



*žene u crnom
beograd*

REPORT

September - December 2017

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

We solidarity thank you in advance.



STREET ACTIONS

In this reporting period we organized nineteen (19) actions, and we also actively participated in other street actions:

- commemoration/marketing of important dates of crimes committed in our name
- feminist, anti-fascist, anti-racist, anti-militarist actions...

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

Belgrade, October 5th „We remember“ – on the occasion of 13 years since the murder of two soldiers (Dragan Jakovljević i Dražen Milovanović) in military barracks in Topcider (5. 10. 2004), the Women in Black visited the crime scene together with the families of the killed soldiers, where they laid flowers.

Belgrade, October 5th “We will never forget the crime in Topcider” – on the same day, we organized a peace action wearing black and in silence, in Knez Mihailova Street.

At the protest were the following prominent banners: „We will never forget the crime in Topcider“, „We remember Dragan Jakovljević; We remember Dražen Milovanović; Women in Black for Peace and Justice; Women in Black for Peace and Human Rights“.

This action was attended by some twenty (20) activists.

Belgrade, October 22nd “We remember - 25 years of crime in Sjeverin” - on the 25th anniversary of the crime in Sjeverin, where on October 22nd 1992 seventeen (17) Bosniaks were abducted and killed, Women in Black organized a vigil wearing black and in silence in Knez Mihailova Street in Belgrade. At the vigil were the following banners:

Sjeverin – 22.10.1992; 16 banners with the names of the passengers and a banner We remember the crime in Sjeverin. The action was attended by twenty (20) activists.

Belgrade, November 18th „We will never forget crimes in Vukovar“ - On the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the fall of Vukovar, on November 18th, 2017, in Knez Mihailova Street,





Women in Black, wearing black and in silence, organized a peace action during which the following banners were held: We will never forget the crimes in Vukovar; Responsibility; Women in Black for Peace and Justice. About thirty (30) activists, both from Women in Black and the Youth Initiative for Human Rights, took part in the action.

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

In chronological order:

Belgrade, September 21st, „Zaustavite rat, a ne izbeglice! Zaustavite vojne, ne beguncevi! Stop the war, not refugees!“ – On the occasion of September 21st - World Peace Day in Belgrade (Knez Mihailova Street), Women in Black organized a peace action involving about 30 activists. On this occasion, we sent messages of resistance to war policies, rising militarization, closing of borders, setting up wires, persecution, deportation of refugees. Activists held the following banners:

“Stop the war, not the refugees; We want open borders/Open the borders; Solidarity with Refugees”, in Serbian, English, as well as in Arabic and Farsi. During the performance, some activists held banners:

“We want open borders, we will not be a fortress Europe; Freedom for All”, and in front of the activists a canvas - a map of Europe, with the EU flag - was laid, and instead of yellow stars, a barbed wire was drawn - a symbol of the repressive policies of European countries towards refugees.



Violence against refugees on the Balkan route has been pointed out: About a million refugees have gone through the Western Balkans, where they have been exposed to discrimination, deportation, robbery;

In Serbia, only a dozen people got asylum, etc. .

Activists also revealed disturbing information on the number of displaced refugees, holding banners:

Afghanistan: since 2001, the number of IDPs and refugees has exceeded 3,700,000;

Syria: 500 000 dead, more than 10 million internally displaced persons, more than 5 million refugees, a huge number of women and girls raped;

Yemen: In the war of 2015 a humanitarian disaster, 8,400 civilians were killed, 48,000 injured;

Iraq: the number of displaced and refugees exceeding 3,500,000;

Palestine: since the occupation of 1948, over 4.3 million displaced and refugees;

Myanmar/Burma: more than 500,000 people have been expelled, the terror is ongoing.”





September 21st, „Zaustavite rat, a ne izbeglice! Zaustavite vojne, ne beguncev! Stop the war, not refugees!“- Women in Black, Belgrade coordinated the action in five countries of former Yugoslavia, in seven (7) cities: Leskovac and Kruševac (Serbia), Pljevlja and Kotor (Montenegro), Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Zagreb (Croatia), Ljubljana (Slovenia). Activists from the organizations that make up the Women in Black Network participated in the action.



Belgrade, September 27th, „Stop genocide on Rohingya! - On the occasion of the current political situation in Burma/Myanmar, WiB organized a protest wearing black and in silence in front of the Embassy of Burma/Myanmar in Belgrade.

The following banners were raised at the protest in Serbian, English and Burmese:

Stop killing Rohingya!; Stop genocide against Rohingya!; Aung San Su Qi where is your conscience?, Women in Black against the war.

In action participated fifteen (15) activists of Women in Black, Reconstruction Women's Fund and Women's Network Against Violence. The protest was covered by the media, and there was an unprecedented number of police security.

Women in black sent the following requirements:

- The authorities to stop the persecution of Rohingya minority;
- Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi to return the prize;
- The International Criminal Court to conduct an investigation,
- Serbia to stop exporting arms to Myanmar.



Belgrade, October 27th, „Stop the violence in Catalonia! (No mas violencia en Catalunya) - Regarding the political situation after the referendum on independence of Catalonia (October 1st, 2017), Women in Black, in front of the Spanish Embassy in Belgrade, organized a protest dressed in black and in silence “Stop Violence in Catalonia”. The following banners were displayed at the protest in Catalan, Spanish and Serbian:

- Solidarity against violence in Catalonia;
- Stop the abolition of Catalonia's autonomy
- No police, no army can prevent the will of the people who are determined to resist nonviolence. (Gandhi);
- NO 155, NO pasaran 155.

The protest was attended by twenty (20) activists.





Belgrade, November 9th „Crystal Night – Never Again!“ - On the occasion of the International Day Against Fascism and Anti-Semitism, the WiB organized a street action *“Crystal Night - Never Again”* in Knez Mihailova Street. The action was organized with the support of the Alliance of Anti-fascists of Serbia and the organization Equality.

The following banners were raised:

- *Women in Black against Fascism;*
- *Against fascism;*
- *Stop rehabilitation;*
- *Wire = Europe = Border;*
- *No wires, no borders*

During the performance, through the announcement, some elements of the rise of fascism in Europe were pointed out: *Ideological and historical revisionism; Hatred and fear of refugees, emigrants, Roma - xenophobia, racism, isolationism; Creation of enemies and obsessions with conspiracy; Ethnic nationalism and populism; Machismo and hatred towards women and LGBT.*

Our choir **„Naša Pjesma“** (Our Song) sung anti-fascist songs: *Naša pjesma, Padaj silo i nepravdo, Budi se istok i zapad, Bilećanka, Crvena zastava, Ay Carmela, Internacionala, Bandiera rossa, Marš otpuštenih, Oj Mosore.* About fifty (50) activists took part in the action.

Belgrade, December 6th “Stop femicide” - on the occasion of the Femicide Day Women’s Network Against Violence and Women in Black at the Republic Square organized a performance *Not a Single Woman Less.* On the sidewalk, 100 red shoes were laid, and then the names of women killed in Serbia between 2010 and present were read. About 20 activists attended the action.

Belgrade, December 10th “Stop hatred towards women! Stop the fundamentalist, clerical-fascist attacks on women!” - Women in Black, in cooperation with the Women’s Network of Croatia, Center for Women and Peace Studies - Anima from Kotor and BonaFide from Pljevlja, on the International Human Rights Day in Knez Mihailova Street in Belgrade, organized an anti-clerical feminist protest *“Stop hatred towards women - Stop fundamentalist, clericalist attacks on women!”*





The following banners were displayed:

- *Always disobedient*
- *I am an atheist – I am proud of it!*
- *Thank God, I am an atheist!*
- *I do not give money to the church!*
- *Sister books, books, not bells!*
- *People think: goodbye to the church; Goodbye to the church!*
- *We will not learn in your churches; do not pray in our schools!*
- *Witches will come back, they will not come by foot!*
- *The broom will rise, you will not come near us!*
- *Women think: goodbye to the church!*
- *No God, no master!*
- *Down with the church, stay away from my body!*
- *No God near my ovaries!*
- *Women are angry, get off the road!*
- *Stop hatred towards women!*
- *Church celebrates war criminals - enough!*
- *We all aborted!*



Thirty (30) activists participated in the action.

Belgrade, December 22nd "Stop the Occupation!" The women in black held a "Stop The Occupation" peace action wearing black and in silence in Knez Mihailova Street, Belgrade, regarding the current political situation in the Middle East.

At the protest, the following banners were displayed: Women in Black against the War; Stop the occupation (in Serbian, English, Hebrew and Arabic); Peace (in Serbian, English, Hebrew and Arabic).

The action was secured by the police, but it did not go without incidents. A group of Israeli tourists shouted to the activists of Women in Black:

I was in the Israeli army; Come to Israel and I will kill you; Come to Israel to see how it is in Israel; You are ugly, Fuck you, Israel is the best; Israel is the most beautiful; You are evil; You are no one, etc.

About 15 activists of Women in Black attended this peace action.



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FACING THE PAST TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE - A FEMINIST APPROACH

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

Visiting the places of crimes committed in our name as well as other crimes against the civilian population during the wars in former Yugoslavia:

During this period Women in Black visited:

Lovas, Croatia, October 18th – marking the 26th anniversary of the crime in Lovas (October 18, 1991) where Serbian armed formations killed 70 civilians of Croatian nationality, attended by four (4) WiB activists.

Sjeverin, October 22nd - at the commemoration in Sjeverin there were WiB activists from Prijepolje, Pljevlja, Belgrade, they paid tribute and laid flowers for the victims. The families who have lost their loved ones are still waiting on justice to be served and taking responsibility for the crime. The families are losing hope and confidence in the institutions of Republic of Serbia, despite the statements of the highest representatives of the government that they will make an effort to solve the issue of missing persons.

Vukovar/Croatia, November 19th "Responsibility and solidarity" - on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the crimes in Vukovar, a group of eight (8) activists of Women in Black visited Vukovar, where they attended the commemoration of the crimes in Borovo Selo, in the collapsed Borovo commercial building, and also visited the memorial in Ovčara, where the wounded from the Vukovar hospital were killed. We then attended the commemoration held in Borovo Selo on the bank of Danube.

Vranic, near Belgrade, December 20th - anti-fascist solidarity action on the occasion of the 74th anniversary of the crime in Vranic. Namely, in the Second World War, on the night between December 20th and 21st, 1943, Fascist Chetnik formations killed 68 inhabitants of Vranic village, most of the killed ones being from the Pantic family. Eight (8) activists of Women in Black attended a ceremony in the local Culture Center together with the locals. They then visited the Memorial Room in the house of the Pantic family.





WOMEN'S SOLIDARITY FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF WAR CRIMES

Actions of women's solidarity - feminist ethics of care and responsibility, acts of mutual support, exchange and cooperation in the region in order to build a just peace. It is primarily about the exchange and support to the victims of crimes committed on our behalf, as well as victims/survivors of crimes against civilians of Serbian ethnicity:

September 18th, Srebrenica – Solidarity visit of WiB activists and activists from Spain (Charo Nogueira and Selime) to Potočari/Srebrenica Memorial Center. On the same day, they visited the village of Bajramovici in which Nura Mustafić, a witness at the Women's Court and Refija Hadžibulić, who is a participant in the WsC process, lived during the Srebrenica genocide, and activists talked about overcoming the war trauma, the significance of participation in the continuation of the WsC process, cooperation with WiB, etc. Also, activists visited Srebrenica, where they met Hajra Catic, president of the Association of Women of Srebrenica, headquartered in Tuzla.

September 20th, Belgrade – Women's solidarity meeting was organized by Women in Black, Belgrade and Citizens' Association "Anima" from Đulići. 49 women from the area of Zvornik (Đulići, Klisa, Grbavica, Tojšići, Glumine, Zvornik, Sapna, Šetići ...) and ten women activists from the Women in Black Network of Serbia came to visit WiB. Two women were witnesses at the WsC in Sarajevo, many of them at the war crimes courts in Belgrade and Sarajevo. On this occasion, a series of activities were organized: the meeting in the WiB office, and then the tourist and cultural sightseeing of Belgrade (visit to Konak Kneginje Ljubice, walking to Knez Mihailova, cruising the Danube, socializing in Zemun) and this meeting is a continuation of long-term cooperation, friendship, mutual support and working together.



(Activists met with women and families of victims after the commemoration of the anniversary of the crimes we mentioned in previous chapters of this report)

Punishability of the crimes - the path to just peace: monitoring of the trials at the Special Court

Trial for a crime in Kravica - before the Special Court in Belgrade for war crimes in the village of Kravica (murder of 1313 Bosnian Muslims, within the Srebrenica genocide, on July 13th, 1995).

It is important to note that on July 14th, 2017, the Court of Appeals decided to annul the indictment for this



crime because it was pronounced at the time when the Supreme Court for War Crimes did not have a Chief Prosecutor due to obstruction by Serbian authorities. The trial started from the beginning. In this reporting period a hearing was held on November 14th.

ARTISTIC ENGAGEMENT IN DEALING WITH THE PAST/TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

During this period, the practice of joint work and cooperation between art collectives, professional theaters, artists engaged in artistic design of resistance to war, war crimes, repression, human rights violations has continued. In addition to the aforementioned art-activist initiatives, primarily in the section "Street actions", in this period, several working meetings were organized in connection with the design and realization of activist-artistic actions with artistic collectives and in this period art engaged activities were focused on anti-fascists and anti-racist solidarity actions with refugees.

- *The exhibition Disobedient at the Museum of Contemporary Art + MSUM (Museum of Contemporary Art) in Ljubljana from June 29 to October 1. The exhibition presents activist-artistic artifacts of street actions of Women in Black (photos, banners...); Katalin Ladik, Novi Sad/Budapest, multimedia artists present the artistic scene of the 1960s (visual and sound poetry, postmodern narrative performance, writer...) and Eulalie Grau, Barcelona - feminist artists from Catalonia; her main medium is photo/photo-fitting, she began her artistic engagement in the 1970s, Eulalie was politically engaged against the dictatorship of Franco in Spain.*

During this exhibition art-activist collectives and academia community from Ljubljana

Organized a few debates about art-activist engagement of WiB.

VIDEO AKTIVIZAM TRANZICIONA PRAVDA - FEMINISTIČKI PRISTUP

In order to improve the visibility and the effects of various models of transitional justice, especially those from the feminist point of view, promoting Women in Black, in 2010, a group of video activists was created, which was capable of recording, editing, digitizing and setting up on the Internet, video and audio material collected during the regular activities of the WiB, so that it, in the form of short films, becomes available to the general public. The WiB video activists group is coordinated by Marija Vidić, in cooperation with Marija Arandjelović, Zinaida Marjanović and other activists of WiB.



In this reporting period, the group realized the following video materials:

- **“Stop the war, not refugees”** (3:40 min.) – documentary movie about WiB street action performed in Belgrade, September 21, on the occasion of the International World Peace Day.
- **“Women building peace together”** (15 min.) – documentary movie about visits of women from Zvornik (Eastern Bosnia), September 20, 2017)
- **“Crystal night - never again!”** (4:03 min.) - anti-fascist action of WiB on the occasion of the International Day against Fascism and Anti-Semitism, November 9, 2017.
- **“Stop hatred towards women! Stop fundamentalist, clericalist attacks on women!”** - feminist anti-clerical action of WiB on December 10, 2017 in Belgrade.

In this period, the following documentary films were translated and subtitled in Spanish:

- **Nunca olvidaremos el genocidio en Srebrenica** (4:03 min.); Docu-film about the action of WiB on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica “We will never forget the genocide in Srebrenica, July 10th, 2016.
- **„Recordamos – 25 anos del comienzo de la guerra en Bosnia y Herzegovina”** (5 min); docu-film about the street action of WiB “We Remember - 25 Years Since the Beginning of the War in BiH”.
- **Dia internacional de la mujer, Belgrado, 8 de marzo** (5:01 min.) – docu-film on the street march on March 8, 2017.

WOMEN'S COURT A FEMINIST APPROACH TO JUSTICE

We bring a brief report on the activities of Women in Black regarding the organization of the Women's Court-the feminist approach to justice in this period. If you are interested in more information, you can find them on our web site www.zeneucnom.org and www.zenskisud.org or contact us by mail: zeneucnombeograd@gmail.com

The first Women's Court on the territory of Europe, was held in Sarajevo from May 7th to 10th 2015, organized by 10 women's groups from former Yugoslavia (Movement Mothers of Srebrenica and Zepa; Cure Foundation, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Center 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 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 the continuation of the process of the Women's Court, Women in Black, Belgrade coordinates program and other activities with the support of organizations: Anima, Kotor (Montenegro), Center for Women Victims of War, Zagreb (Croatia), some members of the former Organizing Committee of the Women's Court that took part in the events in Sarajevo participates sporadically (Foundation 'Cure', Sarajevo), while other members of the support activities without active participation.

I The feminist ethics of care - support for witnesses at the Women's Court

Regional meetings of Women's Court - are part of the continuing process of the Women's Court and in this reporting period we organized two (2) and these meetings were held in:

1. Regional meeting of Women's Court - Skopje, September 28 – 30, 2017

This meeting was attended by **34** women - witnesses, organizers, feminist therapist, activists, *associates WsC* from the following 6 countries and from 15 places: Bosnia and Herzegovina (Djulići and Klisa, Zvornik area, Potočari/Srebrenica, Sarajevo); Montenegro (Pljevlja); Croatia (Zagreb); Kosovo (Decani, Djakovica, Pristina); Macedonia (Skopje, Veles) and Serbia (Belgrade, Krusevac, Leskovac, Novi Becej).

The program of this meeting consisted of several topics:

Screening of the documentary film "Albanian Women are our Sisters" (Vajzat shqiptare jane motra tona), a 25 minute documentary film, from the authors Milena Popović, Sanja Kljajić, Taulant Osmani, Darko Šper, produced by NDNV and co-produced by BIRN Kosovo. The film brings testimony about the resistance to violent mobilization of men in Serbia, the resistance of women and the links, friendship and solidarity between activists of Serbia and Kosovo. The slogan of the film "Albanian women are our sisters" was taken from WiB, who on March 8, 1995, for the first time during the protest, showed this banner and experienced physical attack, and then it continued on numerous occasions.

The long and lively discussion included blocking the dealing with the past process throughout the region, that politicians are the main impediment to this process. The participants talked about the unprecedented war trauma, the climate of impunity in the whole region (especially the war crimes rape during the Kosovo war, nationalist tendencies throughout the region), that negotiations between Belgrade and Pristina are reduced to meetings of political elites without affecting society in both countries.





How far have we gone? Where do we go? - During this session, in which there were talks about the continuation of the WsC process, the participants presented suggestions on the organization of the “mini Women’s Courts” on topics and issues they would address and women made the following suggestions:

- *Creation of a space for disclosure of war trauma, satisfaction of justice in courts, women proposed various forms of restorative/healing justice (recognition of suffering, condemnation of war crimes ...); women suggested maintaining WsC in the local environment.*
- *Violation of the labor rights of women due to robbery privatization, proposed by a large number of participants, primarily from Macedonia and Serbia;*
- *Violence against women in the family - women from Macedonia, while women from Serbia point out to increased violence against women by returnees from the battlefield;*
- *Political repression against women who think differently from the ruling regime - suggested by women from Serbia, which points to the high level of vulnerability of free public speech and expression in Serbia;*
- *Ethnic violence - in Croatia and Kosovo etc.*

Almost all participants spoke about the fear of women speaking publicly, which makes it necessary to create spaces in which women will freely talk about injustice.



In session „**Joint reflection on current socio-political issues in the region**“ participants spoke about current situation in Macedonia, as well about about negotiations between Serbia and Kosovo (the Brussels Agreement) that is lead by the “political elites of the two countries, but it does not have an impact on the relations between the two nations, because the issues of crimes from the past have not been solved - without establishing the responsibility of both sides and satisfying justice, just peace cannot be achieved...”

The film “**Women’s Court - a feminist approach to justice**” is also shown, followed by a discussion during which women said “the consequences of the war are ubiquitous and are most pronounced in violence against women, the climate of fear and insecurity ...”. All participants expressed their desire to continue their encounters with taking over the obligations below.

2. Regional meeting of Women’s Court – feminist approach of Justice – November 10, 11 and 12, 2017

This meeting took place in Andrevlje (Vojvodina, northern part of Serbia) and was attended by 20 women, from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Serbia.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Suvada Selimović, Đulići, Šaha Hrustić, Klisa, Šehida Abdurahmanović, Potočari/Srebrenica, Nura Mustafić, Bajramović.

Montenegro: Sabina Talović, Pljevlja

Croatia: Milica Miladinović, Zagreb i Marica Šeatović, Novska

Slovenia: Mirjana Učakar, Ptuj

Serbia: Vesna Đorđević, Zrenjanin, Nadežda Kostić, Kruševac i Marija Kovačev, Novi Bečej



Organizers, feminist therapists, associates WsC: Ljupka Kovačević, Kotor, Nela Pamuković, Zagreb, Mira Vilušić, Tuzla, Refija Hadibulić, Bajramović, Milka Rosić, Leskovac, Anđelija Vučurević, Novi Sad, Staša Zajović and Ljiljana Radovanović and Violeta Đikanović, Belgrade.

During the introductory part, the participants expressed the importance of encountering emotional (confidence-building, mutual support) and political views (encouraging the organization of joint activities, but also actions at the local level):

“I picture my love ...” - a dynamic exercise in which the participants jointly reconsidered the concept of feminist ethics (the importance of the balance of care about oneself and others, etc.)

The screening of the movie **“Good Woman”**, directed by Mirjana Karanovic, who also plays the main role in the movie reveals that her husband was one of the members of the notorious Serbian armed formation “Scorpions” (in Trnovo, July 1995 within the genocide in Srebrenica). A woman finds out that her husband is a war criminal, when she found a video tape in the house, it also coincides with her illness and all this causes an earthquake, she decides to report her husband to the human rights organization, feeling relief, goes to surgery ...

In the discussion after the screening of the film, the participants critically examined the party's patriarchal roles of women, both in war and in peace:

- *In a patriarchal context, a ‘good woman’ is the one who fulfills all obligations, obedient, subordinate (‘to everyone, to children, and to him’);*
- *Violence (psychological, sexual ...) that the husband brings from the war, against the woman is a continuation of violence from the battlefield (“the war has returned home”), violence “infected” a whole society that celebrates crimes and criminals, it is a society of moral breakdown;*
- *Women’s cases (in the context of wars in the former Yugoslavia) that “betray” their male relatives - the perpetrators of the crime are rare, so the story of a woman on film that “betrays” her husband are more projections of desirable moral behavior than experience;*
- *The woman’s decision to report her husband-killer is much more motivated and based on religious beliefs (fear of punishment, salvation of the soul, the need to purify before the god) rather than moral principles and compassion with the victims;*
- *It is necessary to separate the responsibility from theological/religious beliefs, secularize responsibility and place it in the context of the fight for justice - the feminist ethics of responsibility, etc.*

In the session **“On activities related to the process of the Women’s Court in the previous period”** (from May to November 2017) there were talks about the public promotions of the Women’s Court, as well as the regional meeting in Skopje in September 2017. In this session, most of the space was devoted to preparatory activities to organize the Women’s Court on the violation of women’s labor rights in the context of the post-war profiteering economy, robbery privatization throughout the region.





Where do we go? - in this session, women talked about the problems they face in their communities in the efforts to satisfy justice, both at the state and society level (*dissatisfaction with the judiciary provokes hopelessness among victims, disappointment with the work of commissions for missing persons - political abuse of victims, lack of support and misunderstanding by women, including those who have suffered the worst crimes, the ethnic distance between women, the fear of talking about war, crimes, the responsibility of their own people, etc.*)

During this, but also previous regional meetings, the witnesses and other participants expressed the determination to create a place for the testimony of other women: on the violence that they survived in order to further develop justice from a feminist perspective; the feminist ethics of responsibility is also expressed in the witnesses as a takeover of concrete obligations to continue the process in the form of organizing the "mini WsC" (on specific issues, putting pressure on the institutional legal system etc.)

Suggestions were submitted for organizing of "mini WsC" and other activities in the continuation of the WsC process:

Organizing „mini“ women’s courts on specific problems faced by women: Among the proposals for the „mini WsC“ frequently referred were: violence/discrimination on ethnic grounds, including persecution, as well as issues related to violations of labor rights of women, violence of the state, militarization at the level of society and the state ... We can conclude that this is a multi-layered violence, that various forms of violence are intertwined (ethnic/class/gender/militaristic violence). It is also agreed that if there are no conditions for organizing the „mini WsC“, it is necessary to create spaces for women to speak publicly about injuries, repressed traumas, in the form of workshops, circles, meetings ...

From the suggestions for joint work we highlight: meetings of solidarity mothers for peace, mutual visits, education in the form of workshops, meetings ...), assistance to WiB in organizing activities at the local level, organizing art events, continuing public presentations of WsC more direct meetings and visits "because the authorities have separated and dehumanized us", etc.

Joint reflection on current socio-political events, concerns about recent judgments in ICTY, sense of hopelessness because of the celebration of war criminals, the rise of nationalism throughout the region and, in general, concerns over regional tensions.

"Now we are rationing everything - Food in war time in the eyes of women"

Essay of Marta Correia, anthropologist and feminist-pacifist activist from Portugal. This essay examines texts written by women of diverse backgrounds, living in warring areas, in various historical periods. The conversation based on this essay prompted memory of hunger, scarcity, trauma of women from war time, especially women from BH. The talk about food caused the deepest emotions, but it was also politically extremely important (raising the issue of ethics of care, trust among women, solidarity, communion, and issues of poverty, exploitation, control by the ruling political/war-profiteering elites.) It was agreed that the discussion on the food and hunger issues should be continued.

Women’s Fight for Just Peace - the documentary **Women Make Change** (Score Card Rwanda) - a film directed by Alistair Waterston (duration of 24:59 minutes); speaks about the experience of





Felisit Niyitegek, founder and director of the AKWOS Women's Sports Organization, from Kigali, Rwanda. The film talks about the empowerment of women through football, in the period after the genocide (1994) in which women were the biggest victims, especially of sexual offenses. Participants agreed that *"the film shows what women can do in the worst circumstances, it is especially good to show how women in Rwanda organized on sport and economic topics. "It is necessary to see the experiences of women from a lot of worse areas than it was the case with us."*

Solidarity is our strength – debate on actions of solidarity support and assistance to war refugees from the Middle East and Africa ...

Participants of the panel talked about solidarity assistance and support actions: direct support actions and assistance to refugees in refugee camps, self-organized camps, parks, street actions of solidarity ... All participants have listed cases of abuse of refugee tragedy, primarily at the state level (cases of repression, abuse, exploitation of refugees by state and non-state actors in the form of robbery and extortion), etc.

Continuation of the joint action **"Knitting a Network of Peace and Solidarity"** - during this period, hundreds of woolen items (gloves and slippers/headbands, scarves ...) for the needs of refugees during the winter period were knitted, action was organized within the WiB Network; activists from Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in this action, and also other citizens joined.

A plan of activities for the next period (sent to the participants immediately after this meeting) was made.

At the end of the meeting, all participants expressed their emotional, moral, political significance of regional meetings (solidarity, trust, friendship, mutual learning, political maturation ...). They also said that the meeting was "excellent - the balance of emotional and political, working and recreational, the importance of joint learning and the transfer of knowledge acquired at the wWsC meetings, recreational and work relaxation (preparation of wool for knitting items for refugees, joint painting of feminist-pacifist T-shirt, party...) with the suggestion that "be sure to continue with this practice", etc.

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

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

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

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



- 1. The Working Group on the organization of the Women's Court on the violation of women's labor rights** - the first working meeting was held on October 22, 2017 in Belgrade, at the Women in Black premises, participants were: Vesna Đorđević, Milica Lupšor (Zrenjanin), Ivana Ristić, Milka Rosić (Leskovac), Marija Kovačev (Novi Bečej), Tanja Marković, Staša Zajović, Miloš Urošević (Belgrade). Preparatory activities aim to create a space for women to talk about injustice in the world of work, collect women's testimonies, train activists to work on organizing the WsC, involve trade union activists, experts on this issue. At this working meeting, a scenario of workshops on women's labor rights was drafted, along with the screening of short documentary films about violation of labor rights of women, as well as the resistance of women ... The second working meeting was at the regional meeting on the regional meeting in Andrevlje (November 2017) experiences from the first cycle of workshops on women's labor rights were presented.
- 2. Work methodology** - It has been agreed that experience will be used in the process of organizing the WsC, especially in working with potential witnesses who would testify at this WsC, but that the methodology of work will be upgraded during the work process. In the process of organizing this WsC, and especially in providing emotional support to witnesses in this WsC, a witness from WsC (2015) will be involved, feminist therapists of WsC, art collectives, etc. Extensive education activities will also be realized (workshops, feminist discussion circles ...).
- 3. Workshops/discussions on women's labor rights in this period were held in the following places:** in Zrenjanin (November 6th, November 26th and December 15th), organized by "Roza" group for labor rights of women, and about 20 women - victims of brutal violation of labor rights participated. In Leskovac, three workshops were held in the organization of the group for peace and labor rights "NENA" (November 6th and 11th, and December 11th, 2017). In both places, the participants testified about the injustice in the world of work, and they expressed the need and readiness to participate in the WsC process, above all as potential witnesses for the WsC.
- 4. Transcripts and material processing** - Transcripts were made by activists from the above organizations and Women in Black, this transcripts, are an extremely important source of knowledge, as well as valuable archival material.
- 5. Booklet on women's labor rights** - Women in Black are preparing a booklet that covers a variety of segments (History Review, Women's Position on the Labor Market, Labor Legislation, etc.). Booklet will be prepared in early 2018. Booklet is an integral part of educational activities, i.e. practices of joint knowledge production.
- 6. Planning of future activities** - the participation of potential witnesses at the WiB Network meeting (February 2018), the continuation of workshops at the local level, joint workshops of potential witnesses from all over Serbia, the participation of potential witnesses at the WsC meeting, May 2018, etc. It was suggested that this mWsC should be held by the end of 2018.

III Feminist ethics of care and responsibility - safe spaces in which women speak publicly about repressed traumas, for the purpose of strengthening mutual support, trust, friendship, involvement of a wider circle of women in the activities of the continuing process of the Women's Court. We continue with this practice from the previous meetings where it was agreed that where there are no conditions for organizing the 'mini' WsC, workshops, circles, meetings are organized ... During this period the following activities were realized:



Workshop with 'Erased' in Ljubljana held on September 30th, 2017. In social center 'Rog' - space for voices, feelings, thoughts of women and children from the "Erased" community, as well as activists who supported them. This, as well as the previous workshops, confirmed the deep trauma experienced by women and children - victims of ethnic cleansing in Slovenia (1992). This workshop was attended by 13 women, both from the "Erased" community and from Slovenian activists who supported them; the hosts were feminist therapist of WsC (Marijana Senjak) and one of the organizers of WsC (Nela Pamuković). It was agreed the all-day workshop to be held the next day on January 20th 2018.

IV Promotion of Women's Court - Feminist Approach to Justice

In this reporting period we organized ten (7) public presentations, in six (3) states of former Yugoslavia. There were **200** participants in total:

Public presentations of WC are consisted of following segments:

- *What is the Women's Court? What is the feminist approach to justice? The history and the process of organizing of the Women's Court*
- *Women's Court - Feminist Approach to Justice (52 minutes) - the documentary*
- *The witnesses speak about their experience testifying in the Women's Court in Sarajevo (What's meant for me to testify on WC ?, as well as the participation in the continuation of the process of WC)*

In this reporting period, two (2) public presentations were held in two (2) countries of the former Yugoslavia:

Skopje, September 29th – Public presentation was held during the regional WsC meeting, **34** women from 15 cities participated, from Bosnia and Herzegovina (Đulići and Klisa near Zvornik, Potočari/Srebrenica, Sarajevo); Montenegro (Pljevlja); Croatia (Zagreb); Kosovo (Dečani, Đakovica, Priština); Macedonia (Skopje, Veles) and Serbia (Belgrade, Kruševac, Leskovac, Novi Bečej).

November 28th, Belgrade – public presentation held on Law Faculty of University „Union“, participated WsC witnesses (Nadežda Kostić, Krusevac/Serbia, Marica Šeatović, Novska/Croatia, Šehida Abdurahmanović, Srebrenica i Rejha Avdić, Tuzla/Bosnia and Herzegovina). After the movie, in debate took part **15** students, as well as professors.

V Women's Court promotions - a feminist approach to the justice - regional and international level

Organizers, witnesses, activists participated in numerous international conferences where they spoke about the experiences of WsC of which we highlight:

September 21st and 22nd, Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina - within the program "Days of pacifism" organized by HO Horizonti, friends from Tuzla met with youth from BH, Croatia, Serbia (Sombor, Vukovar, Gračanica, Bratunac, Srebrenica, Milići, Srebrenik, Gornji Vakuf/Uskoplje). About **60** young people were participated and were listening about event in Sarajevo, feminist approach to justice ... and the young people expressed great interest.



November 16th-18th , Cordoba, Spain – at the feminist conference, Stasa Zajovic spoke about the experiences of WsC, and the conference was attended by hundreds of women from all over Spain.

December 15th, Bologna, Italy - Tribunale delle donne – approccio femminista alla giustizia (WsC - a feminist approach to justice) a meeting in organization of Women in Black from Bologna, a docu-film and discussion on the process of WsC activities after Sarajevo. Shehida Abdurahmanovic from Srebrenica and Stasa Zajovic participated in this event, and there were about 50 people present.

In the past months, Women in Black/Donne in Nero from Italy have organized numerous meetings about the experiences of WsC: Turin, Milan, Modena, Fano, Udine, Padua ...

During this period, the WsC organizers had numerous interviews about WsC (via skype) with feminist researchers from around the world.

VI Joint working consultative meetings - during this period, operational working meetings of organizations, experts, activists participating in the continuation of the WsC process in Zagreb and Belgrade were held.

VII Working Meetings of Women in Black: As holders of program activities in the continuation of the process of the WsC, they held working meetings (reporting activities, preparation of publications, documentation and archives of the WsC, preparation of regional WC meetings, preparation of publications on WsC.

VIII Video activism

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

Documentary films made during this reporting period are already listed in the section (*"Video activism - transitional justice - a feminist approach"*)

IX Publishing

Reports:

Regional meeting of witnesses, Skopje (September 28th-30th 2017), 9 pages

Regional meeting of witnesses, Andrevlje (November 10th-12th 2017), 17 pages

Public presentations, 5 pages

During this reporting period, witnesses at the WsC participated in numerous activities of the WiB Network: street actions; Transition Justice (visiting crime scene), Network meeting, educational programs.





NETWORKS, COALITIONS MUTUAL SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

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

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

Meeting of the Women in Black Network, September 14th-16th, 2017, in Vrnjaska Banja

Attended by **63** persons from: Montenegro (Pljevlja, Kotor) 5, Croatia (Zagreb, Osjek, Poreč) 4, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Srebrenica, Sarajevo, Tuzla, Zvornik- Đulići) 9, Slovenia (Ljubljana) 2, Serbia (Beograd, Pirot, Priboj, Prijepolje, Kruševac, Leskovac, Pančevo, Novi Bečej, Novi Sad, Kraljevo) 39, Spain (Madrid) 2, Austria (Graz) 1 and Poland (Krakov) 1.

The meeting started with the presentation of all participants, moderated by Stasa Zajovic and Snezana Tabacki.

Then the the joint activities of the Women in Black Network, since the last meeting of the Network, in February 2017 were re-sented.

Milos Urosevic (Dealing with the Past - street actions, visiting the crime places), Ljiljana Radovanovic (The Feminist Ethics of Care and Responsibility), Stasa Zajovic (Women's Court-Feminist Approach to Justice), Mirko Medenica (Solidar Support to Refugees) and Snezana Tabacki (Research Project - "Monitoring of Application of Resolution 1325").

Debate "In The Shackles of Identities"; in the introductory part were Mina Damjanović, Sabina Talovic and Dragan Stojković, moderated by Marijana Stojčić. The talk was mostly about the misuse of identity, the erosion of identity on the ethnic and religious dimension as a space of repression against others, the plurality of identity as a space of freedom and the like. About ten activists participated in the debate.

Then followed the documentary film **"The Presage of the Angel"** about **Dejan Nebrigic**, the first Serbian gay activist, writer and theater critic. Author of the movie is Branislav Princip, he and Stasa Zajovic spoke after the movie.





The work was completed for the day by a reading feminist circle, which consisted of two books:

1. *Archeology of the site of the feminist-lesbian movement* - presented by Aleksandar Puhek
2. *"The Liberation of Women: Feminist Texts (1964-1975)*, a feminist reader, presented by Miloš Urošević, edited together by Sanja Pavlović and Miloš Urošević.

"Does an engagement make sense? Is our job a 'Sisyphean task' or is it a rebellion that gives value to life?"

Panel discussion on ranges, limitations, unfulfilled promises of activist/academic/artistic engagement in the context of neoliberal capitalism, populism and social demagoguery, fascism, racism and xenophobia; debate about widespread apathy, but also global, local rebellions, responses of social movements, academics ...

The panel discussion was mostly devoted to considerations of the meaning of activist engagement, the reasons for which they became activists, spoke: Tomislav Perušić (Belgrade), Suvada Selimović (Đulići, BH), Biserka Momčinović (Porec, Croatia), Snežana Jakovljević (Kruševac, Serbia), Ljupka Kovačević (Kotor, Montenegro) and Bratislav Stamenković (Leskovac, Serbia), moderated by Staša Zajović.

After the break, there was a debate about the change in Spain "From dictatorship to democracy" (on the "dizzying" change in the position of women in Spain from 1975 to the present day, on the participation of women in government in Spain, changes at the legislative level, changing cultural matrices/models, influence of the church...) spoke Charo Nogueira, a feminist activist from Madrid and a journalist for the Spanish daily El Pais, moderated by Stasa Zajovic.

Jelka Zorn and Tanja Završek (Slovenia), Franziska Kuesgen, (Germany), Jelena Hrnjak, Binasa Džigal, Milka Rosić and Staša Zajovic (Serbia), spoke about the refugee tragedy and transnational solidarity on the "Balkan Route", about their experiences in dealing with refugees.

After the lecture, a number of films of the Group for Video Activism of Women in Black were shown.

After a short break, the documentary "**Albanian Women are our Sisters**" (Vajzat shqiptare jane motra tona), from the authors: Milena Popovic, Sanja Kljajić, Taulant Osmani, Darko Šper, produced by the Independent Journalists Association of Vojvodina and BIRN Kosovo, was screened. The film contains testimonies about the resistance of women to the violent mobilization of men in Serbia and relations between friendship and solidarity between activists of Serbia and Kosovo.





After the screening, about the film spoke Bratislav Stamenkovic Bata, Nadezda Kostic, Stasa Zajovic and Snezana Jakovljevic.

The evening ended with a feminist-pacifist party.

On the last day, within the discussion corner "Where and How", the role of statistics in changing our reality, as well as the protests of raspberry and blackberry producers due to small purchase prices, was debated. The keynote speakers were Miodrag Kapetanović and Binasza Džigal.

Moderated by: Snežana Tabački.



The Network Meeting has been finalized with the discussion about future activities and evaluation.

Moderated by: Miloš Urošević and Staša Zajović (on future activities), Ljupka Kovačević (evaluation).

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

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

Educational programs, feminist discussion circles, media conferences - in this period, the following activities were realized:

I "Growing Signs of Fundamentalisms in Different Contexts - Democratic and Feminist Responses"

This program was initiated because "the constant growth of fundamentalist tendencies is observed: on the regional and global level. The feminist movement identified, both globally and regionally, fundamentalism as the political movements of a right-wing or ultra-violent orientation that act under the cloak of religion, ethnicity, tradition, and cultural heritage."

The aim of the program is to familiarize with the disastrous effects of religious abuse by religious communities, ultra-clerical organizations and, of course, to learn and share experiences of nonviolent resistance to fundamentalist tendencies in various contexts, with the aim of strengthening solidarity among democratic forces of civic orientation against fundamentalist movements and tendencies.

Several activities were held under this program:

1. Belgrade, October 13th – at the press conference "Growing Signs of Fundamentalisms in Different Contexts - Democratic and Feminist Responses" in the Media Center (12: 00-13: 00), activists from various countries spoke about manifestations of the abuse of religion, ethnicity, cultural heritage in the contexts from which they come, about propaganda and practices against women's rights, and especially resistance to fundamentalisms:



Maryam Namazie - born in Iran, lives in the UK, an activist for secularism and human rights, a journalist, spoke against a parallel legal system - the religious/sharia courts for family issues in the UK, and numerous anti-fundamentalist initiatives.

Elena Vilenskaja, The House of Peace and Nonviolence, an activist of the International Women in Black Network, St. Petersburg, Russia, was prevented from attending a press conference (because of a delay in the flight), but her article about strengthening of the influence of the Russian Orthodox Church, especially in the Putin era was presented.

Lino Veljak, The Faculty of Philosophy, Zagreb, spoke about the causes of fundamentalism, the clericalization of the education system in Croatia, and anti-clerical initiatives.

Magdalena Sztandara, Poland, Jagiellonian University of Krakow; she reflected on the strengthening of the process of theocratization of the state and the clericalization of the society, the devastating influence of the Catholic Church on reproductive and sexual rights, violence against women, and the resistance of women.

Nada Peratovic, **Center for Civil Courage**, lives in Zagreb and Zurich; Nada recalled the clericalization in Croatia, and especially about secular and humanistic alternatives.

Biljana Stojković, **Faculty of Biology, Belgrade**; she referred to the growing clericalization of the education system, in particular the "Petition for the Review of the Study of Darwin's Theory of Evolution in Schools and Faculties", as well as on the actions against the introduction of creationism within the academic community and beyond.

Snezana Tabacki - Women in Black, Belgrade; she talked about clericalization/desecularization in Serbia, the interference of the Serbian Orthodox Church into state politics, the educational sphere.

2. Radmilovac, near Belgrade, 13-15th October "Growing signs of fundamentalisms - democratic and feminist responses ..." – 39 participants from 7 countries and from 19 cities (Russia, Great Britain, Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia) took part in this feminist discussion circle.

The program consisted of the following segments:

Basic concepts (religion, freedom of religion, tolerance, dogmatism, secularization, desecularization, clericalism, fundamentalism ...), lecturer **Lino Veljak**, Faculty of Philosophy, Zagreb, moderator **Snežana Tabacki**, WiB, Belgrade.

Abuse and Politicization of Religion in Serbia, lecturer **Srđan Barišić**, sociologist, Belgrade, moderated by **Snežana Obrenović**, WiB activist, Kraljevo

What do women want on right? - Projection of the documentary film directed by Izabela Kisic and Zlatko





Pakovic, produced by the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia. The film lasts for 28 minutes, it talks about the role of women/politicians in right-wing organizations in Serbia. After the screening, there was a discussion.

The rise of religious fundamentalism in the UK - secularist responses - a conversation with activist *Mariam Namazie*, Iran/UK, a human rights and secularism activist, moderated by Stasa Zajovic.

Bending signs of religious fundamentalism in Eastern Europe and the Balkans - resistance to clericalisation - women's answers

Elena Vilenskaja, House of Peace and Nonviolence, activist of the International Women in Black Network, St. Petersburg, Russia

Magdalena Sztandara, Krakow, Poland, Jagiellonian University

Nada Peratović, Center for Civil Courage, Zagreb/Zurich

Anđelija Vučurović, an activist of the WiB Network, Novi Sad

Biljana Stojković, Faculty of Biology, Belgrade

Snezana Tabacki, Coalition for Secular State, Belgrade

Moderated by: Mina Damjanović, WiB, Belgrade

Fundamentalism: Attack on women's rights, democracy, freedom, choice

the women's answers ... the workshop was moderated by Marijana Stojcic and Stasa Zajovic

Endangering women's safety - abuse of customary law, cultural heritage, ethnicity (forced marriages, fetishes...), activists from the region participated...

Feminist solidarity at work - joint actions against all forms of fundamentalism above all state, ethnic, religious borders, divisions ... final session

3. "Growing Signs of Fundamentalisms - Democratic and Feminist Responses"

Feminist reader - a collection of texts from a feminist discuss circle and workshops of the same name, as well as some parts from the previous publications of the WiB. Women in Black published the publication in December 2017, edited by Snežana Tabački, design by Marija Vidić.

The reader has 80 pages, contains 4 chapters: In the first chapter, lectures of panelists at the conference held on October 13th-15th, 2017, organized by WiB. In the second part of the book, the results from three workshops held in Sandzak during the first half of 2017 within the educational program "Save Our Rights", organized by Women in Black and Women of Polimlje from Prijepolje, were presented in order to raise women's awareness of the devastating effects of the abuse of religion on women's rights, and the initiation of solidarity unions and joint anti-clero-nationalist and fundamentalist practices. The third part of the book contains printed texts from the book: *Secularism and Women* from 2007, referring to Resolution 1464 of the European Parliament: * *Women and Religions in Europe* and Resolution 1580 of the Council of Europe: *Dangers from creationism to education*. The fourth part is an excerpt from the brochure "What Every Citizen Should Know About a Worldwide State" - a small glossary of secularism from 2008.



II Independent monitoring of the implementation of Resolution 1325 “Women, Peace, Security” - research project

The research program consisted of the following segments:

1. Press-conference at Media Center, October 31st, 2017 (12:00 – 13:00)

The conference presented the results of the Independent Monitoring for the implementation of Resolution 1325 in 2017. Research Working Group of Women in Black, in cooperation with women’s groups: Autonomous Women’s Center and Astra, with the consultations of experts from the Humanitarian Law Center, followed the implementation of Resolution 1325 in Serbia. During the research process we followed certain indicators, and we also referred to the National Action Plan of the Republic of Serbia adopted for the period 2017-2020.

At the conference, participated:

Stasa Zajovic, Women in Black, Belgrade: On independent monitoring of the implementation of Resolution 1325 in Serbia

Milos Urosevic, Women in Black, Belgrade: The Process of Transitional Justice in Serbia

Mina Damjanovic, Women in Black, Belgrade: The Crime of Sexual Violence in the War - Implementation of Resolution 1325

Snezana Obrenovic, Women in Black Network, Kraljevo: Militarization at State and Society level in Serbia

Bobana Macanović, Autonomous Women’s Center: Femicide in Serbia (Mapping and Institutional Response)

Marija Anđelković, Astra, Beograd: Trafficking in Serbia

Diana Miladinovic, Women in Black, Belgrade: War refugees - The refugee crisis in Serbia

Marijana Stojcic, Women in Black, Belgrade: Images of the enemy - analysis of media reporting on refugees, and so on.

Mirko Medenica, Women in Black, Belgrade: Security of Human Rights Defenders in Serbia

Marijana Stojčić: Human Rights Defenders in the Media - Analysis of Reporting on Women in Black

Nemanja Stjepanović, Humanitarian Law Center, who participated as an expert in the program, spoke about the blockade of dealing with the past in Serbia.

2. Independent monitoring of the implementation of Resolution 1325 in Serbia - a publication containing the results of the research project (Independent monitoring for the implementation of Resolution 1325 in 2017), analyzes of researchers of Women in Black, Autonomous Women’s Center, Astra (Diana Miladinović, Marija Anđelković, Marijana Stojčić, Milena Popović, Miloš Urošević, Mina Damjanović, Mirko Medenica, Snežana Obrenović, Staša Zajović, Vedrana Lacmanović), in cooperation with the consultants from the Humanitarian Law Center (Nemanja Stjepanović and Milica Kostić), Bobana Macanović, Snežana



Tabački, Tanja Ignjatović and Tamara Spaić were involved in the preparation of the publication; design by Marija Vidić, editor Staša Zajović. The publication has **134** pages and was presented on October 31st, 2017.

3. Radmilovac near Belgrade, 8th-10th December 2017 - "Divergence between normative and factual, international and EU standards - Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro"; 34 people from 15 cities from three countries participated in this feminist discussion.

The feminist discussion circle consisted of the following segments:

Independent Monitoring for the Implementation of Resolution 1325 "Women, Peace, Security"

Report of the Research Working Group of Women in Black, in cooperation with women's groups: Autonomous Women's Center and Astra, with the consultations of experts of the Humanitarian Law Center, who followed the implementation of Resolution 1325 in Serbia. In the presentation participated: Miloš Urošević, Mina Damjanović, Mirko Medenica, Marijana Stojčić, Snežana Obrenović, Staša Zajović (WiB), Vedrana Lacmanović (AWC).

Repression on human rights defenders in Serbia - activists in the Women in Black network and Women's Networks Against Violence, Women's Network of Croatia, as well as independent cultural workers (Vladan Jeremić and Tony Maslić, from the artistic-activist platform "*Salon of the Unbriable*" from Belgrade.

Feminist discussion corner - comments on selected essays and events:

Rosa Luxemburg, Why the October Revolution collapsed, the essay was commented by Ljupka Kovačević, Anima, Kotor; The case of Catalonia - the impressions from an activist tour (November 2017) was commented by Stasa Zajovic and Milos Urosevic, WiB, Belgrade, spoke about the global campaign against sexual violence "Me too".

From autocracy to totalitarianism, media darkness, censorship and self-censorship in Serbia - are there alternatives? - **Borka Pavićević**, Center for Cultural Decontamination, **Jelena Diković**, Journalist of the daily Danas and **Vesna Pešić**, sociologist, Belgrade, moderated by Marijana Stojčić and Staša Zajović.

From activist to party engagement - in this debate participated:

Biljana Stojković, Free Citizens Movement, Professor at the Faculty of Biology, Belgrade;

Rada Boric, a member of the New Left and a feminist activist, Zagreb, and **Srbijanka Turajlic**, a retired professor, Belgrade, moderated by Snezana Tabacki.

Where does feminism go today? - Feminist activists and theoreticians in the debate about the problems and challenges of the feminist movement today, participated: **Dasa Duhaček**, **Slavica Stojanović**, **Adriana Zaharijević** and **Tanja Ignjatović** from Belgrade; **Nela Pamuković** from Zagreb; **Snežana Jakovljević** from Kruševac and **Ljupka Kovačević** from Kotor, moderators were Marijana Stojčić and Staša Zajović.

During the activist-art workshop, an action for December 10th - Human Rights Day was organized.

(Note: you can find an integral report from this feminist discussion circle on the WiB website).



4. Stop hatred against women! Stop the fundamentalist and clericalist attacks! feminist-anti-clerical action was held on December 10th in Knez Mihailova street in Belgrade and more information can be found in this report in the section "Street actions".

5. Independent monitoring of the implementation of Resolution 1325 "Women, Peace, Security" - a summary of the research project in Serbian and English (47 and 52 pages) was done in December 2017 and you can find it on the Women in Black website.

6. Independent monitoring of the implementation of Resolution 1325 - presentation was held at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade, on December 28th, 2017; participated activists of WiB (Staša Zajović, Miloš Urošević, Mina Damjanović and Mirko Medenica), as well as Daša Duhaček, PhD of FPS. Documentary films by WiB about feminist-antimilitarist actions were also screened. Presentation was attended by **12** students of the Faculty of Political Science, and in the discussion that followed the lecture, the participants showed a high level of interest, especially on the feminist-antimilitaristic approach of WiB, especially on campaigns related to the banning of cluster munitions), as well as attacks on WiB due to efforts to deal with the past, etc.

III Promotions of the publication

"The Liberation of Women: Feminist Texts (1964-1975)"

Edited by Sanja Pavlovic and Milos Urosevic; Supported by: Autonomous Women's Center and Women in Black, September 2017



In this reporting period, five (5) promotions were held:

- o **Vrnjačka Banja, September 15th** - at the meeting of Women in Black Network attended by over **60** activists.
- o **Belgrade, September 28th** - about **100** people were present at the cafe "Polet"
- o **Osijek, Croatia, December 4th** - a promotion organized by the women's group "Izvor" from Tenja near Osijek was attended by **30** people.
- o **Belgrade, December 11th** - organized by the Center for Women's Studies, with participation of **20** people.
- o **Belgrade, December 27th** - a discussion in the WiB was attended by **10** people.



Solidarity is our strength

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

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

Direct actions - solidarity assistance in the field has several segments and includes:

- o **Visits to refugee sites** - activists of WiB provided solidarity assistance in parks at the Faculty of Economics in Belgrade, as well as in self-organized refugee camps (near Šid, on the border between Serbia and Croatia) and in this activity we are collaborating with "No Name Kitchen", an international volunteer network that continually provides refugee assistance in a self-organized camp in Sid. Women activists from all over Serbia participated in the collection of assistance.

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

- o **Artistic activist actions of solidarity with refugees** - street peace actions - protests over abuses and militarization of refugee tragedy, fostering solidarity of citizens with war refugees. This segment of activities also includes the aesthetic dimension of solidarity (printing flyers, making badges, banners in Arabic, Farsi, English, Serbian). In this period, street actions on September 21st (World Peace Day); November 9th (International Day Against Fascism and Anti-Semitism), were organized (more information in the 'Street Actions' section).

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





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

In addition to this, solidarity with war refugees by Women in Black is expressed by other activities:

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

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

Monitoring of the application of measures by institutions - fulfillment of the obligations assumed by the state on the basis of international conventions on the situation of refugees and asylum seekers - a gap between factual and normative state (Read more about this in Mirko Medenica reports "Refugees in Serbia, November 2017 and Dossier 10, Women in Black, December 2017)

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



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

The practice of regular discussions, lectures and joint reflections on important social and political issues in the country and in the world continued in this reporting period, in fifteen (15) lectures, debates, book presentations, projections of films took part about 350 persons:

September 6th - "Regarding Susan Sontag", a 100-minute documentary from 2014, talks about the life and work of American intellectual Susan Sontag (1933-2004); 15 people participated in the screening of the film and the conversation.

September 20th - Solidarity visit of women from the Zvornik area to Women in Black, a joint tour of Belgrade and Zemun. More than 60 women participated in this event (49 women from the area of Zvornik and a dozen activists from WiB). (More information can be found in this report in the chapter 'Women's solidarity with war crimes victims').

October 4th "How did the United States reach the Tramp era? Are there alternatives to Tramp and trampism?"- lecture and interview with Đorđe Popović, a PhD student in Comparative Literature at the



University of Minnesota, USA. There were **25** people present at this debate.

October 11th "Engaged Buddhism in the Conditions of the Modern West" - lecture and conversation with the philosopher Mirko Gaspari, with the participation of **15** people.

Celebration of the centenary of the October Revolution (1917 - 2017)

One of the most important events in the 20th century, an event that has shaken the world, has caused many controversies that are still going on ... In the framework of celebrating the centenary of the October Revolution, Women in Black organized a series of activities (conversations, screenings ...):

October 18th - projection of the documentary film about the October Revolution (40 minutes) and interview with Nenad Milosevic (writer and politicologist from Belgrade); 25 people participated.

October 25th "Political and Theoretical Contribution of Aleksandar Kolontaj" - 22 people were present at the lecture and discussion with the philosopher, the feminist theorist and activist Dasa Duhaček.

November 1st "The centenary of the October Revolution: October revolution and consequences: Lenin, Trotsky, Stalin, Luxembourg, Gramsci" - lecturer Lino Veljak philosopher from Zagreb. There were **29** people present at this debate.

November 8th "Hundred Years of the October Revolution: Current Issue of Lenin's Approach to the National Question - Repercussions in Today's World" - lecturer Luka Bogdanić (philosopher and political scientist) from Zagreb, **28** people were present at the debate.

November 15th "October Revolution in the eyes of its victims" - interview with poet and writer Danica Vukićević from Belgrade, **15** people participated in the debate.

November 22nd "Bitter Harvest" - a projection of the film from 2017 (103 min.), about the Soviet forced collectivization and hunger genocide (Holodomor) in Ukraine in the 1930s. There were **10** people participating in the screening and conversation.

(Note: texts of lectures and discussions can be found on the WiB website).

November 29th "Celebration of the Day of the Republic of SFRY" - in the introductory part, the documentary "My Little from Bosanska Krupa" is shown in the duration of 30 minutes, directed by Puriša Đorđević; The film is a testimony of Branko Ćopić, Partisan war veteran of the Second World War and one of the most famous Yugoslav writers (1915-1984). This event was attended by over **50** people, activists of the WiB, as well as associates.

December 7th, "They Dared", in a cycle about famous women, a talk about the poet Silvija Plat was organized, and the lecturer was poet Danica Vukićević from Belgrade, **11** people participated.

December 13th, "Silvia" - a 2003 movie about US poet Silvia Plat (1932-1963), attended by **9** people.

December 20th "Bosnia and Kosovo - forgotten European protectorates" - Projection of the documentary film by Zoran Solomun, (55 minutes) and discussion, attended by **20** people.

December 27th, "Women's Liberation: Feminist Texts (1964-1975)", talk about the book, attended by **10** activists and activists of the WiB, moderated by Miloš Urošević.



Publishing activities

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

“Tanja Tagirov - She left a trace in us” - the publication is dedicated to Tatjana Tanja Tagirov (1961 - 2017), journalist, anti-war/anti-nationalist/anti-fascist friend; The publication contains memories of Tanja by her friends during the homage to Tanja in the WiB premises, on July 26th, 2017. The publication was edited by Lino Veljak and Staša Zajović, design by Marija Vidić, the publication has **32** pages.

Women’s peace agenda for 2018 - dedicated to refugees from the Middle East, and testifies to the refugee tragedy on the “Balkan Route”. Reports of WiB activists from the field testify to the brutal repression towards refugees on the “Balkan Route”, but primarily on solidarity with refugees. It also testify about the feminist ethics of care and responsibility through acts of women’s solidarity with refugees above and across borders - from women from Srebrenica and Podrinje, from activists in countries along the “Balkan Route” to international volunteers.

The Women’s Peace Agenda for 2018 is dedicated to refugees, brave women, men, children fleeing from war violence around the world - from the Near and Middle East, Africa ...

The Women’s Peace Agenda for 2018 has **168** pages, it is edited by Staša Zajović, in cooperation with activists (Goran Lazin, Ljiljana Radovanović, Mirko Medenica, Marijana Stojčić, Miloš Urošević, Stefan Milosavljevic and Tomislav Perusic); design was done by Marija Vidić, photographs were made by Srdjan Veljovic.

The Women’s Black Calendar calendar for the 2018 with photographs from street actions of Women in Black during 2017 made by Srđan Veljović, design was done by Marija Vidić.

Women’s Liberation: feminist texts (1964-1975), editors Sanja Pavlovic and Milos Urosevic, supported by: Autonomous Women’s Center and Women in Black, September 2017. The book contains translations of 100 texts by 55 American authors; which are divided into five chapters (Pre movement, Women’s Liberation Movement, Awareness Raising, Thematic Texts (Sexuality, Male Violence and Privileges, Lesbian, Class and Women’s Groups), Manifesto.

The book also contains attachments (biographies of authors, information on groups and organizations, literature and recommendations for reading).

Campaigns, appeals

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

Should Ratko Mladic be released for medical treatment? – in a statement (12. 9. 2017) On the occasion of the request of the family of the war commander of the Republika Srpska Army Ratko Mladic (accused of the most serious war crimes, including the genocide before the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague) to receive medical treatment in Serbia, the WiB emphasizes that such a request represents “superior cynicism in relation to the victims”. In opposition to the aforementioned request, the WiB warns that it is an even



shameful guarantee that the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia has offered to the ICTY in order to continue Mladic's treatment in Serbia.

"Mladic's victims did not have any chance of being treated. The Mladic's family does not seem to imply that he is being treated in the same hospital where the Dutch royal family is treated. Behind the false care for his health, he is hiding a desperate attempt to escape justice and die before verdict."

Stop the war, not the refugees! - in a statement on September 21st - World Peace Day, the WiB repeated a protest over "Closing borders, raising wire fences, persecuting, deporting refugees, selling weapons in war-torn areas by Western Balkan states in war zones, war profiteering, organized crime, exploitation of refugees, racism, xenophobia, racist propaganda against refugees, violations of international conventions on refugees". The WiB repeated demands for "stopping the war in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, opening borders for all refugees and regulating their status" and, of course, support and solidarity with refugees. The press release was signed by 7 groups in four countries of the former Yugoslavia.

Stop killing Rohingya! - On the occasion of brutal violence in Myanmar, the WiB (27. 9. 2017) addressed the following requests to the authorities in that country "to stop the organized persecution of the ethnic minority of Rohingya; that Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi returns that prize, because her reckless denial of the reality of what is happening points to the fact that she does not want to do anything to prevent genocide, that the international community is demanding to use it all the mechanisms of institutional pressure in order to force the authorities of Myanmar to halt the persecution of Rohingya, that the state authorities of Serbia stop selling weapons to Burma/Myanmar, which most likely serve to kill the persecuted Rohingya."

Find the killers of the soldiers! - on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the killing of two soldiers, Dragan Jakovljević and Dražen Milovanović, in the military facility "Karas", in Topčider (5. 10. 2004) and the fact that this court procedure is still in the investigation phase. The WiB repeated demands that the state leadership (primarily the Ministries of Police, Defense and Justice) "immediately stop with the obstruction of the investigation into the murder of Dragan Jakovljević and Dražen Milovanović; to announce the truth about killing of soldiers, as well as the hiding of Ratko Mladic in the facilities of the Serbian Armed Forces. This is the only way for Serbia to move away from the war past and the crimes committed in its name; that the competent institutions punish all the perpetrators of crimes at Topčider and ensure justice for the families of victims!"

We remember the crime in Lovas - on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the crime (October 18th, 1991) in the village of Lovas/Croatia where 70 Croatian civilians were killed, and the perpetrators of the crimes are members of the Serbian armed formations and the YPA, the WiB reminds us of embarrassing verdicts for this crime before the Special court in Belgrade (2008): "The senior officers of the then YPA, under whose command this crime was committed, are not indicted ..."

The continuity of the state policy of celebrating the crimes - Women in Black, in the statement on October 19th, 2017, most severely condemned the bearers of the highest state functions and state authorities, who through their actions and statements give the recognition and glorified convicted war criminals. On the occasion of the announcement by Minister of Defense Vulin that these convicted war criminals will become lecturers at the Military Academy, the WiB emphasizes that this will "represent a step further in devastation of state institutions and humiliation of Serbian citizens." The statement also states that "The ruling



political elites, led by President Aleksandar Vucic, emerged from the moral abyss of the 1990s. Since coming to power, we are listening to empty phrases about the "importance of reconciliation" etc., but we have never heard from them the words of admitting a crime and sincere regret for all the evil inflicted during their rule in the nineties."

Amfilohije Radovic calls for hate crime against women! - Metropolitan of Montenegro and Litoral Amfilohije Radovic, said on October 15th, 2017 in the Pec Monastery (in Kosovo): "The Serbian women became mothers killers. They kill in one year more children in their uterus than Mussolini, Hitler, Broz and those who are here in Kosovo and Metohija. "The WiB strongly condemned the statement as a "fundamentalist" which confirms that "the Serbian Orthodox Church abuses religion for the direct execution of violence over women." Since the "Serbian Orthodox Church has not distance from it, we can freely consider that the position of Amfilohije Radović is at the same time the position of the official church about women who have an abortion. In the wars, this same church used its clergy priesthood, blessing all those who went to killing those with other names in the same war; and even before, during, and after wars, that church is unified in hatred towards women," the statement said.

Patriarch Irinej and the Serbian Orthodox Church/SPC intensify the nationalistic hate policy towards women - Women in Black condemned (October 26th, 2017) statements by the Patriarch Irinej that "Serbian women should giving birth" as "an expression of deepest hatred of women and absence of elementary knowledge of the social conditions in which women live in Serbia." Women in Black emphasize that the Republic of Serbia is a secular state, and therefore demand that the state take responsibility and punish the hate speech of Patriarch Irinej.

Stop Violence in Catalonia! - On the occasion of violence after the referendum on independence (October 1st, 2017), the WiB in a statement (October 27th, 2017) issued a requests "Against the threats from the central Spanish authorities for activating Article 155 of the Constitution of Spain to abolish the autonomy of Catalonia, which would have incalculable consequences throughout the region, for peaceful and non-violent conflict resolution, through dialogue and negotiations between the Spanish and Catalan governments, listening and appreciating different voices and attitudes". WiB reiterated its support for a non-violent movement in Catalonia and throughout Spain.

"Crystal Night - Never Again" - On the occasion of November 9th - the Day of the Fight against Fascism and Antisemitism (marked in memory of the "Crystal Night", known for the great pogrom, directed against Jewish citizens throughout Germany in the 1938) WiB and the Alliance of anti-fascists of Serbia warned on the "strengthening of ultra-radical parties and fascist organizations", which manifests itself, primarily "through a policy towards war refugees from the Middle and Near East."

"In Serbia, as in a growing number of countries in Europe, at the institutional and social level, anti-fascist values have been brutally crushed through historical revisionism and the political normalization of fascism, which opened up the space for the increasing presence of nationalist and neo-fascist groups in the public sphere. The relativization, denial and justification of mass crimes, the open glorification of war criminals and collaborators during World War II, as well as persons convicted of crimes against humanity during the 1990s wars in the former Yugoslavia, contribute to the strengthening of neo-fascist and racist tendencies," the statement said.



The statement on Ratko Mladic's sentence - Women in Black welcomed the verdict of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (November 22nd, 2017).

"Lifetime imprisonment is a suitable punishment for the ultimate crimes committed under the command of Ratko Mladic," the statement said, adding that "the Serbian authorities should face the facts and finally stop denying crimes and genocide, accepting the decisions of the highest international judicial institutions - The International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia".

We will never forget the crimes in Vukovar! - in a statement on the 26th anniversary of the crimes in Vukovar, the WiB and the Youth Initiative for Human Rights remind that "on August 25th, 1991, with the attack by the YPA from the air, land and the Danube, began the "hell of Vukovar". On September 19th, 1991, a large number of Belgraders, throwing flowers in front of tanks, "escorted" the First Guardian Armor Division of the YPA into a devastating path to Vukovar. As one of the most shameful events in the history of Belgrade, it is covered by the vow of silence and denial! "And nobody was prosecuted for the crimes of urbicides, the establishment of a camps, the killing and torture of Croatian prisoners in Serbia, which indicates the continuity of impunity" .

Women In Black Initiative from Belgrade, Multimedia Center/MMC Led art/Art Clinic from Novi Sad for raising memorial plaques for Croatian prisoners of war in Begejci and Stajicevo: This year we also addressed the relevant institutions (Zrenjanin and Žitište municipalities where camps were located) with the demand that memorial plaques be placed at the places of suffering and torture in the Stajicevo and Begejci detention camps, which would contribute to the process of restoring confidence and reconciliation, as well as respecting the dignity of the victims of these camps and their families. Our requests have not been heard, which indicates a lack of political will and moral responsibility in relation to crimes committed on our behalf!

Stop hatred towards women! Stop fundamentalist, clericalist attacks on women! - in a joint statement Women in Black Network, Women's Network of Croatia, Center for Women and Peace Studies "Anima" from Kotor and "BonaFide" from Pljevlja on the occasion of the International Human Rights Day (December 10th, 2017) brutally condemn hatred towards women, brutal attacks on the reproductive and sexual rights of women, the campaign to ban abortion by the highest officials of the Serbian Orthodox Church and the Catholic Church. Feminist activists oppose "imposing a way of dressing and lifestyle on behalf of Islam, control over women - restricting the prohibition of movement, polygamy, genital mutilation of women on behalf of Islam in Sandzak/Serbia". On this occasion, the demands for the secular character of the state were repeated, for reproductive rights "We will not be machines for the giving birth! We will not give birth for a nation, state, church, army."

Jevdet Ayaz case statement - in a statement (December 26th, 2017), WiB strongly condemned the decision of authorities of Serbia to extradite Kurdish activist Jevdet Ayaz to Turkey, as well as the decision to reject his asylum request. "In Turkey, Jevdet Ayaz was sentenced to 15 years in prison on the basis of his "confession" after torture, due to the "violation of the constitutional order".

"The case of Jevdet Ayaz in a brutal manner shows that the authorities of Serbia have been deprived of all scruples and values, that they are guided solely by personal and petty interests, and that the price of their disastrous activity is paid by citizens," the statement said.



Stop the occupation! - On the occasion of US President Donald Trump's decision the United States to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and violence in the occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the WiB reiterated their support and solidarity with the Palestinian civilian population, as well as with the Palestinian civil society advocating for a non-violent and peaceful solution; support and solidarity with all civil society groups in Israel that are fighting for peace and coexistence with the Palestinian people, as well as supporting the joint efforts of the Israeli and Palestinian society that continue to launch joint initiatives aimed at a just and non-violent resolution of the problem.

Women in Black filed a lawsuit against Informer for lies and hate campaigns - on the occasion of the Informer trial on September 26th, the statement states: "In a series of articles published in November last year, Informer conducted a campaign of hatred against individuals and organizations that have a critical attitude towards the government of Aleksandar Vucic. A particularly dirty campaign was launched against the non-governmental organization Women in Black because of our principled efforts to establish and punish perpetrators of war crimes in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. In the text from November 9th, "Women in Black, the biggest foreign mercenaries" for which Informer was sued, they have deliberately presented incorrect data on the amount and manner of financing of Women in Black with the aim of ruining the reputation and marking it as the national enemy" etc. The WiB issued a similar statement on the occasion of the hearing scheduled on December 25th, 2017.

The proceedings against activists of the Youth Initiative for Human Rights - Women in Black condemned the decision of the Public Prosecutor's Office in Stara Pazova and the Criminal Tribunal in Ruma to initiate and prosecute the activists of the Youth Initiative for Human Rights because of the "disturbance of public order and peace" During a event in Beška (January 2017), on which convicted war criminal Veselin Šljivančanin spoke. The WiB requested from Court to reject the absurd claims of the Prosecution.

The WiB recalls that *"the judicial authorities of the Republic of Serbia have not prosecuted any cases of violence against human rights activists. This prosecution of activists of the Youth Initiative for Human Rights is considered a continuation of state violence, which in some cases uses its" infantry "in the form of extreme right-wing organizations, and in this case judicial authorities, to intimidate and prevent" voices "that do not fit in their "parallel history and reality".*

Initiative for naming one street in Belgrade by Dejan Nebrigic - On December 29th, 2017, 18 years have passed since Dejan Nebrigic's death (1970-1999), gay activists, pacifists and antifascists. Dejan was killed in 1999 at the age of twenty-eight. As the declared anti-fascist, anti-nationalist and antimilitarist, he refused a military obligation, publicly reproving him as being a homosexual, treated at that time as a disease for which he was permanently released from military duties. At the beginning of 1992 he joined Women in Black, and gave a very significant contribution to the anti-militarist and feminist engagement of Women in Black especially in launching a conscientious objection network. From the relevant institutions we demand "to name one of many street without names in Belgrade after Dejan Nebrigic, one of the first fighters to respect the human rights of LGBT people, feminist, anti-fascist and antimilitarist", which would demonstrate that they are opposed to "homophobia and discrimination of others and different which is still the reality of Serbia." The requests to the relevant institutions have not yet been answered.



International activities

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

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

September 13th, Belgrade – a group visit from Germany (32 students from around 20 cities), and from the Student Foundation of the German People (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes). WiB activists presented W'sC experiences in dealing with the past, transitional justice from a feminist point of view.

October 1st-6th, Stockholm, Sweden - a study visit within the KTK Program Kvinna till Kvinna for Serbia, titled "Empowering Women's Rights and Women's Participation in Serbia". A total of 15 women from Serbia, from organizations supported by Kvinna till Kvinna, participated, two from Women in Black (Snežana Tabački and Mina Damjanović). The study stay was a combination of lectures and workshops on ways to combat harassment over the Internet, as well as visits to Swedish NGOs, which deal with the improvement of legislation and practice in that area. Women in Black activists spoke about the attacks they were experiencing over printed, electronic and internet media, as women's human rights defenders, and participated in workshops and lectures about improving safety and security at Internet.

November 16th-18th, Cordoba, Spain – Participation on a feminist conference "*Feminario Razones para no dar cumplimiento al mandato patriarcal*" (Reasons for not fulfilling patriarchal orders) organized by the Andalusian Platform to Support the European Women's Lobby/*Plataforma andaluza de apoyo al Lobby europeo de mujeres*". On a panel "Why we forgot wars?" (Por que nos hemos olvidado de las guerras?) participated Staša Zajović, activist of WiB, together with Monserratt Boix Pique, war reporter of TVE. She spoke about the WiB, with focus on Transitional Justice and the Women's Court, as well as on the situation of refugees on the "Balkan Route".

Barcelona, November 19th-20th - Stasa Zajovic met with activists of WiB Madrid, WiB Valencia, also with activists of feminist collective "Mujeres creando" from Bolivia and with activists from NOVACT, organization for human rights and pacifism, Catalonia.

Barcelona, November 21st - Stasa Zajovic's meet with activists from Barcelona organized by Dones per Dones at the Caladona Women's Center; in a conversation participated about thirty activists from Barcelona (Dones per Dones, Escola de Cultura de Pau, WILPF, activists from the WiB Madrid...), mostly they talked about the current situation, after the referendum in Catalonia Spain, about the feminist – pacifist experiences of WiB during the war in the former Yugoslavia, etc.

- **December 13th – 16th, Bologna, Italy** – during this visit, Sehida Abdurahmanovic, activist of the "Movement of the Mothers of the Enclaves of Zepa and Srebrenica" and the witness at the Women's Court and Stasa Zajovic, from WiB Belgrade had several meetings:
- **December 13th** – "*Analisi e pratiche femministe contro la guerra/Feminist Analysis and Practice Against War*", an activist meeting organized by a feminist group **Non Una Di Meno**/Not A Single One Less and WiB Bologna; there were about 40 people present. At this meeting, Sehida spoke about the activities of the " Movement of the Mothers of the Enclaves of Zepa and Srebrenica", and especially interested



was when Sehida talked about the genocide, the Hague Tribunal, about the process of facing the past in the region; After that, we showed the WiB movie 'We will never forget the genocide in Srebrenica' (2015). In the second part, Stasa talked about the activities of WiB, and the participants were particularly interested in our work with refugees.

- **December 14th** – Meeting with activists from UDI/Unione Donne Italiane and "Rose rosse" (Red Roses) about the genocide in Srebrenica and about joint activities, first of all, visits to the Memorial Center in Potocari.
- **December 15th** – *Tribunale delle donne – approccio femminista alla giustizia* (Women`s Court – Feminist Approach to Justice), a meeting in the organization of WiB Bologna, a docu-film was shown, and after the screening, we discussed the W`sC process, about the genocide in Srebrenica. At this meeting, there were about 50 people.
- **December 16th** – discussion with activists from WiB Bologna.

During this period, the WiB also had international visits from activists and researchers from around the world.



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