



*žene u crnom
beograd*

REPORT

**for the period
May – August 2015**

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 or by contacting us by mail at zeneucrnombeograd@gmail.com

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

žene u crnom



STREET ACTIONS

During the period covered by this report we have organized **sixteen (16)** actions, and we also took part in other street actions.

- Commemorations/memorialisation of important dates of crimes committed in our name
- Feminist, antifascist, anti-war, antiracist and antimilitarist actions...

Commemorations of important dates of crimes committed in our name, as well as of other crimes against civilians during (and after) the wars in ex-Yugoslavia:

20 years of genocide in Srebrenica – We remember! – aiming to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica, every 11th of the month, together with peace organizations and art collectives from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, WIB organized a series of activities in Belgrade, Sarajevo, Kotor, as well as in other towns in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. Within this report, we will name other actions and activities (activist-artistic, lectures, debates, working meetings, film projections, etc.) and in this here column we name only street actions:

May 11, 2015, Belgrade. Srebrenica (Srebrenička) street – action *Srebrenica Threshold* from 12 – 1 PM. Action against silence about the Srebrenica genocide addressed to general public, as an incentive work to reflect the issues of guilt and responsibility, as well as of compassion for the victims and survivors. In the action participated also artists from MMC Led Art /Art Clinic from Novi Sad. A big wooden threshold with number 8,372 (registered number of victims) was be posted in Srebrenicka street. In this action participated **20** persons.



May 11th, the Memorial Centre Potočari near Srebrenica: Activists of Women in Black from Belgrade, together with the activists from Algeria/France, USA and Spain visited the Memorial Centre in Potočari, where they attended the commemoration of the genocide in Srebrenica, together with the women of Srebrenica.

June 11th, Belgrade: “July 11th the Memory Day of Genocide in Srebrenica – Declare!” Delivering/handing over the request to the following institutions: to the President of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, to the National Parliament of the Republic of Serbia. Protest in black and in silence of activists signing this initiative, as well as of activists of other NGOs – park in front of the Presidency of Serbia.



See yourself Serbia! 20 years – 20 mirrors – stage action by Women in Black, Dah Teatar, the Autonomous Women’s Centre and the Reconstruction Women’s Fund. This peace action was participated by over **100** persons.



June 11th, Podgorica, Montenegro: On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre, peace action was held, which was attended by about 20 activists from several Montenegrin cities. The action was organized by "Anima" from Kotor, with the support of Women in Black, Belgrade.

June 6th, Belgrade: Srebrenica walks through world: The action was organized in support of the global action for the dignity of the victims of genocide " Srebrenica walks through world " on the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide, launched by Youth Association of Bosniaks and Bosniak National Minority Council for the City of Rijeka / Croatia. This action was attended by about 40 activists of Women in Black from Belgrade and the International Network of Women in Black from Spain.

July 7, 2015 – Belgrade – Srebrenica (Srebrenička) street – action *Srebrenica Genocide –The stumbling Block in Serbia* from 19 – 20 PM. Action was modeled on similar artistic and activist initiatives in Germany against the Nazi crimes and commemorations of the Holocaust victims. Srebrenica is the paradigm of Serbian crimes and with this action WiB wanted to create a climate of civic responsibility. . Unfortunately, the symbolic memorial is destroyed after 24 hours, indicating a climate of denial of the Srebrenica genocide in Serbia. Activist and artist from Serbia (Belgrade, Novi Sad, Leskovac, Kraljevo, Krusevac, Zrenjanin ...) and from Europe (Belgium, Italy, Great Britain, Spain, Ucrania, Hungary, Belarus) and from USA. In this action performed by WIB and MMC Art Clinic / Led art from Novi Sad participated more than **80** personas.



July 8-10, 2015 - Belgrade – Peace Cyclism Beograde-Srebrenica 2015

Women in Black from Belgrade have organized this year bicycle peace ride Belgrade -Srebrenica in 2015, in memory of the victims of the Srebrenica genocide. The action was organized in the name of solidarity and responsibility toward the survivors of the Srebrenica genocide.

Peace Cyclism Beograde-Srebrenica 2015. This action have international caracter. In this action participated in total **40** persons from following countries: 24 from Italy, 1 from Ukraine, 1 from Belarus, 2 from Hungary, 4 from USA, 8 from Serbia.

Within the framework of peacekeeping activities following street actions were organized:

July 8th, Belgrade: beginning of the action Peace Cyclism in front of Cultural center Grad (Savamala). Participants continued the journey route Belgrade -Obrenovac- Sabac

July 8th, Šabac main square: Peace action "We remember - 20 years since the genocide in Srebrenica," participating cyclists/activist of Women in Black, an international network of Women in Black from Belgium, Italy, Spain, as representatives of international institutions, diplomatic missions in Serbia. In this action participated **68** persons.





July 9th, Loznica: - cyclists/activists continue their way from Sabac to Loznica, where on the main square from **18:00 to 19:00** was held a peace action which will host both cyclists and Women in Black, international activists, etc. In this action participated **70** persons.

July 10th, Loznica - Potocari: In the morning cyclists/activists continued their journey from Loznica through Mali Zvornik, Bratunac and in the evening arrived in Potocari, where they had a meeting with participants of Peace March for Srebrenica, The Women of Srebrenica. Participants of Peace cycling were accommodated in the houses of women of Srebrenica - the act of mutual support, solidarity, friendship.

July 10, Belgrade, "When Serbia looks in the mirror it will see Srebrenica !: Stage action was held on July 10 (12-13h) in front of the Presidency of Serbia, organized by Dah Theater, Women in Black Network Serbia, Women in Black Italy and Spain, activist women's organizations from Belgrade. On the same occasion there was a performance of a public reading of the letter/request "11th July - Day of Remembrance of the genocide in Srebrenica - Proclaim! 'Addressed to the competent institutions of the Serbian state. The action was organized within the framework of the 20th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica. This action was attended by about **100** people.

July 10th, Belgrade: "20 years since the genocide in Srebrenica - We remember! The action was attended by about **200** people.

Women in Black and Dah Theater organized on 10 July 2015 at the Republic Square (from 19:30 to 20:30) artistic and activist events and stage action:

I the Memorial Center Potocari/Srebrenica in Belgrade: "Moving" the Srebrenica on Republic Square in Belgrade, with **8,372** names of the victims of genocide, where we want to warn that we can not close our eyes to the genocide, and that coping with it can contribute to establishing political criminality of crime. At the same time, this is encouraging distancing society in Serbia of committing genocide in culture, art, education. This act will be followed by broadcasting songs which each year begins at commemoration in Potocari "Srebrenica Inferno (*Mother Bosnia, sister Srebrenica*)" (written by Džemaludin Latić, music by Đelo Jusić, performed by Youth Choir Zenica).

II They left their mark on us: With the stage display at the Republic Square using objects from everyday life of ordinary people (sheets, pans, water ...) we want to express regret primarily for killed people, but also for killed sites and symbols of life. With this act we repeat that those who were killed in the Srebrenica genocide *left a deep and indelible mark in our lives, that we cherish the memory of them, and that we will strive for the dignity and humanity of the victims.* With this at the same time we advocate for our own humanity and dignity.





III “Women of Srebrenica are speaking” - a documentary film produced by Women in Black (2008), directed by Milica Tomic, for a period of 17 minutes. Relatives of those killed in the genocide in Srebrenica testified about the genocide, addressing the messages of peace, truth and justice to the citizens of Belgrade and Serbia on the occasion of the thirteenth years of the genocide. The film consists of interviews with relatives of those killed and missing in the genocide, and the entire material was shot in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the overwhelming support of the Association of Citizens “Women of Srebrenica” with headquarters in Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

IV Installation of symbolic memorial - a stone on which is engraved the figure **8372** as an act of non-violent revolt against the denial of genocide in Srebrenica, at both the state and society. The denial of genocide in Srebrenica is a black hole of this society - the moral callousness. It's not only a denial of the humanity and dignity of victims of genocide, but also the elimination of our own humanity. Our persistent requests to approve the construction of a permanent monument to the victims of genocide in Srebrenica in Belgrade were rejected. *Stumbling stone* - symbolic memorial that Women in Black have set on 7th July 2015 in the Srebrenica Street in Belgrade was destroyed in less than 24 hours. With this act, we continue our commitment to that Srebrenica should become part of the collective memory, which would take significant symbolic step towards that Belgrade and Serbia gain status of post genocidal city and state. Because, until the genocide is denied, it is continuing, only by different means.

V The Flower of Srebrenica - a symbol of “the struggle against genocide and mass starvation of people. The flower consists of 11 white petals and green dye. The white color symbolizes the innocent victims of the genocide, green is the symbol of hope, and carries a message and a desire that all citizens, regardless of their religions and nations across Bosnia and Herzegovina, the region, Europe and the world wake up and do not forget the horrors of genocide and suffering through which Bosniaks were going through. Eleven petals of this flower represent 11th July 1995 “. Movement of Mothers of Srebrenica and Zepa enclaves donated to the Women in Black Flower of Srebrenica as a sign of the common struggle for the dignity of the victims of genocide. The action ends with broadcasting of “*Srebrenica Inferno (Mother Bosnia, sister Srebrenica)*.” song.

July 10th, Belgrade - Action #seventhousand: Organizations for Human rights and democracy in Serbia planned that this action should be brought on 11 July in front of the Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, in a sign of solidarity, and respect for the victims of genocide in Srebrenica. However, due to the announcement of right-wing organizations that will prevent meeting, Interior Ministry banned all street events on July 11 in Belgrade. Instead, on July 10th (from 23:00 to 24:00), human rights organizations, including the Women in Black, organized a commemorative event in the park in front of the Presidency of Serbia. The action was attended by dozens of activists of Women in Black Serbia, as well as the Women in Black activists from Belgium, Italy, Spain.





Feminist, antifascist, anti-war, antiracist and antimilitarist actions...

May 7th, Sarajevo “Women together for peace”: Women’s Court began with the peace street action; march took place the city’s main streets, and it was attended by over **400** women.

May 12th, Belgrade “Together for Peace”: Protest in front of Macedonian embassy in Serbia against ethnic conflict in Macedonia. This protest was attended by dozens of activists in solidarity with the citizens of Macedonia, demanding cessation of conflict and peaceful conflict resolution.

May 17th, Belgrade: On the occasion of the International Day Against Homophobia, Labris and Gayten organized Pride picnic in Students Park in Belgrade. This action was joined by activists of Woman in Black.

May 21th, Belgrade “Not one woman less, not one more dead”: Protest against violence against women in Serbia, organized by the Network Against Violence Against Women, the Autonomous Women’s Center and Women in Black. This action has warned the public to frequent domestic violence and murder of women in Serbia. In fact, since the beginning of 2015 partners and male family members killed 21 women in Serbia. The protest was requested State responsibility, the punishment of all the institutions that have not responded to reports of male violence against women. This action was attended by over **100** people.

June 27th, Belgrade, “Hate Free Zone”: The International LGBT Pride Day was commemorated with the slogan “Hate Free Zone”, in the goal of pointing out the prevalence of intolerance in Serbia for the LGBT community and other minority and endangered groups. The goal of the action was to “liberate” from hate public places in Belgrade and other Serbian towns. This solidarity action against homophobia, xenophobia and racism was organized by Women in Black, the Gay Straight Alliance, IDAHO Belgrade, Gay and Lesbian Info Center (GLIC), and with support from Association “Duga”, Center for Queer Studies (CKS), Novi Sad Lesbian Organization (NLO), Association “Hestija” and Committee of Layers for Human Rights (YUCOM), as well as from activists of other nongovernment organizations.





FACING THE PAST TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE - A FEMINIST APPROACH

This is one of Women in Black's most important activities. This activity has many segments: street actions, workshops, lectures, creating various models of transitional justice from a feminist perspective, cooperation with similar organizations in form of mutual actions (campaigns, consultative meetings).

Visiting places where crimes happend

In this reporting period, Women in Black visited:

6th May Potocari / Srebrenica: solidarity visit to the Memorial Center in Potocari, the witness and the organizers of the Women's Court, an artist from Serbia. With us was Nora Cortinas, one of the founders of the Mothers of the May Square in Argentina, also a participant of the Women's Court in Sarajevo; On that occasion there were organized meetings with the women of Srebrenica in Potocari and Srebrenica.

May 11th, the Memorial Centre Potočari near Srebrenica: Activists of Women in Black from Belgrade, together with the activists from Algeria/France, USA and Spain visited the Memorial Centre in Potočari, where they attended the commemoration of the genocide in Srebrenica, together with the women of Srebrenica.

31th May and 1st June, Zvornik municipality (Bosnia and Herzegovina): In commemoration of the 23 anniversary of crimes against Bosniak civilians in 1992 in the municipality of Zvornik, Women in Black activists participated in these commemorative meetings:

- **May 31th, Klisa** Historic moment 'Night of fear and uncertainty in Klis' - memories of the mass atrocities committed against Bosniak civilians during the Serbian aggression armed forces in 1992; this event was attended by several hundred people.
- **1st June 2015:** The peace march 'Death road' with the families of victims and survivors; visit to a mass grave Ceni vrh; burial/ funeral in the Memorial Centre Kalesija; commemoration organized by the Association of Victims of Zvornik municipality attended by four Women in Black activists.



11th July-Belgrade - Srebrenica "Solidarity and responsibility": Departure to the memorial/funeral in Potocari / Srebrenica. The commemoration was attended by over 100 activists. This action of solidarity and responsibility involved over **100** activists: participants of action "Peace cycling", activists of the International Network of Women in Black, the Women in Black Serbia from the following cities (Belgrade, Novi Sad, Novi Sad, Pancevo, Leskovac, Kraljevo, Krusevac, Vlasotince, Novi Sad, Nis), as well as activists of civil society organizations from Belgrade Youth Initiative for Human Rights, the Autonomous Women's Center, Reconstruction Women's Fund, Querrien, Fond for Humanitarian Law.

July 18th, Belgrade – memorialization of 17th anniversary of crime against civilians of Serbian nationality on Kosovo: to mark memory of murder of 25 civilians of Serbian nationality in July 1998 on area of Orahovac Municipality, in villages Opteruša and Retimlje, we held a commemoration act on cemetery Orlovača, in organization of Association of Families of the Kidnapped and Missing Persons on Kosovo. On this occasion, activists of Women in Black from Belgrade laid a wreath with expressions of compassion and solidarity with the families of the victims of this crime.



WOMEN'S SOLIDARITY FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF WAR CRIMES

These acts of women's solidarity (mutual support, exchanges and cooperation in the region), aim at creation of models of transitional justice from the feminist perspective, and contribute to building just and sustainable peace.

In addition to the meetings of solidarity and mutual support mentioned in the previous section, in this report due period, the following meetings were held:

10th and 11th May, Đulići (Bosnia and Herzegovina): The meeting of the Women's Court witness in the area of the Drina valley with Women in Black activists and a group of international participants (the United States, Algeria, Spain).

May 25th, Đulići: Meeting of Women in Black activists and women from places in the Zvornik municipality (Đulići, Klis), women from Srebrenica and Tuzla.

War Crime Trials Monitoring at the Special Court: monitoring of the trials held at the Special Court - before the War Crimes Chamber in Belgrade. In this reporting period, we monitored the following trial:

Trial for the war crime in the village Sotin/Croatia : The war crime against civilian population – killing of 16 citizens of Croatian nationality in the village Sotin from October to December 1991. For this crime, five members of Serbian armed formations are indicted.

In this reporting period, four (4) court hearings of this trial were held:

June: 11, 12, 19, 26

The above mentioned hearings monitored Milos Urosevic and reported to organizations within Women in Black Network as well as the international networks with whom we cooperate with.

ARTISTIC ENGAGEMENT IN CONFRONTING THE PAST /TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

In this period, the practice of joint work and cooperation with art collective, professional theaters and artists was continued on the artistic expression of resistance to war, war crimes, repression and human rights abuses.

In this reporting period, artistic-activist initiative were dedicated to two important events:

Women's Court in Sarajevo (7th to 10th May 2015): Joint preparatory meetings of art collectives and Women in Black from Belgrade and Novi Sad (MMC Art Clinic/Led art), the Group for video activism of Women in Black, Skart from Belgrade, ACT Women and Dah Theater. The aforementioned collectives designed and installed the entire artistic-activist



programs as part of the Women's Court in Sarajevo - exhibitions, stage action, artistic artefacts in the Bosnian Cultural Center in Sarajevo. They also organized a multitude of interactive performances, street events, etc. Artistic activist final design of CS has been in line with feminist participatory, horizontal approach, taking into account the proposals and suggestions of the witness, activists, organizers of CS.

20th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide: we have organized numerous events with artistic activist art collectives (Dah Theatre from Belgrade and MMC LED Art / Art Clinic from Novi Sad, which was discussed in the section 'street actions'.

VIDEO ACTIVISM: TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE - FEMINIST APPROACH

With the aim of greater visibility of various transitional justice models, especially the one from feminist approach, promoted by Women in Black, during 2010, a group of video activists was organized trained for recording, montage, digitalization, posting of audio and video materials on internet, which were gathered during regular activities of Women in Black, so they would be available as short movies for wider audience. Maria Vidic and Goran Lazin are the coordinators of this group, in cooperation with Maria Arandjelovic, Zinaida Marjanovic, and other Women in Black activists. In this reporting period the group have finalized following video documentaries:

- **We remember - 23 years since the crimes in Zvornik** (8:59 min): the documentary about the commemoration of 23th anniversary of crimes against Bosniak civilians in 1992 in the municipality of Zvornik. The film shows the following segments: May 31st, 2015, a historic moment 'Night of fear and uncertainty in Klis' - the memory of mass crimes committed against Bosniak civilians during the Serbian aggression armed forces in 1992.; June 1st, 2015; Peace March 'Death road' with the families of victims and survivors; visit mass grave Crni vrh; burial/funeral in the Memorial Centre Kalesija; commemoration organized by the Association of Victims of Zvornik municipality with the participation of activists of Women in Black.
- **"Look at yourself, Serbia! - 20 years - 20 mirrors"** (4: 7 min): A documentary about the staging action executed on June 11th, 2015 in front of the Presidency of Serbia, organized by Women in Black, Dah Theater and the Autonomous Women's Center; the same occasion, a public reading of the letter/request "July 11th - Day of Remembrance of the genocide in Srebrenica - Proclaim!" addressed to the competent institutions of the Serbian state. The action was organized in the framework of the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide.
- **"Srebrenica walk through world"** (3:00 min.): Peace Action, held in Belgrade on 6th July 2015 within the framework of the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide.





- **Peace cycling - Belgrade - Srebrenica in 2015** (6:50 min): docu-film about the eponymous peacekeeping action (8th to 10th July 2015); movie showing peace cycling tour, and standing in Sabac (8.7.) and Loznica (9.10.). The action was organized in the framework of the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide
- **“When Serbia looks in the mirror - it will see Srebrenica”** (4:29 min.): Docu-film stage action executed on June 11th, 2015 in front of the Presidency of Serbia, organized by Dah Theater, Women in Black Network Serbia, Women in Black Italy and Spain, activist women’s organizations from Belgrade; same when re-read it but public letter request “July 11th - Day of Remembrance of the genocide in Srebrenica - Proclaim!” sent to the competent institutions of the Serbian state. The action was organized in the framework of the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide.
- **Srebrenica - Stumbling stone for Serbia** (4:31): Docu- movie about action - setting a symbolic memorial Women in Black and Art Clinic MMC / Led art in Novi Sad on 7th July 2015 in the Srebrenica Street in Belgrade. The action was organized in the framework of the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide.
- **Dragoljub Todorovic “He left a trace in us”** (10:29 min): A documentary film, a tribute on the death of a lawyer, human rights activist, associate of Women in Black.
- **“Hate Free Zone”** (12.45 min.): A documentary about the action organized in Belgrade on 27th June-International Day of LGBT people.
- **Srebrenica - artistic engagement of Women in Black** (12:27 min): Inserts of street events and performances dedicated to marking the Srebrenica genocide in the past 10 years.
- **“20 years since the genocide in Srebrenica - We remember!”** (13:28 min): Standing on Republic Square in Belgrade (organized by Women in Black and Dah Theater) was carried out over scenic actions, the documentary “Women of Srebrenica talk”.
- **Solidarity with Asylum seekers** (4.10 min): docu-movie about the actions of solidarity with asylum seekers from the Middle East, Africa, in parks around the bus station in Belgrade.



Other activities related to dealing with the past/transitional justice

- discussions, debates, workshops, film screenings:

Srebrenica – 20 years of genocide – We remember: we organized a lot of activities (debates, film screenings, discussions, theater performances...):

„We know-we remember-we demand“ – screenings of documentary films about Srebrenica and discussions in organization of groups within the Network of the Women in Black in the period from the end of March to the end of June 2015. (Leskovac, Kruševac).

- **Krusevac, May 14th**, in the organization of the Alternative Center for Girls, 25 participants, mainly young people;
- **Krusevac, 15th May and 17th June** in the organization of women’s groups ‘Pescanik’; 39 participants;



- **Leskovac, on 11th May and 11th June** in the organization 'Women for Peace'; 30 participants.

Peace cyclism Belgrade – Srebrenica 2015 – promotion of the action on public lectures and screenings of the documentary film were held in the following towns:

- *Novi Sad, June 22nd* – *The Independent Association of Journalists of Vojvodina/NDNV* - the discussion was participated by Women in Black activists and cyclists: Đorđe Balmazović, Goran Lazin i Staša Zajović, from Belgrade. The moderator was *Nedim Sejdinović, from the Independent Association of Journalists of Vojvodina/NDNV*. The discussion was attended by **16** persons.
- *Zrenjanin, June 25th* – in premises of the alternative cultural center 'Zeleno zvono' – the discussion was participated by activists of Women in Black and cyclists: Valentina Malinova, Belorusija, Ruža Dević, Simon Simonović, Dejan Gašić, from Belgrade. The moderator was *Staša Zajović, Women in Black*. The discussion was attended by **23** persons.
- *Kragujevac, June 29th* – Dom omladine/Youth House; the discussion was participated by Women in Black activists and cyclists: Simon Simonović, Belgrade, Vladimir Jevtić, Bajina Bašta, Snežana Obrenović, Kraljevo, Nenad Glišić, Kragujevac, Andrijana Kocić, Kruševac, Arpad Pastor, Budapest. The moderator was Staša Zajović, Women in Black. The discussion was attended by **23** persons.
- **Belgrade, July 1:** In the office of Women in Black; participated in an interview **29** people (activists of 'Peace cycling' of the country and abroad); the meeting focused on the final logistical preparations, as well as debates held in other cities in Serbia.

Participation in international conferences - 20 years since the genocide in Srebrenica

- **June 12, Linz, Austria:** Srebrenica 1995-2015, International Conference '20 years of the peace process', organized by CSI (Centre of contemporary initiatives), Austria, participated Stasa and Zumra Šehomerović, representative of the association "Mothers of Srebrenica and Zepa enclaves" in BiH . This conference was attended by hundreds of people.
- **June 30, Split (Croatia):** "Not to be forgotten, and to never happen again - Srebrenica" international conference organized by the Association of Bosniaks from the Split-Dalmatia County. At the event were: members of the association "Mothers of Srebrenica and Zepa" (Kada Hotić and Zumra Šehomerović) "Women in Black" from Belgrade (Ljiljana Radovanovic) and member of the "Vukovar Mothers" (Manda Patko). The event was attended by about **70** people.



Working meetings in connection with the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide:

joint development of all shares (logistical arrangements, security measures, artistic-activist initiatives, etc.) Have been held since the beginning of 2015. In the reporting period there were held working meetings of smaller working groups on several occasions in week, while an expanded meeting of the participants 'Peace cycling' and other actions held on 19th and 31th May, 18th June, 1st 6th 7th July - the meetings and preparations involved over **100** (participants of 'Peace cycling', Women in Black Network Serbia, Women in Black from Italy and Spain), art collectives (Dah Theatre, MMC IED Art / Art Clinic, Skart).



WOMEN'S COURT FEMINIST APPROACH TO JUSTICE

We are giving you a short report on Women in Black activities regarding organization of Women's Court – feminist approach to justice, for the stated period. This report is mainly related to activities in Serbia, as well as joint activities of partner organizations. Activities carried out in other countries of the former Yugoslavia are presented if Women in Black, as carriers of program activities, gained information from other members of the Organizing Board of the Women's Court.

If you need additional information, you can find them on websites www.zeneucnom.org and www.zenskisud.org or write to us on email address zeneucnombeograd@gmail.com and office@zeneucnom.org.

We thank you with solidarity in advance.

At the end of 2010, the members of the Initiative Board (IB): *Women to Women*, Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), *the Center for Women and Peace Education Anima*, Kotor (Montenegro), *the Center for Women's Studies* and the *Center for Women War Victims*, Zagreb (Croatia), *Women's Network Kosovo*, Kosovo, and *Women's Studies and Women in black*, Belgrade, launched an initiative to organize the Women's Court for the former Yugoslavia. IB now has 11 organizations from all countries of the former Yugoslavia. At a meeting, organized in early February 2013, the Initiative Board has evolved into the Women's Court Organizing Board (OB).

During the five years, Women in Black were carriers and main holders of program activities of the Women's Court.

U ovom izveštajnom periodu su realizovane sledeće aktivnosti:

Sarajevo, (May 7.-10): The first Woman's court on the territory of Europe, was held in Sarajevo from 7th to 10th of May 2015, organized by 10 women's groups from the former Yugoslavia (Mothers of Srebrenica and Zepa, CURE Foundation, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Center for Women War Victims, Centre for Women's Studies Zagreb, Croatia, Center for Women and Peace Education Anima, Kotor, Montenegro, Council for Gender Equality Skopje, Macedonia, the 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.

Of the many activities we cite the following:

- *Press conference at the Bosnian Cultural Center:* on the conference members of Organizing Committee of the Women's Court were speaking (Kada Hotic, Stasa Zajovic, Jadranka Milicevic, Ljupka Kovacevic and Rada Boric). The conference also touched the topics such as: the entire process of organizing WC, feminist ethics of care and responsibility to work with the witness, the feminist approach to justice, the effects of WC, the aesthetics of resistance of WC etc.





- Peace street action *Women together for peace*. The march took place in the city's main streets, and it was attended by hundreds of women.
- *The opening ceremony in the Bosnian Cultural Center*: at which where members of the Organizing Committee of the Women's Court spoke (Munira Subasic and Stasa Zajovic), as well as our international friends, also members of the International Judicial Council (Charlotte Bunch, Marieme Helie Lucas and Marta Drury).
- The artistic-activist theatrical action "*Memory - Solidarity - Responsibility*" was performed, during which there was also a moment of silence for all the victims of war in the former Yugoslavia, and elsewhere in the world.
- Exhibition "*Remembering - Solidarity - Responsibility*", which were consisted of artistic and activist artifacts (photos of street events, theater performances, etc.), which testify to the aesthetics of resistance (anti-war, feminist, anti-militarist) of Woman in a black and collectives of engaged art .



On the 8th and 9th May In the Bosnian Cultural Center **five** sessions were held - testimonies of women about suffered crimes and injustices, and on the resistance of women.

The testimonies of the witness were divided into five sessions:

- *The war against civilians (ethnic / militaristic / Gender based violence) - 11 witness*
- *A woman's body - battlefield (sexual crimes in war) - 4 witness*
- *Militarist violence and resistance of women - 7 witness*
- *Persecution of different people in war and peace - ethnic violence - 8 witness*
- *Not /published war - socio-economic crimes against women and resistance - 6 witness*



About these crimes **38** witness were testified - from all countries of former Yugoslavia (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Slovenia and Serbia). Witnesses spoke of individual experience that reflects the experiences of a large number of women. Those witness passed through the process of organizing the Women's Court, they were actively participating in the creation of the program and participated in the final selection of the witness – they have become the subjects of the entire process. During this process a strong network of witness for Women's Court was created, it is a solidarity community of women, above and beyond national divisions and borders.

After each session of testimony, associates of WC interpreted it on the basis of the testimony of a woman political, temporal and spatial context of the crime and violence.

In this study 12 associates of WC/ experts were included: *Rada Ivekovic, Vjolca Krasnici, Renata Jambresic Kirin, Miroslava Malesevic, Snezana Milivojevic* (for war against civilians and ethnic violence) *Marijana Senjak and Gabi Miskovski* (for sexual violence in war), *Stasa Zajovic, Snezana Obrenovic and Bojan Alekov* (for militaristic violence), *Tanja Djuric Kuzmanovic and Senka Rastoder* (for economic violence), from half of which were involved in working directly in meetings





with potential witnesses during the five-year preparation process of organizing the Women's Court.

8th and 9th "Power of women international solidarity"

As part of the Women's Court held on 8th and 9th of May in the evening meetings of "Internationalist strength of women's solidarity" in which the following people spoke: Naila Ajesh (Gaza, Palestine), Lily Traubman (Women in Black, Israel), Nora Cortinas (Mother of the May Square, Argentina).

May 10th

- **We seek justice- we demand responsibility** - decisions and recommendations of the International Judicial Council: International panel of seven eminent regional legal experts, historians, peace activists (*Vesna Rakic Vodinelić, Gorana Mlinarević, Latinka Perovic, Vesna Teršelič*) and international (*Charlotte Bunch, Diana Otto, Kirsten Campbell*) have handed down recommendations and decisions on the testimony of women in line with the feminist model of justice. Women's Court did not impose criminal sanctions, but it establishes new forms of criminality: Crimes against peace, denounces the political responsibility of the countries of the former Yu-

goslavia (especially Serbia) who organized crime, intellectual elites supported the war, the media that fueled conflicts, war profiteers, international institutions that did not prevent conflicts ... the text of decisions and recommendations is available to all participants of WC, and the general public.

- **"Let's go further - always disobedient"** In final session all witness, hundreds of participants climbed onto the stage, marking the symbolic creation of history from below, the power of alternative female subjects of a new model of justice, and the demolition of the dominant narratives of the wars in the former Yugoslavia.



Feminist ethics of care - support for witnesses of Women's Court

1. Regional meetings of witnesses - held after the final event in Sarajevo (May 7th-10th).

The final event in Sarajevo is not the end of the process, but rather an incentive to the feminist perspective on with creating new models of justice. It is the responsibility primarily to the witness, but also an expression of our responsibility towards the huge burden of the recent past. Regional meetings of witnesses are part of the continuing process of the Women's Court so they were held in:

10th and 11th May, Đulići and Srebrenica: Immediately after the finals of the Women's Court, witnesses and participants of WC in the area of Podrinje, Women in Black activists and a group of international participants (the United States, Algeria, Spain) traveled together from Sarajevo to various places in the Drina valley. This "women's caravan" was the act of mutual support and solidarity. Then we held a working meeting in Đulići, village (mainly widows because only in





a few days in 1992 there were killed all their male relatives - about 700). Witnesses from the region were highlighted that one of the most important effects of WC is women's solidarity and strengthening the network of WC witness.

May 11th, Potocari /Srebrenica: A joint visit to the Memorial Center in Potocari, where on the 11th of every month women meet - relatives of those killed in the Srebrenica genocide. There was a meeting with the Mothers of Srebrenica and with the witness of WC in this region.

May 25th and 31th, Đulići and Klisa, Bosnia and Herzegovina: Meetings of Women in Black activists from Belgrade with the witness from the region were held later in May (25th and 31th) and at these meetings the witness exchanged impressions about the closing event in Sarajevo. The most important point of the event by the witnesses: The event has encouraged rapprochement between women across national borders and ethnic barriers, the event changed the dominant narrative/versions of the war in the former Yugoslavia, solidarity among the victims - an area for connecting, to work together, and so on.

19th and 20th June, Vrnjačka Banja, Serbia:

There were 20 people: witnesses from Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina and Montenegro, as well as the organizer of WC from the Women in Black Network Serbia.

At the working meeting we talked about the following issues:

Artistic activist presentation of WC - discussion and joint development of a documentary film about the Women's Court (Sarajevo, May 7th to 10th); in coordination of professional film workers, the witnesses put forward proposals and suggestions on the structure, the content of the documentary film.

Impressions and expectations of the finals of WC in Sarajevo: Participants considered that it was a 'historic event - on the individual and the collective level', that the expectations were fully met, that the organization was 'excellent'.

As for the **feminist approach to justice**, witness considered that the WC offered new models of justice from a gender perspective because the witnesses were the subjects of justice, because the WC was designed and prepared by activists together with the witness. WC is a new model of transitional justice organized horizontal and in the most democratic process possible and it is a great new model, important for all of us ...'

Regarding the continuation of the process of WC, participants of the meeting made concrete proposals, and we will state the following:

- *Meeting witness in Tivat, 25th, 26th and 27th September 2015* - joint reflection of finals of WC (if they are found funds)
- *Women's book testimony* - from the finals in Sarajevo, as well as the continuation of the process of WC,
- *Documentation and Archives of WC*,
- *Feminist discussion circles* - mutual learning, to improve the knowledge about feminism, feminist ethic of responsibility, alternative models of justice, etc.
- A traveling promotion of the film in various cities (Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina) with the participation of the witness, the organizing activist; Creating a "web" of activists who will deal with promotion and logistics of the film within the Women in Black Network





- *Round tables and debates* – about the WC
- Reciprocal visits to the witness, etc.

2. Common reflection finals of WC - Women in Black have held three meetings for the joint evaluation:

- **15. maj, Kotor:** U organizaciji 'Anima' Kotor, with the participation of activists of this organization.
- *May 20th and June 10th, Belgrade* – organizers of event participated - Women in Black activists and activist from similar organizations, at this working meetings around 40 women from Belgrade participated, and the next meeting (in the framework of the Network of Women in Black, Serbia) will be held 11th-13th of September 2015. At these meetings the effects of the process of WC were analyzed, the final event in Sarajevo, feminist perspective of WC, future plans within the framework of continuing the process of WC, etc.
- **22th July Sarajevo:** The interview was held in the premises of the "Movement of Mothers of Srebrenica and Zepa enclave" and was attended by 10 women (witness, the organizers, participants of WC).

3. Joint working consultative meetings - In this period we held a short operating working meetings of the Organizing Committee of the WC in Sarajevo (July 7 to 10) and then working meetings between some members of OO WC mainly on the commitments, as well as the subsequent joint activities:

- *July 21th, Podgorica* (Montenegro): a meeting in which participated Ljupka Kovacevic (Anima, Kotor) and Stasa Zajovic (WIB)
- *24th July, Belgrade* (Serbia): working meeting in which participated lecture, Dasa Duhacek (Center for Women's Studies), Vesna Rakic-Vodinelic (Chair of the International panel of judges) and Stasa Zajovic.
- *August 4, Zagreb* (Croatia): working meeting in which participated Marijana Senjak (feminist therapist of WC), Nela Pamuković (Center for Women War Victims) and Stasa Zajovic (WIB).

4. Working meetings of Women in Black: As a holder of program activities in the whole process of WC, we held working meetings (reporting activities, electronic communication with members of OO WC, preparation of publications, documents and archives of WC, translates articles about the event in Sarajevo, etc.).

Video activism

Video activism implies the realization of video material related to feminist approach to justice, and this time the working group in coordination film directed by Jelena Markovic and editor Marija Arandžević worked on the film archives of events in Sarajevo.

Artistic design of WC in Sarajevo: Engaged artistic collectives (*MMC / Led Art / Art Clinic, Novi Sad, Dah Theater, Act Women, Skart Belgrade*), the Group for video activism of Women in Black, as well as individuals (*Marija Arandžević, Marija Vidic, Jelena Markovic, Vahida Ramujkić others*). This artistic-activist team, together with the witness, conceived the whole artistic program - exhibitions, stage action, performance during the Women's Court in Sarajevo.

Publications: The following publications were arranged in this period

- *Leaflets:* program of WC in Serbian, English and Albanian, the rules of WC in English, Serbian and Albanian, the structure of WC in Serbian, English and Albanian, information on the process in Serbian and English languages, the witness statements in Serbian and English language.
- *Book of Women's Court: the process of organizing on the Serbian and English language.* The book has 123 pages



and 136 pages, and was arranged by Stasa Zajovic. The book has three texts: Stasa Zajović Women's Court - Feminist Approach to Justice: Review of the process of organizing the Women's Court, Daša Duhaček, Women's Court: Feminist approach of (in) justice and Rada Iveković, Violence and healing: the war and postwar period of the first generation and after. Knjigu su uredile Daša Duhaček i Staša Zajović a izdale je žene u crnom i Centar za ženske studije iz Beograda.

- *Brochure of texts about the Women's Court in Sarajevo* for the meeting in Vrnjacka Banja 48 pages
- *Reports of the Joint reflection* - Belgrade May 20th, June 10th and Vrnjacka Banja (19th and 20th June - 32 pages)
- **Transcripts of the WC in Sarajevo:** Testimonies, exposure sessions on women's internationalist solidarity, etc.). 60 pages.

NETWORKS, COALITIONS MUTUAL SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Women in Black are initiators and we actively participated 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. During this period:

- The activists of Women in Black Network Serbia participated in all actions concerning the commemoration of the Srebrenica genocide (street actions, debates, film projections about what was discussed in this report);
- *August 1st - August 13rd - House Seka, Brac (Croatia) - Active women's holidays*, six activists of Women in Black (Belgrade and Priboj on Lim), one from Montenegro (Pljevlja), as well as one woman from Bosnia and Herzegovina (from the Association 'Anima', Đulići).
- *17th-24th August, Kotor, Montenegro: Summer Academy* - empowerment and education of women activists in organization of "Anima" from Kotor; this event was attended by five activists - witness of WC activists of Women in Black from Kraljevo, Krusevac, Leskovac. At these seminars themes were: the feminist approach to justice, traumatic experiences, individual and social trauma, ways to overcome and opportunities of healing, etc.

Solidarity is our strength

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

Solidarity with asylum seekers in Serbia: continued 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 website of Women in Black.





Solidarity aid to asylum seekers: it covers the whole range of activities: solidarity aid to asylum seekers and Belgrade (mainly in the park at the Faculty of Economics and around bus and train stations), solidarity for asylum seekers in Subotica, street action in Belgrade, Budapest, debates, working meetings. The activists of Women in Black have participated in these actions, listed chronologically:

May 19th, Belgrade: The activists of Women in Black have joined street action "Tea Not Bombs," in which was distributed tea, food, clothing to asylum in the park at the Faculty of Economics in Belgrade. In this action participated by civil society organizations: *Group 484, Border Crosses (collective No Border), Women in Black, solidary citizens*

May 21th, Belgrade: At the park near the Faculty of Economics there was organized second street action sharing of tea (*Tea Not Bombs*). During this action highlighted were the messages of solidarity with asylum seekers.



May 22th, Belgrade: Working meeting was held in the squat of *Inex*. It was agreed that during the sharing tea we should talk with asylum seekers on the most pressing problems concerning their position in the transition through Serbia, on the behavior of the police towards them, and so on.

May 25th, Belgrade there was a second meeting in the squat (*Inex*). The meeting focused on changing tactics work, primarily on touring center for asylum seekers, interviews with asylum seekers, etc. Experience has shown that the people who run or work in centers for asylum seekers do not provide objective information.

May 30th, Belgrade: At the park near the bus station 'Lasta' in Belgrade's street action of solidarity with asylum seekers „*Tea Not Border*“(Tea not border) was held. The police during the action legitimized activists and banned the spreading a banner on with explanation that such an act represents "disturbing public order". On the same occasion, the police sent away from the park one asylum family and at the request of activists to explain why forcing asylum seekers from the park, the police said they had received such an "order."

June 1st Belgrade: Due to frequent information about mistreatment of asylum seekers at the police station in Sava Street (the center of Belgrade) in *Inex*- the meeting was held which was attended by seven people, including Goran Lazin, activists of Women in Black. At the meeting it was decided that the next action (Saturday, 6 June), reported to the police as a public meeting to be held in the park at the station Lasta.

June 1th. Subotica, Old Brickyard: In solidarity visit asylum seekers were: Nikola Džafo, MMC Led Art / Art Clinic from Novi Sad, Violeta Djikanovic and Stasa Zajovic from Women in Black, and with them was Tibor Varga from Subotica. Humanitarian aid was divided (bread, bottles of water, sanitation, collected clothes). From a small group of asylum seekers, mainly from Afghanistan, who were at the old brickyard we found out that they do not feel safe near the brick factory, so they moved to a grove of trees (about a kilometer away). There we found a group of about thirty men - a couple of boys from five to eleven years old, others are from fifteen to thirty years old. In this grove they raised nylon tents, slept in a kind of dugouts, with no water so they bring it from the wells. In the interview we talked about the fear and insecurity, and they also told us that no one intends to stay in Serbia, etc.





2nd June, Belgrade: a street action was held „Free space without borders“ in the period from 18:00 to 21:00, in the park near the station Lasta in Belgrade. During the campaign there were distributed leaflets, slogans were written on the concrete with chalks, the tea was cooked and food was prepared.

June 11th, Belgrade, at the Cultural Center Rex a debate was held, „The man on the road 2“ dedicated to the migrants who pass through Serbia en route to Western Europe. Debated about the police repression and brutality, the different types of violence, pressure, abuse, causes of violence, but on the actions you - through the institutions, primarily through social engagement.

They also discussed the negative media information about migrants/asylum seekers: the way the media demonize migrants, creating a climate of fear in the public, racist and discriminatory attitude of many citizens towards asylum seekers/migrants. The debate was attended by Goran Lazin (Women in Black, Aleksandra Galonja (independent consultant), Robert Kozma (Group 484), Srdjan Keča (director), Žarka Radoja (journalist) and No Border activists.

15 - 18 June, Subotica, near the old brickyard: Goran Lazin, activists of Women in Black was with a group of activists (*No border and do Don't drown Belgrade*) to visit asylum seekers in Subotica, near the old brickyard. Most asylum seekers avoid staying at the brickyard because they are afraid of the police and various gangs who come at night to keep them harassed, and threatened with deportation to Macedonia and Greece, blackmailing them and taking their money. With asylum seekers seven activists have been for four-days, preparing their food, talking and hanging out with them, and one night they slept with them in sleeping bags ... Asylum seekers have testified about the various forms of violence they are exposed (to theft, health problems, absence of basic supplies, etc.).

June 20th Belgrade: No Border street action of solidarity with migrants was held in the park near the bus station 'Lasta'. Every Saturday there is increasing number of people who are joining the action, bringing tea, food and clothing, so that this action by the modest number of people spread into the real movement. These public acts of solidarity with migrants pointed to discrimination against asylum seekers by state institutions, but also by citizens, police repression. During the event, members of the far-right organizations *Sr (b) ska action* verbally attacked the organizers of the solidarity action.

July 14th Budapest: demonstrations 'Stop the Wall' against the construction of the wall on the border of Hungary and Serbia were held. Demonstrations were held the day after the start of construction of the wall, on July 13th in the city Mórakalm. Hungary pro-fascist party *Fidesz* has launched an initiative to build a wall (height of four meters and a length of 175 km), on about ten locations in order to prevent the entry of "illegal" migrants in Hungary over "third safe country" (Serbia), and to at the border of "European fortress" deported migrants back to Macedonia and Greece. The demonstration began in front of the Basilica of St. Stephen (Szent Istvan Basilica) starting from 18:30h. The protest was attended by about a thousand people revolted because of the inhumane treatment of migrants and xenophobic, racist policies of Viktor Orban. From Belgrade (Serbia) took part the nine activists mainly associated with the *No Border collectives* and *Women in Black* (Goran Lazin) and demonstrations were joined by activists from BiH, Croatian and Slovenia. At the protest were also activists of: Amnesty International, the Helsinki Committee, Labris (lesbian organization from Budapest). The demonstration was followed by the media and security staff and everything went without a major police presence. On the way back from Budapest activists from Serbia went to the place where they began building the wall.



19th July, Belgrade: In a park near the station "Lasta" in Belgrade action took place under the name of "Tea no borders". In the park, there were over 400 refugees, mostly children, women and men. The action lasted about four hours (we cooked tea and shared the fruit to children). Asylum seekers complained about the many problems (lack of basic



sanitation, police behavior, slowness in applying for asylum in Serbia, extortion of money on traveling through Balkan countries ...). It is concerning the operation of the right-wing groups who shared flyers with xenophobic and racist content in city of Belgrade and some mainstream media reinforce racist stories of asylum seekers. In this action jointly participated Women in Black activists and Reconstruction Women's Fund.

25th July, Belgrade: In a park near the station „Lasta“ action „Tea no borders“ Women in Black activists and Reconstruction Women's Fund/ RWF were distributing humanitarian aid (clothing, food, toiletries...). The situation in the park has not changed. The number of migrants has not decreased much, and still lack toilets and showers to refresh people.

1st, 8th, 15th, 22th and 29th August: Every Saturday during this month activists Goran Lazin, and later Ljiljana Radovanovic and Violeta Djikanovic participated in actions “Tea not bombs,” “Tea not borders” in parks next to the bus station. Solidarity Network has spread, the number of people who came to the park to cook tea, share info materials, clean park, or in any other way indicate help and show solidarity with refugees increased significantly. In these solidarity actions asylum seekers were participating. The situation in the park has improved somewhat, the police no longer forced the asylum seekers out of the park, public toilets were installed and during the hot summer period water trucks were there. Miksalište center was open, near the bus station in Belgrade, where people could donate clothing and shoes for the refugees. There, people can come and take what they need. In the park there were refugees from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Somalia ... Since the beginning of 2015, 115,000 refugees from Macedonia entered into Serbia, but it is believed that their number is much higher because many are not registered as asylum seekers. On August 31st activists of Women in Black participated in the solidarity rally (organized by the Youth Initiative for Human Rights) with asylum seekers - against attempts to clerical fascist organizations organized protest against asylum seekers. The action was organized by the Youth Initiative for Human Rights



Solidarity is our strength – helping the people from the flooded areas in Serbia

Floods hit the state of Serbia in May 2014, it carried off many human victims, caused enormous material damage, etc; in line with our concept of feminist ethics of care, Women in Black have tried, within the modest possibilities, to reduce the consequences of the catastrophic floods in May 2014, providing assistance several times threatened / affected groups / families / persons (refugees from Kosovo, Roma families and single parents).

In accordance with our ethical principles of humanitarian assistance, we operate in the following manner:

Direct intervention on the field - solidarity assistance, tour the flooded areas, support those in need; From May 2014 to now, we have organized together with the Reconstruction Women's Fund solidarity visits:

- **Smederevska Palanka, June 5th:** Women in Black activists Violeta Djikanovic visited the family of Zahra Zagorčić in Smederevo. From the Office of the European Union is obtained used furniture, activists gathered solidarity assistance.
- **Sisters do it best - May 28th:** In organization of Reconstruction Women's Fund, there was organized for the fourth time, an evening of solidarity with the flood victims in the May/October 2014. Violeta Djikanovic and Nada Đuričković have submitted a report on the joint work in the period October 2014 to February 2015. There also participated and students/activists of architecture who designed two houses in informal Roma settlement in Vidikovac, workers who built the house and choir *Proba*. They also collected donations for the Roma settlement on the Vidikovac and for that evening there was collected 25,000 dinars.



Activist empowerment of women from the flooded areas - Involvement in various forms of activities of Women in Black; This allows these women that in addition to meeting basic needs, maintain the dignity and control over their lives; we met plenty of women who refuse to be reduced to the victims and fight for dignity and control over their own lives. In this period, we organized the following actions:

The feminist ethic of care - support potential witnesses to the Women's Court /WC - feminist approach to justice:

- **7th-10th May Sarajevo:** the participation of women from the flooded areas from Serbia, as well as activists of Roma organizations in the Women's Court - Feminist Approach to Justice.
- **July 10th, Belgrade:** Participation of women from the flooded areas of Serbia, as well as activists of Roma organizations in the activities of "20 years since the genocide in Srebrenica - We remember!", Organized by Women in Black.

International Women's solidarity - our solidarity action for women in flooded areas to help and support our friends from feminist foundation *Filia* (Germany), an international network of Women in Black, primarily, Women in Black from Italy and Spain. They visited Serbia in May and July 2015.

(An integral reports on these activities can be found on the website of Women in Black)

An anti-fascist solidarity

Women in Black have in the past participated in these street actions, debates and marking important dates antifascist, together with related organizations:

- **The rehabilitation of Draza Mihailovic:** The Chetnik commander, associate of Nazi forces in World War II, a war criminal convicted for crimes against humanity in 1946. The rehabilitation initiated descendants of D. Mihailovic and right-wing organizations. The process was launched in 2006 and the first hearing was held on 2010. At the request of the requested court to annul the judgment of 15th July 1946, in which D. Mihailovic was sentenced to death by firing squad and also to request the return of civil of rights D. Mihailovic. Women in Black and similar organizations are monitoring the process from the beginning and are opposed to the rehabilitation of annulling the anti-fascist struggle of the Serbian and other Yugoslav nations, it insults the victims of wars in '90s since then mass crimes are a continuation of the Chetnik ideology and practices of World War II.

During this period, Women in Black followed the following hearings: 12th and 14th May, when the shameful verdict was pronounced - the final act of the long process of revision of results of the Second World War, deletion of antifascist heritage, etc.

May 15th, Belgrade - "Where are the Communists?": Antifa action against oblivion of four concentration camps in Belgrade during World War II, organized by the Centre for Cultural Decontamination/CZKD and collective "The Ignorant teacher and His Committees". The action was joined by Women in Black activists.

June 2nd, Belgrade - "What rehabilitate rehabilitation?": Panel discussion organized by the Centre for Cultural Decontamination and "The Ignorant teacher and His Committees", and against the rehabilitation of D. Mihajlovic; participated activists of Women in Black (Stasa Zajovic, Lino Veljak, Snezana Tabački).

June 27th, Belgrade: "Hate Free Zone" on the occasion of the International Day for LGBT people was devoted to the anti-fascist solidarity, which has already been discussed in this report.

Working meetings with the Association of anti-fascists of Serbia - agreements on joint activities.



Discussion circles, lectures, debates in 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, which was organized ten (10) lectures and debates in which **288** people participated:

May 13th: How the Left wing and human rights organizations react to Muslim fundamentalism?

Lecture of *Marieme Helie-Lucas* (Algerian sociologist, therapist and feminist activist. The founder of the international network Women Living Under Muslim Laws / WLUML. The founder and coordinator of the group Secularism is a women's issue / SIAWI. She is the author of numerous critical articles and texts on destructive functioning of Muslim fundamentalism, with special emphasis on its disastrous impact on the human rights of women.)



This lecture and discussion was attended by **33** people, and an integral report on this can be found on the website of Women in Black.

May 20th and 10th of June: Thinking together the final event of the Women's Court - Feminist Approach to Justice, participated participants of this event. In these debates attended by 40 people.

May 27th: Screening of the documentary about the participant of Spanish Civil War, a prominent anti-fascist fighter of the Second World War, the poet and engaged intellectual "Konstantin-Koca Popovic" by director Goran Markovic, presented in the premises of Women in Black. At the screening and discussion afterwards participated author of the film and **38** people.



June 17th - Femicide - Lecture and discussion with the lawyer, feminist activists Zorica Mršević, attended by **12** people.



June 26th: "He left a trace in us": Homage to Dragoljub Todorovic, lawyer, friend, co-worker of Women in Black; D. Todorovic with his tireless efforts for the punishment of war crimes and the struggle for the rights of victims left a deep mark in all of us; it was attended by **27** people.



July 1st: 'Peace cycling Belgrade - Srebrenica 2015' - a meeting and debate with the participation of **29** activists.

July 6th: **PODEMOS, Spain** - Interview with activists from Spain, organized by Women in Black and the Center for Cultural Decontamination / CZKD.

About **Podemos**, the new political platform in Spain, as well as other issues related to political, social, economic context in Spain spoke the following people:

Martin Alonso Zarza - Santander (Cantabria), philosopher; activist of Women in Black, the movement 'Indignados', anti-militarist movement from Spain: *Jolanda Roullier*, Santander; *Conca Martin* (Concha Martin), Madrid, *Maria de las Montañas* (Maria de las Montanas), Seville; *Concha de Sena* (Concha de Sena) Madrid, Women in Black, *Almudena Olmos*, Madrid, *Lola Robles*, Milagros ???

Conversation in the yard of CZKD was attended by over sixty (60) people activists of various social movements, the academic community, political parties.



(Integrated report can be found at the website of WIB)



July 7th: Meeting with activists of Women in Black activist with the International Network of Women in Black from Italy and Spain, which came on the 20th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica. Talking in the office of Women in Black where participated **25** people.

July 15th: The common thinking activities of Women in Black on the 20th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica; attended by **21** activists.

July 22th: The projection of the German Film *Pheonix*; at the screening and discussion afterwards participated **19** people.

Campaigns, appeals

In addition to the initiatives outlined in this reporting period, we have also initiated or actively participated, we are active in many campaigns, primarily in connection with the requirements for dealing with the past - responsibility for war crimes, for demilitarization and against the repression against political opponents; of appeals and campaigns listed

The pernicious effects of the growing fascist tendencies in Serbia: On the occasion of the International Day of Victory over Fascism (9th May), Women in Black, the Antifascist Union and the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights issued a press release stated: "Serbia is once again faced with fascism personified Serbian president of Radical Party leader Vojislav Seselj. Vojislav Seselj, with the approval of their frenzied accompaniment, attacked Zajovic Stasa, coordinator of Women in Black. The incident took place in the High Court in the Palace of Justice, which is to decide on the rehabilitation of war criminal Dragoljub Draza Mihailovic. Seselj was soon repeated his fascist outburst, insulting a respected historian Latinka Perovic due to her age and activity." In the following statements, among other things, says: "The lack of reaction of state bodies suggests that the current ruling elite continues directly Seselj's politics and that they are the best students of Seselj, who changed into new clothes to preserve power" etc.

The rehabilitation of Draza Mihailovic - Continuity of pro fascist ideology and practice: May 14th 2015 ended in a renewed process for the rehabilitation of war criminal Dragoljub Draza Mihailovic, which reversed the judgment of 1946 and the decision on rehabilitation.

Women in Black in a statement stressed that the court decision is "final act of the long process of revision of results of the Second World War, which rehabilitate the defeated forces in the Second World War," but also that "under the same ideology and the monument were carried out mass killings of civilians in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Kosovo and persecution of non-Serbs and antifascists in Serbia during the nineties of the twentieth century. This cancels anti-fascist heritage and expands the space for the far-right, neo-Nazi and clerical fascist forces at the state and society", etc.

Prohibited discussions of memories of the genocide in Srebrenica in June 2015 Women in Black have faced a number of problems – prevent the maintenance in public institutions - cultural institutions: the House of Culture (American Corner) in Novi Sad Cultural Center in Zrenjanin, Student Cultural Centre in Kragujevac, the American Corner in Kragujevac, Youth Center (American Corner) in Belgrade. In a statement on June 12th, Women in Black stated: "The ban stands continues policy of hatred, the introduction of single-mindedness and the stubborn refusal to make a break with the policy that was designed, created and organized a climate in which the genocide was possible. These acts denied freedom of speech and demonstrate socially unacceptable denial, minimization, and relativization of genocide in Srebrenica." Despite the fact that the topic of the genocide in Srebrenica prohibited, proscribed, Women in Black, thanks to civic responsibility and solidarity and friendly support of cultural centers and other institutions (Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina in Novi Sad green bell in Zrenjanin).

Public letter to state officials in Serbia - Against the denial of genocide in Srebrenica: The appeal on the occasion of the twentieth commemoration of the genocide in Srebrenica, Women in Black pointed to the "enormous political and the other responsibility of the international community for failing to prevent the genocide and in that light the proposal of British resolution before the UN Security Council should be considered. Unfortunately, the whole debate on



the draft resolution had become a ground for geostrategic competition and political conflicts between major powers "and" actions and attitudes of Serbian officials in connection with the genocide in Srebrenica confirm that the continuation of the policy on the part of the 90s, they did not renounce Serbian nationalist goals of the regime nor the project of Greater Serbia." The appeal recalls "that the state of Serbia had violated the UN Convention on Genocide," and that "did nothing to prevent the genocide in Srebrenica, despite the knowledge that the authorities in Belgrade had. For the first time in the history of the International Court of Justice, as the highest court of the UN one country is convicted of a violation of the Convention on preventing and punishing genocide." The appeal claims that the state of Serbia declared July 11th - Day of Commemoration of the Srebrenica genocide, the denial of genocide as an offense, and so etc.

July 11th - Day of Remembrance of the genocide in Srebrenica - Proclaim !: An Open Letter to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia and the Serbian National Assembly, demanding the "July 11th 1995 declare as the day of remembrance of the genocide in Srebrenica. Then the armed formations of the Republic of Serbian, led by Hague indictee Ratko Mladic and with the support of Milosevic's regime killed 8372 Bosniaks. Public recognition and acceptance of the fact of the genocide in Srebrenica is our debt to the victims and survivors of genocide. Indifference to the suffering of victims of the Srebrenica genocide is not only a denial of their own, but also of our human dignity." The appeal notes that six years of Women in Black and other civil society organizations continue to request from the competent institutions of the state of Serbia to declare July 11th - Day of Commemoration of the Srebrenica genocide. Continuous denial of the number killed and concealing genocide is direct violation of the decisions of international institutions of justice. Inhuman and immoral to deny their respect to the victims. Show that you respect the decisions of international institutions of justice, that you care about good neighborly relations, peace and trust in the region," reads the appeal.

Unfortunately, such a request by Women in Black and civil society organizations, was not accepted.

Srebrenica - a stumbling stone for Serbia !: In a statement on the occasion of raising a symbolic memorial "Srebrenica - a stumbling stone for Serbia" (July 7th 2015) states: "The rejected persistent requests of Women in Black in Belgrade to establish a permanent memorial dedicated to victims genocide in Srebrenica and thereby make a significant symbolic step towards the acceptance of the truth about the crimes, but the company restore its reputation and self-esteem. In contrast to the dominant denial and oblivion criminal past, this symbolic memorial to the victims of genocide in Srebrenica as: *the act of honoring victims of genocide and memories of them; non-violent act of resistance denial of genocide* - the acceptance of the fact that in our name were killed innocent people and call that the pain become part of the collective memory; the act of taking responsibility and society call for a thorough review of their own responsibility", etc.

The "Days of Sarajevo", May 15th, 2015. The prize was awarded by the Youth Initiative for Human Rights from Belgrade. This award was established to honor the individuals and groups that work on mutual cooperation between Sarajevo and Belgrade. Last year awards got playwright Biljana Srbljanovic who read the explanation about this year's winners - Women in Black: "The award is a strong support for a movement that seeks to atrocities are not forgotten. She tells us: Albanian women are our sisters, we will not be subjects, always disobedient ... Although their slogan is Not in our name, we say Women in Black in our name. Death to fascism, freedom to the people."

International visit: During this period, activists of the International Network of Women in Black from numerous European, but also Algeria, Argentina, Israel, the United States actively participated in important events: the Women's Court in Sarajevo (May 7 to 10, 2015), as well in activities marking the 20th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica.

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