group, California, USA**

A short documentary films (duration of 13,35 minutes) depict the struggle of women for justice in their communities (against pollution, exploitation of natural resources, etc.).

**Argentina: The struggle of women against the pesticide** - on genetically modified crops





**Bangladesh** - action against the pollution caused by the dismantling of old ships

**Kenya** - the campaign against the construction of dams that destroy Lake Turkana

After the screenings we had a conversation.

#### **IV cycle of films**

**1. The women's peace movement religious and spiritual orientation** - PP presentation on movement in Myanmar, especially the decades-long struggle of leader *Aung Sang Suu Kyi*

**2. Women campaign of solidarity with the refugees from the Middle East:**

- **"Solidarity is our strength"** - the experience of Women in Black (8.58 min)
- **Jody Williams** - Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 from television shows DLD19 "unmasking Achilles - today's wars and devastation" (film lasts 11 min)

#### **Third day**

#### **Women's peace networks and coalitions in the former Yugoslavia, around the world ...**

- 1. International Women in Black Network - a network of women's solidarity against war** - docu-film 'International Network of Women in Black / Red internacional de Mujeres de negro', produced by Women in Black, Seville (2008), 11 minutes.
- 2. Women's Peace Coalition** (Network of Women in Black and Kosovo Women's Network).

#### **Feminist anti-militarist action - in our world ...**

- **A feminist pacifism** - lecture

#### **The projection of the docu-film about feminist-antimilitarist actions:**

- **Greenham Common**, United Kingdom (6:43 min)
- **Codepink**, USA (10 min)
- **The Raging Grannies** (6 min)

After the screenings we had a conversation.

#### **Feminist anti-militarist campaign in Serbia** - selection

- 1. Trešnjevac - resistance to forced mobilization of women** (1992) - documentary by German television DW (1993), for a period of 30.5 minutes.
- 2. We return you a tank!** (3:40 min) - A documentary film produced by Women in Black (2010) follows the street action of Women in Black and Art Klinika and Skart "We are returning the tank", in October 2010, which represents a tribute to the deserters and rebels against the war in Serbia
- 3. We remember the brave resistance of women** (4.27 min): Feminist anti-militarist action was organized in Krusevac - in memory of the resistance of Rasina District women to forced mobilization during the war in Kosovo and NATO bombing.

In this reporting period, there were two Peace meetings - one in Vojvodina, the second in Kosovo:

**Bečej (Vojvodina), 13, 14 and 15 May** - 33 women participated from the following cities: Zrenjanin, Novi Sad, Novi Sad, Pancevo, Beograd, Vranic, Kraljevo, as well as from Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo, Kumane, Bratunac, Tuzla).

**Prizren (Kosovo), 24, 25 and 26 June** - participated 21 women from Kosovo (Prishtina, Gjakova, Ponoselec, Babaj Bokes), Macedonia (Skopje and Veles), Serbia (Belgrade, Kraljevo).

The seminar program in Prizren was slightly shortened and modified due to translating from Serbian into Albanian, Macedonian and vice versa.



**Women's peace activism** - an educational program within the project "Women strengthen confidence and build peace" of associations of citizens" Anima "from Đulić near Zvornik, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In this reporting period following activities were realized:

**Đulić May 2<sup>nd</sup>** - the second cycle of this educational program, held at the "Anima", participated by **22** women from the following places: Đulić, Šetići, Klisa, Tojšići, Srebrenica, Tuzla, Zvornik, Beograd, Pljevlja (Montenegro).

The program consisted of the following workshops:

**Equal but different** (On stereotypes and prejudices)

**The coexistence in diversity** (multiculturalism, intercultural solidarity ...)

**About Women's Human Rights** (interactive lecture)

Following documentary films were presented:

**"Looking into the pavement"** - the documentary produced by the NGO 'Forum 10' in Novi Pazar, 45 minutes; film testifies to the experiences and attitudes of women from Sandzak (the northwestern part of Serbia) on the removal of veil after the Second World War in Yugoslavia; After the screening we had a conversation.

**Isabel Allende** - A short film about the famous Chilean authors (15 minutes)

At the end of the meeting we organized dynamic exercise **"Women knit network of solidarity ..."**

## NETWORKS. COALITIONS MUTUAL SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Women in Black initiated or were actively involved in numerous regional networks, coalitions and alliances, an active participant in the activities of organizations in order to strengthen mutual support, solidarity, civil society and democracy in Serbia and the whole region.

In this reporting period, within the Women in Black Network Serbia organized a number of activities that is discussed in detail in the preceding sections of this report.

Also *Activists of Women in Black* participated in numerous street actions in relation to dealing with the past, anti-fascist-feminist anti-militarist actions.

Meetings exchange, mutual support and solidarity:

**May 11<sup>th</sup>, Leskovac** - held a working meeting of Women in Black activists and Women for Peace, Leskovac about joint organization of street march on May 24<sup>th</sup>- International Day of Women's Actions for Peace and Disarmament;

**May 24<sup>th</sup>, Leskovac** - After the action "All for Peace, Health and Knowledge - Nothing for Arms" during which the activists were attacked by pro-fascist organizations, in a room of the organization Women for Peace, we talked about the repression of human rights defenders in Serbia, especially in light of the fact that when the power is on Serbian Progressive Party, fascist organizations have open space with impunity to commit violence against all those who are different, most of those who are critical towards the regime in Serbia. On the same occasion we agreed measures of legal protection in connection with the attack in Leskovac.





**June 28<sup>th</sup>, Kumane (Vojvodina)** - meeting of Women in Black activists from Belgrade and the Association of Women Kumane; during this meeting, in which **22** women participated, we discussed the problems faced by rural women, joint activities, and also there are some documentaries on the activities of Women in Black.

**July 10<sup>th</sup>, Novi Pazar** - screening of documentary films on Srebrenica, produced by the Group for video activism of Women in Black organized by the Forum 10 academic initiative in Novi Pazar; screening and discussion were held in the Cultural Center of Novi Pazar.

**July 10<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade** - exchange about the action on the occasion of 21st anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica, but also the presentation of models of transitional justice from a feminist perspective - experience of Women in Black in the exchange held in the premises of Women in Black attended by about forty **(40)** activists and artists from the US, Norway, India, Australia and activists of the Women in Black.

We also held numerous meetings of working groups related to feminist approach to justice, human rights defenders, and so on.



## **Solidarity is our strength**

**Actions of solidarity - with members / has threatened and disenfranchised minority communities** (social class, ethnic-racial, sexual), citizens whose human rights (employment, education, cultural) are threatened.

## **Solidarity with war refugees in Serbia**

Women in Black began in 2013 when they organized solidarity action against racist attacks which culminated at the end of 2013 and from then until now Women in Black organized a multitude of activities, which you can find information on the site of Woman in Black. Activities solidarity are intertwined, involving multiple dimensions simultaneously - peacekeeping, humanitarian, artistic and activist, informative...

During this period, we have organized the following activities:

**Direct action** - solidarity aid in the field has more segments and includes:

- **Visits to the places where there are refugees** - asylum centers, parks at the Faculty of Economics and the bus station in Belgrade; border crossings, self-organized refugee camps, reception centers for refugees, etc.
- **Peace Action - providing humanitarian assistance** - through humanitarian actions encourage solidarity. Friendship, meetings with war refugees, the acquisition of knowledge on the situation of refugees, information about their position, and so on. These actions are organized during visits to places where there are refugees.
- **Artistic and activist actions of solidarity with the refugees** - street peace actions - protests against abuses and militarization of the refugee tragedy, encouraging solidarity with the war refugees. This segment includes the activities with the aesthetic dimension of solidarity - print leaflets, wearing badges, banners in Arabic, Farsi, English, Serbian language).
- **Documentary films about solidarity actions:** Group for video activism Women in Black has recorded a short film about street actions, artistic and outreach programs, which have already been discussed in this report 'group for video activism'). We also have a rich photo documentation of the actions of solidarity.



## **Direct action - solidarity aid on the ground - listed chronologically:**

**May 9<sup>th</sup> Belgrade** - Women in Black organized the anti-fascist action on the occasion of the Day of Victory over Fascism, and the action was dedicated to the refugee tragedy, solidarity with refugees, appeals against the growing fascist tendencies and militarization in the region and throughout Europe.

*(On this action you can find more in the section "Street actions").*

**May 9<sup>th</sup> parks in Belgrade** - solidarity visit to refugees in the park near the Faculty of Economics and Bus Station; On this occasion it was mostly refugees from Afghanistan, which is why this park is often called "*Afghani-park*". Volunteers / activists from Germany shared tea to refugees. Women in Black activists (Goran L.) is helping refugees to settle in a hostel for refugees. Hostel 'manage' refugees: the atmosphere is calm and pleasant, women and girls sit and talk, prepare food in the communal kitchen ...

**May 10<sup>th</sup> - Parks in Belgrade** - solidarity with the financial help of "Elma" from Zvornik, three activists of Women in Black (Mirko, Goran, Stasa) carried off in a park near the Faculty of Economics, bananas and clothing for refugees. In the park were mostly men from Afghanistan, but there were several families with children.

**June 14<sup>th</sup>, park near the bus station in Belgrade** - activists of Women in Black (Staša, Violeta Mirko) visited the park. This time there were a lot of refugees, mainly families with young children, primarily from Afghanistan, but there were a lot of people from Syria. We met a family from the north of Syria, who is traveling with five children for two months through Turkey and Bulgaria. They want to get to Germany, unlike most refugees they have passports. We also talked with the woman from Afghanistan who is with his son and daughter headed to Germany tomorrow is going to Hungary. One gets the impression that refugees are in larger numbers than in previous days, and that nothing can stop them ... Many refugees are afraid to be photographed for obvious reasons.

**June 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at the border between Croatia and Slovenia** - held "Defencing Festival".

The festival has featured various cultural and political program, critically oriented towards the policy of the European Union on the issue of migration and the closing of the Balkan route...

The festival was attended by about **100** activists from several countries, refugees, artist. In this event participated Goran Lazin, Women in Black activists. The festival was held simultaneously on both sides of the border in two locations, Soto Bistrica (Slovenia) and Kumrovac (Croatia). All participants who had passports were able to visit the people on the other side. Unfortunately, refugees / migrants could not cross the border ...

The program consisted of workshops, political and dance performances, making banners and kites to fly, concerts ... The workshops discussed the criminalization of activists who are showing solidarity with refugees / migrants, the consequences of the closure of the Balkan route.

**June 26<sup>th</sup>, the border crossing with Hungary** - activists of Women in Black (Violeta, Mirko and volunteer Jana from Ukraine) visited refugees from the Middle East at the two border crossings *Horgos 2* and *Kelebija*. Next to the fence of the







camp near the border itself activists share the fruit and water to refugees, among whom there were many women with children, the representatives of the Commissariat for Refugees of Serbia asked the activists for permission to visit the camp, but they *"completely ignored the taxi driver who come here for people to take them to a town where they illegally cross the border of Serbia and stationed on the no-man's-land between Serbia and Hungary..."* Otherwise, the Hungarian authorities let 10-15 people per day to pass. Later activists crossed the border, they came to the camp in the no man's land. Around a hundred small tents erected, surrounded with barbed wire, as in the concentration camps ...

**June 27<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade "Hate Free Zone"** - this year's action on LGBTIQ Pride Day was dedicated to solidarity with the refugees and was held in Savamala, the place where the refugees were expelled at the end of April. *(More on this action can be found under the heading "Street actions' in this report).*

**July 15<sup>th</sup>, parks in Belgrade** - notably was that many more refugees were then in previous days, it is evident that the humanitarian situation is really worse. Modest assistance which we have brought is divided in a few minutes. The refugees, mostly from Afghanistan, sleeping in parks, but when it rains seek shelter in hallways of surrounding buildings or at the bus station.

In the park there were a lot of refugees who managed to cross into Hungary, but they were later caught and torture by Hungarian police and the army and returned to Serbia. Their stories bring additional anxiety among the refugees ...

**July 20<sup>th</sup>, parks in Belgrade** - in both parks there were about 400 refugees. Intensified action of "cleaning" parks from refugees - a state company *Zelenilo Beograd* were plowed by means grassy area with a aim to stop the refugees to gather and sit on green areas. Women in Black activists (Goran Lazin) testified police brutality towards refugees (physical attacks), racist insults (*'... punk one, all of you should be expelled from Serbia ...'*). He reacted then police ask him for his id.

**July 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, the border crossing Kelebija** - a group of activists of Women in Black, as well as activists from the Croatia visited refugees at the border crossing Kelebija. The refugees are in a makeshift camp on the "no man's land" between Serbia and Hungary, with the border crossing Kelebija. In the tents there are around 250 refugees. All the refugees are from Syria, while a smaller number of refugees is from Iraq. Entrance to the makeshift camp is not possible, the only UNHCR and IOM have access to the camp. With refugees, we stayed on the field (at 300 m from the camp). The humanitarian organization *I am Human* has a caravan, where refugees can recharge their phones. Hygienic conditions were catastrophic, the minimal needs of the food and water are met thanks to the solidarity and support of the citizens of Subotica. During three visits in two days, the refugees we talked about the hellish months-long journey, but also nostalgia for Damascus, Aleppo, Palmira ... All refugees who are in this makeshift camp are listed, the refugees themselves making lists. When they move to Hungary, they will







be accommodated in asylum center, where they must spend another month, for "the purpose of verification". They hope to get to Europe, the most mentioned is Germany ...

In solidarity visit refugees from the Middle East, on the Serbian-Hungarian border crossing Kelebija were activists of Women in Black Staša Zajović, Violeta Đikanović and Mirko Medenica, Ljiljana Zivković - Croatian Women's Network and Yana Zakorko, Women in Black volunteer from Ukraine .

### **July 26th and 27th - The march of peace and hope, the hunger strike of refugees at the border crossing Horgos**

No Borders activists and activists of Women in Black (Goran Lazin) stayed with the refugees at the border crossing Horgos to express solidarity with a group of about 140 refugees. They started their walk on July 23rd in Belgrade heading to the Hungarian border. The strikers explained that this radical non-violent action is taken to alert the European and world public to their terrible situation.... The activists are aiding strikers with the water, brought chargers for mobile phones . *"The strikers on the field were „ guarded" by a group of ten police officers and three police cars. After an hour of our stay with them, the police spotted us, came over and legitimized us. We have been escorted by the police to leave the area because we're without permission entered the border area."* The criminalization of international solidarity becomes a regular practice of police of the Serbian authorities. The next day, activists have continued to provide assistance from the nearby woods...

**July 26<sup>th</sup>, parks in Belgrade** - park near bus station is fenced, that no one has access to a space and in the park at the Faculty of Economics is preparing for planting new grass. Everything is done in the direction of complete expulsion of refugees from parks ... Activists (Stasa and Violeta) met in the park a large number of underage women, who for months traveling from Kandahar, Afghanistan. Despite the horrific experiences of the European borders, have not given up their dream of Europe, and especially Germany...

**August 4<sup>th</sup>, the border crossing Kelebija** - activists of Women in Black (Mirko, Sofija and Violeta) visited informal refugee camp in the "no man's land" between Serbia and Hungary, near the border crossing Kelebija. The refugees are located between the two border points, along the wire fence that was placed on the Hungarian side. In the camp there were about 170 refugees. Many of the residents are helping refugees, but since the arrival of officers of the Commissariat for Refugees of Serbia, the controls are much stricter. The officials of the Commissariat threat locals and foreign humanitarian volunteers and reporting them to the police who mistreat them and questioning them... The criminalization of solidarity is enhanced and coordinated...

**August 13<sup>th</sup>, parks in Belgrade** - the continued harassment and attacks on refugees in the park near the Faculty of Economics of the police and officials of the Commissariat for Refugees of Serbia. They 'joint forces' and forcibly taken away refugees in the refugee camp *Krnjaca*, near Belgrade.

Earlier, the refugees have to decide whether they are going in Krnjača or they will remain in the park. Now, however, they were told *'you have to go, otherwise they will be arrested and deported from Serbia. Those who refused to go, by using physical force were herded into buses.'*







**August 14<sup>th</sup>, "Parks for All"** - protest in a park near the Faculty of Economics organized by groups and volunteers who help refugees. There were about 60-70 people and approximately 150 refugees who have returned from Krnjača. The refugees have testified about the incident of the previous day: the police beat them with batons, threw their belongings ... On the physical attacks on refugees participated and one officer of the Commissariat for Refugees, known for brutality towards refugees. In the reception center in Krnjaca there was not enough room so 30 people were sleeping in a room with 10 beds, no food ...

Repression on refugees is increasing: during the next few days, a larger group of police officers, police and plainclothes officers of the Commissariat came to the park. When they occur, the refugees fleeing into the surrounding streets, in the park came and members of the Gendarmerie. All this testified activists of Women in Black: Goran, Mirko, Sofija, Violeta.



**August 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, "Visiting Afghans"** - visit to refugees behind the bus station, in the area of Savamala. These are the abandoned warehouses, which will soon be demolished due mega project "Belgrade on water". The activists (Asad, Mirko, Sofia) visited refugees from Afghanistan, took their modest humanitarian aid, held a long conversation with the refugees, who were talking about torture of Hungarian police and army while trying to cross the border. Refugees urged activists to lunch and while they cook, a dozen officers of the Commissariat for Refugees performed their 'official position' - the punishment of those who provide solidarity assistance to refugees: interrogated activists...

*"Soon the lunch was over, rice, mixed with a few potatoes and a couple of hot peppers. Each of us got the onion. Suffice it to say that it was beautiful and "sweeter" than any other meal that we could get anywhere. The secret ingredient was human solidarity and empathy that we have all along expressed".*

*(For all the above actions of solidarity comprehensive reports can be found on the Serbian and English, on the website of Women in Black).*



### **In addition, solidarity with war refugees solidarity was expressed with other activities:**

- **Writing and sending reports** - in Serbian and English, for domestic and international networks and institutions we work with, to learn about the problems of refugees, their status, their human rights abuses, discrimination, both at the level of institutions and society. In this reporting period, activists of Women in Black were prepared fifteen (15) reports.

### **Monitoring the human rights situation of refugees has more segments:**

- *recording of complaints and appeals on violence and discrimination against the refugees* - both by state institutions and society. The source of information are the direct contacts with refugees, meetings and exchange of information with activists of allied organizations and movements at regional and international level, monitoring media reports on the situation of refugees, contacts with representatives of international human rights institutions, especially those for Migration and refugee rights.
- *logging abuses and militarization of the refugee tragedy* - cases of repression, abuse, exploitation of refugees by state and non-state actors in the form of robbery and enrichment at the expense of refugees, profiting on migra-



tion from the Middle East and the creation of new wave / post-war profiteers layer.

- *monitoring the implementation of measures by the institution*, fulfilling the obligations assumed by the State on the basis of international conventions on the situation of refugees and asylum seekers - the gap between factual and normative status (*Read more about this in the report: "The refugee crisis- report on the current situation" in Serbian and English can be found on the Women in Black site*).
- *discriminatory behavior of public authorities towards Women in Black during a visit to a refugee reception centers* - activists of Women in Black were visited locations in which there are refugees, to took the collected aid and to get familiar with the conditions in which refugees live, as well as the attitude of the state toward them. In these visits, the police prevented them entering the reception centers, with the excuse that to stay in the center they need permits. Our attempts to make contact with the Commissariat for Refugees and the relevant Ministry to get more information or alleged license were not successful, and so on. (*Detailed report on discrimination can be found on the website of Women in Black: Attacks on Women in Black in May-August 2016, Dossier no. 7*).
- *international solidarity* - contacts with international networks for the exchange of information, devising joint actions, organizing mutual visits, debates ...

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

The practice of regular discussion circles, lectures and joint reflection on important social and political issues in the country and the world, continued in the reporting period in which it is organized nine (9) lectures and debates in which **144** persons participated:

**June 1<sup>st</sup> "Shot in the soul"** - movie, produced by the Association of Victims and witnesses of genocide and the Association of Mothers of Srebrenica and Zepa. Documentary film lasting 55 minutes testifies to the tragedy of men and women who have gone through the worst torture and humiliation just because they are called differently. The screenings were attended by **10** people.

**June 8<sup>th</sup>, "The blood of realpolitik: Srebrenica affair"** - the author Florens Artman; in a conversation about the book presented by Nemanja Stjepanovic, a researcher of the Fund for Humanitarian Law was attended by **17** people.

**June 15<sup>th</sup> "The gender bias in the management of family businesses and the economy of care in post-socialist neo-liberal transformation of Serbia"** - a lecture was held by Tatjana Djuric Kuzmanovic, a professor at the University of Novi Sad, associate of Women's Court. Participated **18** people.

**June 22<sup>nd</sup> "Depth Two"** - a documentary film by Ognjen Glavonjic, produced by the Humanitarian Law Center, a projection was held in the library of the HLC in Belgrade. Documentary film about mass graves in Serbia in which they secretly buried in 1999, bodies of Albanians killed in order to hide the crimes committed in Kosovo. Discussion after the screening was moderated by Sandra Orlović, HLC Executive Director and was attended by about twenty (**20**) Women in Black activists and other civil society organizations.

**June 29<sup>th</sup> "The ideology of barbarism"** - Fascist and National Socialist ideas of intellectuals in Belgrade (1929 - 1941) by Nenad Ž. Petrovic; the promotion of the book the author spoke, as well as Zlatoje Martinov, publicists, Lino Veljak, philosopher and the others, participated in discussion **21** people.

**July 6<sup>th</sup> - presentation of performance art by Kathy Randels from the United States**, and discussion on the final design of street actions in connection with the 21st anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica; were present **18** persons.

**July 13<sup>th</sup>, "Electronic media: The Empire Strikes Back, and we get confused!"** - The repression of the media in Serbia spoke **Mirko S. Mandrino**, an independent consultant for electronic communications and electronic media, Nenad Ž.





Petrovic, historian, and was moderated by Lino Veljak, Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb. The debate was attended by **15** people.

**July 20<sup>th</sup> "678"** - screening of the film on sexual violence in public transport against women in Egypt, in the presence of **7** activists.

**July 27<sup>th</sup> "Engaged art in India"** - the artistic and activist practices in theater for social justice and education, spoke Vedanth, artist-activist from Bangalore / India; The meeting was attended by **18** people.



## Mutual support and solidarity

During this period we have also participated in numerous international conferences, civil society initiatives organized by related groups; listed here in chronological order in which we have actively participated (lecturers, panelists ...):

**May 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, Subotica** - Consultation on the involvement of civil society in the process of developing and monitoring the implementation of the National Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on "Women, Peace and Security" in Serbia (NAP 1325), organized by the Belgrade Center for Security policy in cooperation with OSCE Mission in Serbia. On behalf of the Women in Black participated Nada Dabic.

**Belgrade, May 30<sup>th</sup> - "Rehabilitation of Draza Mihailovic - political violence over truth and law"** book promotion by Aleksandar Sekulović the Union of Serbian antifascists and publishing company Mostart, a promotion was held in the Center for Cultural Decontamination.

**Belgrade, June 22<sup>nd</sup> - "Transitional Justice in Serbia in the period from 2013 to 2015"**, the presentation of the report in the Media Center; a report on the process of establishing transitional justice in Serbia; the report has provided insight into the mechanisms TJ established in Serbia, their achievements and problems in the functioning in 2013, 2014 and 2015. On behalf of WIB's presentation of the report followed Stasa Z., Miloš U., i Ljilja R..

**Belgrade, June 30<sup>th</sup> - July 3<sup>rd</sup> - DAH Theatre's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**- Festival and Conference Being / Becoming.

Women in Black activists attended numerous theater plays and debates. Stasa Zajovic July 2<sup>nd</sup>, debate 'Women, Theatre, Survival and Vision', held lecture "Activists-artistic engagement in dealing with the past-about collaboration of DAH Theatre and Women in Black".

**Belgrade, July 7<sup>th</sup> - "Learning and talking about Srebrenica"**, the presentation of internet narratives "**Srebrenica genocide in eight acts**", Documentation Centre **SENSE** presents the testimony of survivors, family members of those killed, eyewitnesses, etc. The presentation was held in the Media Center and organized by HLC. On the same day in the evening there was a conversation about Srebrenica in CZKD also organized by HLC. Both events were organized to mark the 21st anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica. About fifteen activists of Women in Black attended the aforementioned events.

## Campaigns, appeals

In addition to the initiatives outlined in this reporting period, we have also initiated or actively participated in a number actively campaigns primarily in connection with the requirements for dealing with the past - responsibility for war crimes, violence against women, against the repression of political opponents; against the attacks on refugees.

**All for Peace, Health and Knowledge - Nothing for Arms!** - A statement on the occasion of the May 24<sup>th</sup> - International Day of Women's Actions for Peace and Disarmament, Women in Black pointed to the dramatic facts that testify to



the fact that the country has not met minimum human security. Impunity prevails at all levels, and the state does not comply with a number of international conventions:

*The state of Serbia has not signed the UN Convention on Cluster Munitions* - hence the victims of cluster bombs in Serbia (during the bombing in 1999) are not entitled to international assistance. Serbia is the only country in the region that has not signed the Convention.

*Country Serbia exports arms to warring countries, and various dictatorships* - who tortured and killed civilians in those countries;

*Serbia is the first in the region in the number of registered firearms per capita* - women are victims of domestic violence, a third of the murders of women underwent with firearm by a partner or male family members.

*In Serbia there is a growing fascism* - it is expressed in the celebration and rehabilitation of war criminals, from the Second World War, and the wars of the 90s, and so on.

**We remember the women raped in the war!** - A statement on the occasion of June 19th - *International Day Against Sexual Violence in Conflict*, Autonomous Women's Center, Women in Black and the Humanitarian Law Center warn of a long history of impunity for wartime rape. We also reminded that it is "only the rape of women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Hague tribunal has given a legal response to wartime rape: rape in war becomes a war crime, or a crime against humanity and genocide, and only thanks to the surviving women who have spoken out about their experiences and thanks to the solidarity and support of feminist activist and legal expert." Unfortunately, despite the persistent demands of civil society in the Law on Civilian Victims of War Serbia does not recognize the category of women raped during the war.

**Solidarity with the refugees!** - A statement on the occasion of June 20th - *World Refugee Day*, in a statement WiB warns on "closure" of Balkan route: "things have become worse because the refugees continue to arrive, but their position is more difficult. Suspending their laws, the countries of Europe placed refugees "outside the law" and pushed them into the clutches of criminal organizations and people smugglers, as evidenced by Serbia. We are witnessing such a climate appropriate to extremist and fascist movements, who are increasingly gaining strength", with a call for solidarity with refugees."

**For a free abortion!** - Women in Black have strongly condemned the act of physicians who refused to perform an abortion on a "red letter" (religious holidays of Serbian Orthodox Church). Doctors of Hospital "Stefan Visoki" in Smederevska Palanka refused (June 2016) to carry out an abortion of the patient from Mladenovac. "As a feminist group that advocates the separation of church and state and the values of secularism, Women in Black protest because women are once again threatened by subtracting the right to control one's own body which includes the most severe violation of human rights of women and of women's dignity", etc.

**We will never forget the genocide in Srebrenica!** - A statement on the occasion of 21st anniversary of the genocide, WiB recalls that "Serbia is the first and so far the only country in the world that is by the verdict of the International Court of Justice (2007) found responsible for violating the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide." It also recalls that "Women in Black and similar organizations for more than a decade seeking from state to recognize the genocide, to declare July 11<sup>th</sup> a day of commemoration of the Srebrenica genocide and denial of genocide to qualified as a criminal offense. "Ignoring our request confirms the lack of political will and moral capacities of the current government, but also the link between the crime and the ideology of the current Serbian government, the continuity of the moral and cultural patterns with the regime under which the genocide happen- national organized crime," the statement said.

**Anti-war protest on the occasion of celebrating the victory in the war** - said in a statement on the occasion of marking the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the prohibition of crimes against the civilian population in Croatia ("Storm"), the organizers



warning that "The ban of protests is the culmination of the known practices of the police in preventing by the authorities, politically unsuitable public gatherings. (...) As a reminder, the decision of the Minister of the Interior is in direct contradiction with the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, just as it is in contradiction with the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia". Due to the banning of anti-war protests, the organization Centre for Women War Victims - Rosa (Zagreb), Women in Black (Belgrade), Women's Network Croatian, Serbian Democratic Forum (Zagreb), Libertarian activists (Zagreb), Center for Civil Courage (Zagreb) Association for social research and communication - UDIK (Sarajevo), held a protest action at the main square in Zagreb on that occasion and were brutally attacked by war veterans (participants of the Homeland War in Croatia).

### **International Politics** - international visits, participation in conferences

There were numerous international activities, we state the following:

**June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, Hamburg, Germany** - On the occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation "*Filia*", Snežana Tabački and Stasa Zajović in the name of Women in Black participated in a panel discussion on the current situation with refugees and also spoke about the activities of Women in Black.

**June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, Jahorina, near Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina** - "Guidelines for the UN Secretary General on reparations for sexual violence connected to the conflicts - regional representation and workshops for South Eastern Europe, organized by UN Women, in cooperation with OHCHR, IOM. On behalf of the Women in Black participated in a panel on "How to involve victims of sexual violence associated with the conflicts in all phases of the program of reparations" Stasa Zajović with the presentation "*From victims of war to promoters of a just peace - experience of the Women's Court*"...

In this reporting period, Women in Black were visited by many international activists, researchers from Armenia, Switzerland, India, Australia, Norway, USA, Germany, Italy ...



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**Belgrade, September 2016.**