



*žene u crnom  
beograd*

**REPORT**

**for the period  
September – December 2016**

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

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

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# STREET ACTIONS

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

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

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

### Belgrade, October 5<sup>th</sup> "We will never forget the crime in Topcider"

- on the occasion of twelve years since the murder of two soldiers in military barracks in Topcider (05.10.2004), the Women in Black visited with the families the crime scene, where they laid flowers. Then, on the same day, we organized peacekeeping action in black and in silence, in Knez Mihailova Street.

At the protest were prominent following banners: We will never forget the crime in Topcider, Responsibility, Solidarity, etc. This action was attended by some twenty (20) activists.

**Belgrade, October 8<sup>th</sup> "The memory of the resistance"** - on the occasion of 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the anti-war campaign of lighting the candles in front of the Presidency of the Republic of Serbia (Pionirski Park); Protests against the war and the actions of the aggressor state of Serbia, from 8.10.1991 to 02.08.1992, the daily protest was organized in front of the Serbian Presidency, under the slogan "Solidarity with all rebels against the war" and "For all those who died in the war." In addition to these banners, following one was also raised: "Remembering the resistance war policy Serbia 1991 - 2016"

In action took part over a hundred (100) activists from European countries (Greece, Denmark, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Spain, Ukraine ...), as well as from the countries of former Yugoslavia (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Macedonia, Slovenia, Serbia) who participated in the activities on the occasion of 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Women in Black, Belgrade.





### Belgrade, October 22<sup>nd</sup> “We will never forget the crimes in Sjeverin”

- on the anniversary of the crime in Sjeverin, where on the 22.10.1992 17 Bosniak was abducted and killed, Women in Black organized a stand out in black and in silence in Knez Mihailova Street in Belgrade. On standing were the following banners:

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



### Novi Sad, November 18<sup>th</sup> „Vukovar – killing of a city“ – street action – opening of photography exhibition of Srđana Veljovića,

at „Šok Koridor 22“, a passage at Zmaj Jovina street 22, In Novi Sad. The exhibition is a joint action of MMC Art klinika from Novi Sad and Women in Black from Belgrade. The exhibition exposes what most people in this country did not want to know - crimes in Vukovar. The exhibition is also an act of compassion, solidarity and responsibility towards the victims of the crimes in Vukovar. The opening of the exhibition was attended by activists from Women in Black and Art Klinika and the author of the exhibition. The exhibition, which was supposed to be open for one month, was destroyed by the ‘unknown perpetrators’ on December 6<sup>th</sup> 2016



### Belgrade, November 18<sup>th</sup> „Vukovar – killing of the city“ – on the occasion of 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the crime in Vukovar

/ Croatia WIB organized a street action on the Republic Square (18.11.2016 from 6pm to 7pm). The action has many parts - reminders of the 87 days of killing the city and its inhabitants, the countless crimes committed in our name ...

Following banners were raised:

- 19.9.1991 - A large number of Belgraders, throwing flowers before tanks, escorted the First Guard Armoured Division of Yugoslav Popular Army/YPA in Vukovar on a destructive spree. This is one of the most shameful events in the history of Belgrade!
- 19.9.1991 - Flowers on tanks, Belgrade. Expressway - Vukovar. Responsibility!
- We will never forget the crimes in Vukovar!
- Yugoslav Popular Army held the besieged Vukovar for 87 days; killed more than 1,000 civilians, wounded 25,000, and the non-Serb population was expelled; at Ovcara they killed more than 200 sick and wounded prisoners from the Vukovar hospital; in urbicid they destroyed almost the entire city
- The camps in Serbia (Aleksinac, Begejci, Belgrade, Nis, Sremska Mitrovica, Stajićevo) passed thousands of prisoners. After the fall of Vukovar (18.11.1991) prisoners were taken to camps in Serbia: Stajićevo, Sremska Mitrovica, Belgrade, Aleksinac and Nis. Through these camps passed around 10000 Vukovar civilians and soldiers, of which 300 were killed and 495 are still missing. For the establishment of the camp, killing and torture of prisoners still noone was prosecuted.





A performance was played:

- *Installation / Setup* of 87 bricks - the duration of the siege; on each brick it is written the number in white; Bricks that are of unequal size are a symbol of demolition. Few activists raised the pieces of brick, while at the same time one person asked information about the killing of the city, a second reading data on a megaphone.
- *Burning candles* (87) - because it is the symbol of Vukovar residents to mark the anniversary of the fall, but also a symbol of anti-war resistance / burning candles in Belgrade during the siege of Vukovar (and of course other crimes ...).
- On the street action were read information on the killing of the town of Vukovar (human, cultural monuments, hospitals, schools...).

This action was attended by over fifty (50) activists of Women in Black, supported by activists from the Association of Mothers of Srebrenica and Zepa and Anima from Đulić. Support was also provided by the groups from Belgrade: Autonomous Women's Center, Reconstruction Women's Fund, Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Humanitarian Law Center.

Despite the fact that the police secured the action, and there was a good media coverage, an unidentified man at the monument to Prince Mihailo, in front of which we stood, stuck paper on which was written the following: Women in Black are the shame of the Serbian people.

### Feminist, antifascist, antiwar, antiracist, antimilitarist actions:

#### Listed chronologically:

**Belgrade, September 21<sup>st</sup> "Stop the war, not refugees"** - on the occasion of 21<sup>st</sup> September, the International Day of Peace, Women in Black in Knez Mihailova Street in Belgrade, organized a peace action "Stop the war, not refugees."

Following banners were raised in Arabic, English and Serbian language:

- Stop the War, Not Refugees
- Stop the smugglers, not the refugees
- Stop the sale of weapons, not refugees!
- We want open borders, not a fortress Europe!

As part of this peace action, a stage action "Stop the war in Syria" was performed. The action was attended by about thirty (30) activists.



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**Belgrade, October 3<sup>rd</sup> "Solidarity with women in Poland"** - in the context of the global campaign of solidarity with the feminist women's movement in Poland and the general strike "Black Monday" a group of feminists from Belgrade organized a solidarity action in front of the Polish embassy in Belgrade. Action was attended by 10 activists of Women in Black and the Autonomous Women's Center. Global solidarity caused the immediate suspension of the law on the prohibition of abortion.

**Belgrade, October 8<sup>th</sup>, "We don't want a fortress Europe-we want open borders - Refugees are welcome!"**

The action was organized in solidarity with war refugees from the Middle East, and to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women in Black. In this action, which took place in the Knez Mihailova street were raised following banners (in Arabic, Serbian, English, German, Dutch, Danish, Hungarian, Spanish, Italian, Greek, Kurdish, Russian, Slovenian, Dari...):



Solidarity with the refugees, Peace, Zone free of hatred, Open the borders, Europe 1938 - Europe 2016, Open the borders, no to fortress Europe, Stop the war, not refugees, Refugees are welcome, and so on.

This event was attended by about 150 activists from a dozen European countries, as well as all the countries of the former Yugoslavia.

**Belgrade, November 9<sup>th</sup>, "No to Fascism - antifascism is my choice"** - on the occasion of the International Day against Fascism and anti-Semitism, Women in Black, together with the antifa-choir "Our song" organized anti-fascist action near the monument to antifascists hanged in the city center (Terazije street). The monument was erected in 1983 in memory of the five anti-fascists who were hanged by members of the Gestapo, on August 17<sup>th</sup> 1941.



Following banners were raised: Antifascism is my choice, Women in Black against fascism, No pasaran - Women in Black against fascism, November 9<sup>th</sup> - International Day against Fascism, Women in Black against fascism and anti-Semitism, Together Against Fascism, One race - the human race, Resistance: Who, if not me; when, if not now; Where, if not here?.

**Belgrade, November 28<sup>th</sup>, "NE rehabilitation"** - in front of the High Court in Belgrade, WIB, Antifascist Union and 'No rehabilitation' protested carrying banners 'Stop fascism,' Stop rehabilitation,' 'Antifascism is my choice'; antifascists activists were singing partisan songs. The protest took place during the hearings in the process of rehabilitation of quisling Milan Nedic, President of Serbian quisling government during the occupation in the Second World War. The next hearing is scheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup> 2017.

**Belgrade, December 6<sup>th</sup>, "No woman less, no more dead"** - on the occasion of December 6<sup>th</sup> - Day against femicide Network of Women Against Violence and Women in Black activists, supported by Reconstruction Women's Fund and a number of feminist activists, organized the protest. The protest was organized on the city's main streets (through Knez Milos Street to the Government of Serbia. Walk (protest march) were led by 32 women dressed in black tunics, because it is the number of women killed in 2016 in Serbia. The participants raised banners 'Stop femicide,' Punish irresponsible behavior of the institutions, "React, until it's not too late," no woman





less, no more dead." Network of Women Against Violence and Women in Black organized this action for the third year in a row, with a request that the state oversees the implementation of laws and strict punishment of the competent institutions which do not comply with the law. The protest was attended by about fifty (50) activists.

### **Kruševac, December 9<sup>th</sup>, "Stop racism - We are all Roma women and men"**

- Association of Women Pescanik from Krusevac, Women in Black and the Roma Center for Women and Children have organized anti-racist protest against raising the wall around the Roma settlement "Marko Orlović" under the pretext that the residents should be "protected from noise and heavy vehicles." Following banners were raised: WALL = discrimination and ghettoization of the Roma population; WALL = hatred and intolerance against the Roma population; WALL = racism and fascism; WALL = separation, isolation, humiliation ... The action was attended by the inhabitants of the Roma settlements that have denounced discriminatory, racist character of the wall. This action was attended by about forty (40) persons.



### **Belgrade, December 10<sup>th</sup>, "Paths of Remembrance" 75 years since the deportation of Jewish and Roma women and children in the Sajmiste camp**

- in the days between 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December 1941, Jewish women, Roma women and their children who have lived in Belgrade were deported in camp Sajmiste (Semlin Judenlager).

Research and education on the Holocaust, Union of Jewish Communities of Serbia, Association of anti-fascists of Serbia, Women in Black and the Youth Initiative for Human Rights organized on the International Day of Human Rights, commemorative action, "Paths of Remembrance". Anti-fascist march began at the corner of George Washington Street and Dalmatian Street, where in 1941 was the headquarters of 'Police for Jews and Gypsies', then the way took us to House of the Army (the former Gestapo headquarters), and Republic Square - the places of crimes committed by the Nazi and quisling government during the occupation of Belgrade in World War II. Antifascist Action was ended on Sajmiste, site of the death camp for the Jewish and Roma people. Participants talked about the importance of marking this date, but also about the necessity of fighting against all pro-fascist / Nazi / anti-Semitic ideas and movements, speakers were: Sofia Todorović (Youth Initiative for Human Rights), Nikola Radic and Milovan Lucati Pisarri (Center for research and education about the Holocaust), Zajović Stasa (Women in Black ). This action was attended by about one hundred (100) persons.



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### **Belgrade Pride, September 18<sup>th</sup>** / Pride march for the rights of LGBT people, organized by the Belgrade Pride, attended by about twenty activists of Women in Black Network.

**Civil protest "Don't drown Belgrade" - (September 29<sup>th</sup> and October 20<sup>th</sup>)** - Protests were organized against the brutal violence and demolition in the area of Savamala in Belgrade. Namely, in the night between 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April, organized group of dozens of uniformed personnel under the masks, with use of threats and physical force, bulldozers demolished buildings in an area of 1000m2. The demolition was carried out at the site intended for the construction of "Belgrade on Water", the project concluded in violation of the law, questioned by professional and public activists. The protests were organized by the movement "Ne da(vi)mo Beograd", which deals with issues of public space. Higher Public Prosecution refused to provide information on the demolition in Savamala. It is a cover-up, concealing the direct perpetrators and organizations, justifying crimes / demolition, etc. In all these protests have participated activists of Women in Black.





# FACING THE PAST TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE - A FEMINIST APPROACH

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

## Visiting the places of crimes „committed in our name” and other crimes committed against civilians during (and after) the wars in ex-Yugoslavia

In this reporting period, Women in Black visited:

**Lovas, Croatia, October 18<sup>th</sup>** – four (4) Women in Black activists attended the celebration of 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the crime in Lovas (18.10.1991. Serbian armed forces killed 70 Croatian civilians).

**Sjeverin, October 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Women in Black activists participated in the comemoration on the anniversary of crimes committed against Bosniak civilians in Sjeverin (northwestern part of Serbia, on the border with Bosnia

**Vukovar/Croatia, November 19<sup>th</sup>** “*Responsibility and solidarity*” - participation in the commemoration in Vukovar, together with the women of Srebrenica, Zvornik (Đulići, Klisa). In Vukovar, we paid tribute to the victims along with their families, as well as citizens of Vukovar. We attended a memorial service, which was held in the village of Borovo, near the ruined building of Borovo Commerce. We visited the farm at Ovcara where victims were killed and the Ovcara memorial center. Then we attended the memorial service held in Borovo Selo on the banks of the Danube.

**December 20<sup>th</sup>, Vranic, near Belgrade** - the occasion of the 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the fascist crimes of Chetnik formations in the Second World War (the murder of 68 inhabitants of Vranic village on the night of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December 1943), ten (10) activists of the Network of Women in Black, together with the activists from Tuzla (BiH) and activists from Zagreb attended the event in the local Cultural Centre, together with the villagers. Then they visited the memorial room in the house of Pantic family, whose members were killed in the massacre.





# WOMEN'S SOLIDARITY FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF WAR CRIMES

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

**September 27<sup>th</sup> and November 20<sup>th</sup>, Bela Reka/Serbia** – solidarity visit to family Jakovljevic as a sign of deepest sympathy and solidarity with their courageous struggle for truth and justice; Jakovljevic family were visited by the Women in Black activists from Belgrade.

**September 23<sup>rd</sup> and December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Đulići, Bosnia and Herzegovina** – Women in Black activists and witnesses at the Women's Court from Eastern Bosnia (from the village of Klisa and Đulići), in the framework of the visits of mutual support, held a working meeting on joint future activities.

*(Women in Black activists have met with women and families of the victims after the anniversary of the crime, which was discussed in previous sections of this report).*

## **Educational activities regarding confronting the past – transitional justice: lectures, debates, workshops, film screenings in organization of Women in Black and related organizations**

In this reporting period we organized a lot of sessions, debates, some of them are:

**September 15<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade** - *"Politicized remembrance: the fight for the territory of collective memory"* - an interdisciplinary workshop organized by TPO Foundation from Sarajevo, held on the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade. Staša Zajović, WIB, spoke about dealing with the past - a feminist approach, and in the same workshop historian Dubravka Stojanović (teaching history as pre-military training. Is there a way out?); Sonja Biserko, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia (break-up of Yugoslavia in the context of international relations). Sessions were attended by about twenty students / activists from the region (BH, Serbia, Croatia).

**November 18<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade** – Discussion in the premises of Women in Black on transitional justice issues, the artistic design of WIB actions in relation to dealing with the past, debate was attended by twenty young activists from Belgrade and activists from Kosovo; The debate was held after a street actions on the occasion of 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the crime in Vukovar.

**November 20<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade** – *"The feminist approach to justice - the experience of Women in Black"*; lecture held by Staša Zajović, in the premises of Civil Rights Defenders; This lecture was attended by a dozen people, students of the Law Faculty and the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade. Video materials about the experiences of Women in Black and a docu-film „Women's Court-feminist approach to justice“ were shown.

**November 21<sup>st</sup>, Niš** - *"The feminist approach to justice - the experience of Women in Black"*; lecture held by Staša Zajović in the premises of the Committee for Human Rights in Nis; attended by **12** people, students of social sciences. Both lectures were introduction to feminist approach to justice. Video materials about the experiences of Women in Black and a docu-film „Women's Court-feminist approach to justice“ were shown.

**December 10<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade** – What for the young people means dealing with the past? Talk about activities related to dealing with the past, as well as other activities of Women in Black; meeting was held in the Women in Black office and





attended by about a dozen young people from several towns in Serbia (Pozarevac, Sabac, Nis, Belgrade, Zrenjanin). The interview was moderated by Miloš Urošević, Stefan Milosavljevic and Stasa Zajović (WIB).

**December 13<sup>th</sup>, Novi Sad – Conference “Breaking The History”**; organized by the Youth Initiative for Human Rights; the immediate cause of this conference was demolition of the exhibition of Srdjan Veljovic ‘Vukovar-killing of a city’ on the occasion of 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the crime in Vukovar and in the organization of Women in Black and Art Klinika. During the debate, participants discussed the concepts of dealing with the past among young people - the consequences of war on their daily lives and the socio-economic, political position. On behalf of the Women in Black, spoke Stefan Milosavljevic.

**December 16<sup>th</sup>, Banja Vrujci (70 km from Belgrade):** *Do courts and trials at the international and national level meet the justice?* In this debate was discussed about the achievements, limitations, contradictions of international justice institutions (the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia / ICTY, trials and courts at national level in the countries of former Yugoslavia (impunity, sacrifice justice ...?); The role of civil society in meeting Justice - the creation of alternative models of justice ...

The lecture was held by Nemanja Stjepanovic, Humanitarian Law Center, Belgrade, at this meeting was **37** people from the former Yugoslavia (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia, Serbia).

**December 16<sup>th</sup>, Banja Vrujci** *“Comparative review of legislation relating to rape as a war crime - in the former Yugoslav states”* panel discussion with the participation of Milica Kostić, Belgrade, Jadranka Milicevic and Lejla Mamut from Sarajevo and Mira Vilušić from Tuzla. The discussion was held within the framework of a regional meeting of witnesses of the Women’s Court, which was attended by 37 people from the former Yugoslavia (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia, Serbia).

## ARTISTIC ENGAGEMENT IN CONFRONTING THE PAST /TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

During this period the practice of joint work and cooperation with art collectives, professional theaters, artists engaged in the artistic expression of resistance to war, war crimes, repression and human rights abuses was continued. Besides the above mentioned artistic and activist initiatives, primarily in the section “Street actions” in this period were organized several working meetings related to the conception and implementation of activist-artistic actions with artistic collectives: Multimedia center Led Art / Art Clinic and Dah Theatre on joint activities in that period, a working meetings were held in Belgrade and Novi Sad.

In this period, activities were focused on:

- Final version of documentary film about the Women’s Court - feminist approach to justice
- 25 anniversary of Women in Black, Belgrade (exhibition, performances, street actions)
- 25 years of crimes in Vukovar (exhibition, street actions...)

*(More details about these actions you can find informations in different chapters of this report)*



# VIDEO ACTIVISM: TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE - FEMINIST APPROACH

With the aim of greater visibility of various transitional justice models, especially the one from feminist approach, promoted by Women in Black, during 2010, a group of video activists was organized and trained for recording, editing, digitalisation, posting of audio and video materials on internet, which were gathered during regular activities of Women in Black, so they would be available as short movies for wider audience. Maria

Vidic is coordinator of this group, in cooperation with Maria Arandjelovic, Zinaida Marjanovic, and other Women in Black activists. Besides movies produced about Women's Court (mentioned in previous chapter) in this reporting period the group have finalized following video documentaries:

- **Always desobidient** (2.59 min.) – video presentation of WiB activities (images and words...)
- **“Stop the war, not refugees”** (4.5 min.) – documentary on street action of Women in Black in Belgrade (September 21<sup>st</sup> – International day of Peace).
- **“Neda Bozinovic continuity of the struggle for peace and women's rights”** (17:15 min.) - A documentary about Neda Bozinovic (1917.- 2001.), one of the founders of Women in Black.
- **“Neda Bozinovic - from partisan to antimilitarists”** (15:45 min.) - Documentary film, interviews with Neda, about her participation in the Second World War, the causes of the dissolution of SFR Yugoslavia, etc.

During this period, for various educational programs, following documentaries were translated and subtitled:

- **Marinaleda is no surrender / Marinaleda no se Rinde** (31 min) - a documentary about the fight for social justice and solidarity of residents of Marinaleda, on the effects of the struggle to this community. Marinaleda is located in Andalusia, in southern Spain and has become a symbol of the just society, making it famous throughout the world.
- **Bitter strawberry / La fresa amarga** (30 min.) - A documentary film by Mariano Agudo. The film testifies about the brutal exploitation of immigrants / men and women on plantations in the south of Spain, their fight for labor rights, with the support of social movements in Spain.
- **Women make change** - Score Card Rwanda - film directed by Alistair Waterson lasting 24:59 minutes; talk about the experience of Felicity Niyitegeka, founder and director of women's sports organizations Akwos from Kigali in Rwanda. The film is about the empowerment of women through football, in the aftermath of genocide (1994), in which women are the biggest victims, especially of sexual crimes.
- **Women's Court – feminist approach to justice** (52 min.) - documentary movie directed by Filip Markovinića, production of WiB (2016.) about WC held in Sarajevo (May 7-10 2015.). This movie was translated on:
  - **Women's Court – feminist approach to justice**
  - **Gjykata e Grave – një qasje feministe në drejtësi** – Albanian language
  - **Tribunal de mujeres – enfoque feminista** – Spanish



# WOMEN'S COURT FEMINIST APPROACH TO JUSTICE

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

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

Women in Black, during the five years, are the leaders of program activities of the Women's Court.

The final event in Sarajevo is not the end of the process, but rather an incentive to creating new models of justice out of the feminist perspective. It is the responsibility primarily to the witness, but also an expression of our responsibility to the enormous burden of the recent past.

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

In this reporting period, we are reporting activities of Women in Black and other organizations participating in the continuation of the process of Women's Court:

## **I Feminist ethic of care - support witnesses**

**Regional meetings of witnesses** - these meetings of witnesses are part of the continuing process of the Women's Court and in this reporting period we organized four (**4**) and these meetings were held in:

### **Vrnjačka banja, September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Meeting was attended by **18** women and the witness from Montenegro, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia. The whole event took place in the form of workshops, and was dedicated to psychological support to witnesses; the entire event was coordinated by Ljupka Kovacevic.

### **Banja Vrujci, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Regional meeting of the Women's Court witness, held in Banja Vrujci (70 km from Belgrade), was attended by **37** people. The meeting was organized by Women in Black from Belgrade in cooperation with: Anima Kotor, Foundation CURE from Sarajevo and the Center for Women War Victims, Zagreb.



Following Women's Court witness participated:

**Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Kadefa Rizvanović, Zumra Šehomerović, Nura Mustafić, Suvada Selimović, Šaha Hrustić, Šehida Abdurahmanović

**Montenegro:** Anka Vukićević, Maja Jovović, Zagorka Matović, Roksanda Peković, Sabina Talović

**Croatia:** Milica Miladinović, Marica Šeatović

**Macedonia:** Marijonka Atanasovska

**Serbia:** Nadežda Kostić, Mirjana Mijailović, Vesna Đorđević, Marija Kovačev

**Slovenia:** Mirjana Učakar

**Women's Court therapist:** Ljupka Kovačević, Nela Pamuković, Jadranka Miličević, Staša Zajović, Mira Vilušić, Marijana Senjak

**Women's Court assistants:** Snežana Obrenović (WIB, Kraljevo), Rada Žarković (WIB, Sarajevo), Refija Hadibulić (Bajranovići/Srebrenica...)

**International friends:** Lejla Mamut (UN Women, Sarajevo), Amrita Kapur (International Center for Transitional Justice, Njujork), and two persons from Latin America.

Following panels were held:

#### **Do courts and trials at the international and national level meet the justice?**

In this debate was discussed about the achievements, limitations, contradictions of international justice institutions (the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia / ICTY, trials and courts at national level in the countries of former Yugoslavia (impunity, sacrifice justice ...?); The role of civil society in meeting Justice - the creation of alternative models of justice ...

The lecture was held by Nemanja Stjepanovic, Humanitarian Law Center, Belgrade.

#### **Comparative review of legislation relating to rape as a war crime - among the former Yugoslav states**

In this panel discussion participated: Milica Kostić, Belgrade, Jadranka Milicevic and Lejla Mamut from Sarajevo, Mira Vilušić from Tuzla and all the participants expressed some achievements in this area (material reparations in BH, unfortunately, include the small number of women victims of crimes).

However, it is necessary to encourage an active policy of support for victims of sexual crimes: symbolic rather than material reparation, empowering survivors development programs (education, health care, housing ...).

It was emphasized that the worst situation is in Serbia since the Law on civil victims of war does not recognized rape as war crime, despite the persistent efforts of the Humanitarian Law Center and related organizations.

**The misuse of religion for political purposes, clericalism and its impact on women's rights** - with the screening of documentary films about the resistance of women in various fields. Participated: Nela Pamuković, Zagreb, Stasa Zajović, Beograd, Lejla Mamut and Jadranka Milicevic, Sarajevo. Short documentaries about feminist resistance to abuse of religion were shown.

During the meeting, feminist team of therapist held several group workshops, as well as numerous interviews with Individuals (feminist ethics of care and responsibility). At this meeting the Amrita Kapur (International Center for Transitional Justice, New York) had individual interviews with the organizers of of WC, as well as a series of group interviews / workshops with the witness on the WC and the WC procs organization, continuation of the process of WC, etc. a text expertise of Amrita Kapur will be published in the publication of books Woman testimony.

In the meeting, a precise plan of activities of WC until May 2017 was made, when the next scheduled meeting of the Women's Court is scheduled.



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

In this reporting period we organized eight (8) public presentation, in five (5) states of former Yugoslavia. There were 330 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)*
- *Talk with the audience (Effects of the Women's Court, the continuation of the process of WC, the problems that are facing the most in their environment - proposals, suggestions for maintaining the 'mini' WC on specific issues, etc.).*

**Belgrade/Serbia, October 7<sup>th</sup> 2016** – there was a promotion of the documentary film “Women's Court - Feminist Approach to Justice” which was attended by 30 witness from all countries of the former Yugoslavia, organizers and supporters of WC. The event was attended by about one hundred and fifty (150) persons from all countries of former Yugoslavia, as well as a dozen European countries.

**Ljubljana/Slovenia, October 16<sup>th</sup>** - was held at the Social Center “Rog”, participants were witness from Croatia (Milica Miladinović Marica Šeatović i i Jovanka Carevic) Slovenia (Mirjana Učakar), the organizers of WC (Nela Pamuković, Marijana Senjak, Stasa Zajović), activists, citizens. The event was attended by about fifty 50 people.

**Pljevlja/Montenegro, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**- promotion of the film about WC was held in the NGO “Bonafide”, participants were witnesses from Montenegro (Sabina Talović) and Serbia (Binasa Džigal), organizers and activists of WC (Stasa Zajović and Violeta Đikanović); was attended by about thirty (30) persons - Bonafide activists, citizens from Pljevlja and also from Priboj, Prijepolje, Bijelo Polje, Belgrade ...

**Prizren/Kosovo, November 5<sup>th</sup>** – participated by witnesses from Kosovo (Nuri Tholey), Serbia (Lidija Radičević, Nadezhda Kostic), as well as organizers and activists of WC from the Serbia and Kosovo, and was attended by 18 women.

**Belgrade, November 20<sup>th</sup>** – at the premises of the Civil Rights Defenders on ‘Feminist approach to justice - the experience of Women in Black, the lecture took part ten people (10), students / activists Faculty of Law and Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade; on this promotion, interactive lecture was held by Staša Zajović.

**Niš/Serbia, November 21<sup>st</sup>** – in the premises of the Committee for Human Rights in Nis, participated 12 persons, students of social sciences; issue ‘feminist approach to justice - the experience of Women in Black’. Video materials about the experiences of Women in Black, and docu-film “Women's Court-feminist approach to justice” were shown.

**Osijek/Croatia, December 8<sup>th</sup>** – event was held in the City University Library, a part of the campaign “16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women”, organized by women's associations “Izvor” Tenja, with the support of the Center for Women War Victims from Zagreb and Women in Black from Belgrade. At this promotion participated witnesses from Croatia (Baketa Jelena, Milica Miladinovic, Jovanka Carevic and Marica Šeatović), Serbia (Marija Kovačev), the organizers of WC (Nela Pamuković, Nikolina Zec, Stasa Zajović), a member of the International Chamber (Vesna Teršelič), a promotion was attended by some forty (40) women, mostly activists of local civil society organizations.





**Đulići (Bosnia and Herzegovina), December 22<sup>nd</sup>** - organized by the Association of Citizens 'Anima' from Đulići and Women in Black, Belgrade; promotion was held in the home of Suvada Selimovic. There were 21 women from nearby cities: Đulići, Klisa, Šetići, Tojšići, Potocari near Srebrenica, Bajramovići, Pljevlja (Montenegro), Leskovac and Belgrade. There were witnesses from BH (Suvada Selimovic, Saha Hrustić, Nura Mustafić, Šehida Abdurahmanović) from Croatia (Milica Miladinović) and Montenegro (Sabina Talović), as well as the organizers and activists of WC (Dunja Hadžiomerspahić, Milka Rosić, Stasa Zajović and Violeta Đikanović).

The most important points:

On all the public presentation of WC witnesses said that the most important thing about WC (as before the events in Sarajevo, and after that) is that it creates a space for solidarity, mutual support, enormous trust as prerequisites for joint effort to fight for just peace. Witnesses also believe that during the process they become activists, and now are included in a number of activities of civil society organizations in their communities and beyond.

However, the witnesses, as well as women (and a few man) who attended public presentations, consider that nationalism, militarism, insecurity for minorities, especially ethnic or minority members on the basis of racial, ideological, sexual) continue to prevail. In addition to meeting people with the idea and experience of WC, one of the goals is to create space for organizing the 'mini' women's courts on specific problems faced by women. Among the proposals for the 'mini'WC were: violence / discrimination on ethnic grounds, including persecution, as well as issues related to violation of labor rights of women at the level of militarization of society and the state ... We can conclude that it is a multi-layered violence, that the various forms of violence intertwined (ethnic / class / gender / militaristic violence).

### **III Joint working consultative meetings**

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

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

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

### **V Documentary and Feature Film Screenings**

Documentaries produced by WiB's video activism group include films on access to justice, peace, and security. All screenings are followed by discussions about the film and the initiatives related to Women's Court – Feminist Access to Justice.

**Creation of the final version of the documentary Women's Court - feminist approach to justice;** in this reporting period, the film is translated and subtitled in Albanian, English and Spanish.



## VI Women's book of testimony

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

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

## VII Participation of the witness and the organizers of WC in the activities of the Women in Black (street actions, visiting the crime scenes, the educational programs)

### 1. Visiting places of crimes

- *Sjeverin/Serbia, October 22<sup>nd</sup>* – joint participation of activists of the Network of Women in Black and the witness from Serbia (Binasa Džigal) at the comemoration;
- *November 19<sup>th</sup>, Vukovar/Croatia* – participation of witness from BH (Suvada Selimovic, Saha Hrustić and Šehida Abdurahmanović) from Croatia (Jelena Baketa) together with Women in Black activists on the commemoration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the crime in Vukovar;
- *December 20<sup>th</sup>, Vranić near Belgrade* – witness from of Croatia (Milica Miladinović) with activists of Women in Black Belgrade, 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Chetnik crimes against civilians of Serbian nationality.

### 2. Women's Peace Meeting:

- *Prizren/Kosovo, 3, 4. i 5. novembar* – učestvovala svedokinje iz Srbije (Nadežda Kostić i Lidija Radičević), sa Kosova (Nurije Tolaj).

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

- *Đulići, September 23<sup>rd</sup> and December 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>* - (Suvada Selimović, Šaha Hrustić, Reiha Avdić, Šehida Abdurahmanović, Reiha Abdić from BH), from Montenegro (Sabina Talović).

### 4. Street actions

- *Belgrade, October 8<sup>th</sup>* – Peace action on the occasion of 25<sup>th</sup> years of Women in Black Belgrade, attended by about 30 witness from all countries of former Yugoslavia;
- *Belgrade, October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>* - actions of solidarity with refugees in Belgrade parks (Kadefa Rizvanović from BH)
- *Belgrade, November 18<sup>th</sup>* – to mark 25<sup>th</sup> years since the crimes in Vukovar, participated witnesses from BH (Suvada Selimovic, Saha Hrustić and Šehida Abdurahmanović), Serbia (Nadezda Kostic).

(About these actions you can find more in chapter "Street actions" of this report)

## VIII Publications

In this reporting period, we prepared reports about Women's Court presentations – 35 pages and activity reports on WC.



## Women's peace policy - education programs

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

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

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

**4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> November, Prizren / Kosovo** - The event was attended by 18 women from the following places: Kosovo (Djakovica, Kosovska Mitrovica, Pristina, Gracanica, Decani, Ponoselec, Babaj Bokes), Serbia (Kraljevo, Krusevac, Belgrade).

Program for the second meeting on Kosovo was designed together with the participants of prior meetings in Kosovo (June 2016) and consisted of talks, workshops, screenings of documentary films on the following issues: gender identities, multiculturalism / interethnic relations, intercultural solidarity, gender dimension of transitional justice - feminist approach to justice, women's experience of the international peace movement, etc.

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

In this reporting period following activities were realized:

**Đulići, September 23<sup>rd</sup>** - third cycle of full-day workshop, which was attended by 21 women from the following cities: Đulići, Šetići, Klisa, Tojšići, Tuzla, Zvornik, Belgrade. Logistics was provided by Suvada Selimovic and Saha Hrustić, activists of NGO Anima. Workshops were moderated by Women in Black activists from Belgrade: Slavica Stojanović, Stasa Zajović and Violeta Đikanović.

The program consisted of the following workshops:

- Perfect day - Me and my needs (joint reflection on gender roles and raising awareness of their needs);
- Me and my identity - for most participants is the most important gender identity of the mother, almost all have emphasized women's activism as an important component of their life, while ethnic and religious identity for the majority of women is less important, and so on.

### Screenings of feature and documentary films:

**The day I became a woman** (74 minutes), directed by Marziyeh Meshkini; Iranian film consists of three stories of the patriarchal restrictions imposed on women in the name of customary law and religion. The film testifies about struggle and desire for freedom of women.

Also were shown Women in Black short movies - about the feminist, anti-fascist street actions.

**Women's Library Đulići** - WIB has initiated the establishment of the library, brought a lot of books, women have taken over the books and it was agreed to organize a meeting with all the female readers circles. On the meeting also were agreed joint activities.





# NETWORKS, COALITIONS MUTUAL SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

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

We organized a number of activities, such as:

**October 7<sup>th</sup>, Centre for Cultural Decontamination/CZKD, Birčaninova 21**

**Always Disobedient – On the Same Task** – Opening of the Belgrade Women in Black exhibition, Multimedia Centre Led, art/Ark Klinika (*Snežana Tabački and Violeta Đikanović, Belgrade*)

**Personal/Political/International...** scenic action and video presentation performed by WiB activists and the artist-activist collectives Skart and Dah Theatre

**Women's Court – Feminist Approach to Justice (52 minutes)**, promotion of the documentary film directed by Filip Markovinović, WiB production (2016) about Women's Court (WC) held in Sarajevo, May 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> 2015. The screening was followed by a discussion, with the participation of WC witnesses, the International Judicial Council, WC associates, organizers, activists...

This event was attended by **150** persons.

**Saturday October 8<sup>th</sup> CZKD**

**Neda Božinović – Continuing the Fight for Peace and Women's Rights (17 minutes)** – documentary film about Neda Božinović (1917-2001), one of the founders of Women in Black. About Neda spoke Gordana Stojaković, writer and feminist activist from Novi Sad.

The same day we organized three panel discussions:

- **Militarization of Europe: The Rise of the Power of the Right, Persecution of Refugees... – Responses from Peaceful Female Activists and Social Movements from the Region and Europe**

Participants:

- *Sissy Vovou*, feminist-antimilitarist activist, Athena/Greece
- *Anna Valente*, Women in Black, Torino/Italy
- *Ana Dević*, sociologist, Imre Kertesz College, Friedrich-Schiller University, Jena
- *Concha Martin Sanchez*, Women in Black, Madrid/Spain
- *Elena Vilenskaya*, House of Peace, St. Petersburg/Russia
- *Yana Zakorko*, Women in Black volunteer, Ukraine
- *Jadranka Miličević*, CURE Foundation, activist in Women in Black network, Sarajevo/Bosnia & Herzegovina

Moderators: Jovana Vuković and Staša Zajović





- **A Different Europe is Possible – Podemos Experiences: On the Streets and in Parliament...** Discussion with Mari Carmen Garcia Bueno, member of Podemos and union leader

Moderator: *Staša Zajović*

- **Quo vadis Europe? – Refugee Crisis and the Responses from Social Movements**

Participants:

- *Zoran Solomun*, director and social activist, Berlin/Germany
- *Mikloš Biro*, professor of psychology, University of Novi Sad
- *Ivana Radović*, Astra, Belgrade
- *Jelena Hrnjak*, Atina, Belgrade
- *Jolanda Ruiler*, Women in Black, Santander
- *Jone Gerini*, Women in Black, Ravenna
- *No borders activists*

Moderator: *Mirko Medenica*, Women in Black, Belgrade



The same day WiB organized also two street actions:

- **We Do Not Want a European Fortress – We Want Open Borders – Refugees Welcome!** – street action in Knez Mihailova Street
- **Remembering Resistance** – In accordance with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of anti-war action, a candlelight vigil called *To all Victims of War and in Solidarity with all War Resisters* was held in front of the building of Presidency of the Republic of Serbia (Pioneers' Park)

*(About these actions you can find more details in this report "Street actions")*

### **Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> October**

**Actions of solidarity with war refugees from the Near and Middle East** - two visits to Belgrade parks, by about thirty Women in Black activists from Italy, Spain, Ukraine, Netherlands, Germany, Russia, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia ... activists spoke with refugees, participated in the distribution of humanitarian aid to those in need, who, fleeing from war seek refuge in Europe.

Working meeting between representatives of the initiative Ne(da)vimo Beograd and Podemos-Mari Carmen Bueno - in the premises of Women in Black, the meeting was attended by activists of Women in Black from Spain, Italy, Russia, Germany.



### **Monday October 10<sup>th</sup>**

Working meetings of Women in Black Network Activists participants from Zagreb, Sarajevo, Herceg Novi, Petrovgrad, Lueven, Madrid, Santander, Verona, Ravenna, Torino, Belgrade...

At the all-day meeting we discussed the refugee crisis, the militarization of Europe and joint actions. It was agreed that in all future joint actions linking three things: war, refugees and arms trafficking.

*(Integral report you can find in WiB site)*



## Meeting of the Network of Women in Black - Vrnjačka Banja, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September,

The meeting was attended by 57 participants from 24 cities. Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Croatia (5), Macedonia (1), Montenegro (3), Kosovo (6), Ukraine (1) and Serbia (40)

### *Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>*

**“The pictures and words”** - on the activities of the Women in Black Network between two meetings, reported by activists of Women in Black Milos Urosevic (War Crimes Trials), Stasa Zajovic (Women’s Court), Ljiljana Radovanovic (commemorations of war crimes victims ), and solidarity support to refugees (Violeta Đikanović).

In the second segment of the activists of the Network were briefly presenting some of the activities, who were extremely important for them. Participated: Sabina Talović (Pljevlja) and Ljupka Kovačević (Kotor).

The meeting continued with the presentation of the participation of activists of the Network at an international conference, under the theme Together we are building a network of feminist, internationalist solidarity and a just peace.

Participation on Filia Conference in Hamburg was presented by *Snežana Tabački*.

Moderator was *Snežana Obrenović*

### **Civil society between fear, repression and struggle for survivor** – panel discussion

**Participants:** *Slavica Stojanović*, Reconstruction Womens Fund, Belgrade, *Sabina Talović*, Bona fide, Pljevlja, *Nela Pamuković*, Center for Women Victims of War, Zagreb, *Nikolina Zec*, Womens group Izvor, Osijek, *Ljiljana Radovanović*, Women in Black, Belgrade and *Ivana Ristić*, Women for Peace, Leskovac, moderator: *Mina Damjanović*.

In the evening a documentary movie **“La fresa amarga (Bitter Strawberry)**, by Mariano Agudo was shown. It follows migrant workers on the largest strawberry plantation in Andalucia. It shows a horrible conditions of working and living, as well as merciless exploitation, but also their organized resistance, supported by Andalucian Union of Workers and Women in Black Sevilla.

### *Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>*

#### **Civil riots - relief from fear, solidarity, alternative ...**

In this panel participants were:

- Vladimir Marovic (Lokalni front, Kraljevo)
- Marijonka Anastasovska (Šarena Revolucija, Veles)
- Simon Simonovic (Ne da(vi)mo Beograd)
- Dragan Stojkovic (Alliance of Independent Citizens for Zemun)
- Đokica Jovanović (President of the Assembly of the Association of tenants, Niš)
- Anđelija Vučurević, Novi Sad (Support RTV Vojvodina) and
- Nela Pamuković and Lino Veljak (Academic Solidarity and Antifascist protests, Zagreb).

Moderated by Stasa Zajović

**About dealing with the past, and youth activism in Kosovo**, spoke Venera Čočaj from Pristina. She has a video presentation of a series of activities and actions implemented by the Youth Initiative for Human Rights Kosovo. The predominant number of activities was dedicated to dealing with the past, to protect people who are victims of threats to their human rights and the promotion of rights, justice and strengthening the role of youth in society of Kosovo.

**Feminist Reading Circle**, consisted of two parts.

The first part, the book Kristin Delphi, “Main enemy”, was presented by Aleksandar Puhek, activists from Zagreb.



In the second part, about the books they read, spoke Stasa Zajović, Snežana Tabački i Slavica Stojanović, moderator was Miloš Urošević.

**“Where and how to proceed”** - a discussion circle in which participated:

Binasa Džigal, who spoke on the cultivation of raspberries, which she is doing after leaving the job in FAP Priboj;  
Suvada Selimovic, from Đulići in Bosnia and Herzegovina presented their experience with the production of vegetables;  
Saha Hrustić spoke about the solidarity of women returnees in the village Đulići;  
Miodrag Kapetanovic spoke about Brexit, the repercussions of a referendum in the UK, EU.

The interview was moderated by Snezana Tabački.

During even, documentaries of Group for video activism of Women in Black were shown. On the last day of the meeting future activities were agreed, as well as evaluation. Participants stressed special “significance of what they heard and learned about the civil uprisings, which are authentic, coming from the local level, spread across Serbia, and show how self-organization and resistance to yield results. They also emphasized the persistence and hard work shown by the people during the civil rebellion. encouraging other people to move on.”

(Integral report on the meeting of the Network can be found on the website of Women in Black)

## **Solidarity is our strength**

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

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

During this period, we have organized the following activities:

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

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



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

**September 21, Belgrade** - **"Stop the war, not refugees"** – peace action-solidarity with refugees held in main street.

**October 8<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade** - **"We do not want a fortress Europe-open the border - the refugees are welcome! In the main street** (On both actions you can find more in the section "Street actions").

**October 9<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade** - **solidarity visit to war refugees from the Middle East in the Belgrade parks.** Around twenty activists from several countries - Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, Italy, Macedonia, Kosovo, Slovenia, Serbia, Russia, Ukraine, Spain, the morning and afternoon were in the parks. Apart from the division of humanitarian aid, activists have long conversations with refugees (the conditions in which the refugees live, their serious health problems, refugees have testified about the hopelessness and despair ...).

**October 26<sup>th</sup> Belgrade** - Info-park, located near the bus station, which is distributing twice a day hot meals to refugees in the parks, was closed on that day by the City of Belgrade authorities, two activists of Women in Black (Sofia and Mirko) visited refugees in abandoned warehouses behind the bus station, where shelter found about 150 refugees. They live in catastrophic conditions: the interior was completely dilapidated, dark, musty, smoky, without doors and windows, and build a fire because of the cold ... The refugees testified about police brutality, threats to be deported ...

**October 27<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade** - this day activists of Women in Black visited refugees twice. In morning, they were in the parks and in the afternoon along with Kurdish activists from Congress of Free Women (Kongreya JINENE Azad / KJA). On this occasion we talked with the refugees on their position. And of course, during this and every visit, activists of Women in Black had taken a modest humanitarian aid in food and clothing they collected.

**October 29<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade** - in the morning visiting refugees in a park near the Faculty of Economics activists of Women in Black have noticed the arrival of new refugees, and in the evening they visited refugees in abandoned warehouses. During day the main focal point for refugees is the park at the Faculty of Economics, and in the evening the refugees returning to abandoned warehouse behind the bus station, where they spent the night. Increased police presence around the warehouse was spot, which further enhances the ultimate threat and vulnerability of refugees.

**November 1<sup>st</sup>, Belgrade** - The Humanitarian Law Center (HLC) has helped WiB in the collection of used clothing for refugees in the park.

**November 19<sup>th</sup>, Sid, on the border between Serbia and Croatia** -

activists of Women in Black talked out of the camp because the entry to a refugee camp in Sid is limited to employees of the Commissariat for Refugees, the staff of the camp and several employees of humanitarian organizations. As for the refugees, the entrance to the camp is limited just to those who are registered in the police after entering Serbia, and the registration process can be carried out only in Belgrade, which is about 100 km! In a talk with refugees, they told us about the brutality of the Croatian police which caught and physically abuse them after refugees illegally crossed the border. After this physical abuses, they were deported back to Serbia, but in Sid told him that he needs to register at the police station in Belgrade. They refused to give him medical assistance in the camp ... This is just one of the documented cases of illegal deportation from Croatia. Although the refugees when they were caught, asked for asylum, Croatian police ignored their request and deport them to Serbia or Bosnia, depending on the country from which they come.





**November 28<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade** - four activists of Women in Black participated in the "cleaning" of warehouses, (behind the bus and train station) along with a dozen activists from around the world, with Doctors Without Borders (MSF) and the Refugee Aid Serbia (RAS). "One group of volunteers worked disinfection of blankets that people use in warehouses. The second group is scrubbed buildings and things inside the warehouse ... When the volunteers entered the building and began to sweep and collect trash, refugees immediately came to the help. In each of the object was between 100 - 150 people, so the cleaning was done thanks to the incredible teamwork, language barrier was not a problem. Refugees who are 'stuck' in passing through Serbia had to seek shelter in the dilapidated and abandoned buildings where garbage piled up for years. There is only one small dumpster in this zone, no electricity, no running water (except for a few broken pipe from which sometimes leaks), so the conditions are miserable and unimaginable. It's hard to spend a day cleaning of these facilities, let alone to sleep and stay in them for months. People in these buildings do not have access to the most basic resources necessary for the maintenance of hygiene ... "reads the report from this action.

**December 18<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade** - the temperature was below zero, a large number of refugees are still not properly dressed for such weather conditions. They miss warm clothes, shoes, a large number of refugees in the absence of the jacket "wears" blankets. "Because of the cold, they were burning fire, around which they gathered to heat themselves. Due to the amount of smoke in warehouses you can barely see, it is hard to breath, and eyes are burning. The refugees complained about the catastrophic conditions and that nobody helps them. To our question whether they ultimately considered the option to go to one of the centers for refugees, they resolutely rejected such a possibility, because they know that from the centers they could be illegally deported to Macedonia or Bulgaria. The fear of illegal deportation is bigger than hunger and cold ..." stated in the report activist of Women in Black (Mirko M.).

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

### **Beside fore mentioned activities, we also organized following:**

**Solidary actions in the field** – in cooperation with other organizations.

### **Assistance to refugees in Refugee Aid Foundation/RAF daily center**

Women in Black activists, with solidary help of Reconstruction Womens Fund supported in November and December Refugee Aid Foundation. They are running a daily center for refugees in Jug Bogdanova street. Everyday it host minors,





mostly men, who are coming from Krnjaca camp; everyday between 20-25 of them are coming and spending their day in the center, playing, talking, learning.

We provide assistance on the following ways:

- 1. Assistance in food** – every Monday we were bringing weekly supplies (vegetables, rice, pasta, juice, oil, spices, eggs, milk...). Also on every Tuesday we brought fruits and sweets, as well as clothes we collected from our activists.
- 2. Assistance for Safe House:** collecting clothes and toys for Safe House for women and children refugees which is run by NGO Atina.

All these activities were coordinated by Violeta Djikanovic with support of other WiB activists.

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

- **Writing and sending reports** - in Serbian and English, for domestic and international networks and institutions we work with, to learn about the problems of refugees, their status, their human rights abuses, discrimination, both at the level of institutions and society. In this reporting period, activists of Women in Black were prepared then (10) reports.

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

- *recording of complaints and appeals on violence and discrimination against the refugees* – the source of information are the direct contacts with refugees, meetings and exchange of information with activists of allied organizations and movements at regional and international level, monitoring media reports on the situation of refugees, contacts with representatives of international human rights institutions, especially those for Migration and refugee rights.
- *logging abuses and militarization of the refugee tragedy* - cases of repression, abuse, exploitation of refugees by state and non-state actors in the form of robbery and enrichment at the expense of refugees. (O ovome ŽUC izveštava kako putem izveštaja, tako i u brojnim saopštenjima).
- *monitoring the implementation of measures by the institution, fulfilling the obligations assumed by the State on the basis of international conventions on the situation of refugees and asylum seekers - the gap between factual and normative status* (Opširnije o ovome u izveštajima Mirka Medenice: "Kratok pregled izbegličke krize - oktobar 2016. i "Aktuelna situacija u kojoj se nalaze izbeglice", novembar 2016.godine na srpskom i engleskom jeziku možete naći na sajtu ŽUC-a).
- *discriminatory behavior of public authorities towards Women in Black during a visit to a refugee reception centers* - throughout the duration of the refugee crisis, independent organizations, critical towards authorities, such as the Women in Black, impeded access to areas where refugees are located. Activists and activists of Women in Black were questioned by the police, numerous requests to be allowed to enter the camps were rejected, even to deliver collected aid. They received threats from workers of the Commissariat for Refugees, photographed and otherwise harassed, etc. (Detailed report on discrimination can be found on the website of Women in Black: Attacks on Women in Black from September to December 2016, Dossier no. 7).
- *international solidarity* - contacts with international networks for the exchange of information, devising joint actions, organizing mutual visits, debates ... In this period, we have organized a number of visits, international conferences, debates. (You will find comprehensive information in this report and on the website of Women in Black).



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

The practice of regular discussion circles, lectures and joint reflection on important social and political issues in the country and the world, continued in the reporting period in which it is organized twelve (12) lectures and debates in which 250 persons participated:

September 14<sup>th</sup>, meet and talk with the Sebar Winston - feminist-antimilitarist activist from the United States. The same day, was organized the screening of the film For a girl like me (The story of Gwen Arah) by Polish director Agnieszka Holland from 2006, about the life and murder of transgender Gwen Arah (1985-2002). The event was attended by 20 people.

### September 21 "From partisan to housewives: the image of women in the Yugoslav film"

Lecture with video projection by sociologist Marijana Stojčić, in the presence of 23 people.

October 12<sup>th</sup> "Bitter taste of freedom" - the documentary that speaks about the work and life of murdered Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaja (2007). Guest of the meeting was Elena Vilenskaja, House of Peace and Nonviolence, St. Petersburg, the international network of Women in Black, and was attended by 27 people.

October 19<sup>th</sup> "It concerned us too, towards the election in the United States" - a conversation in which the speakers were: Sonja Biserko, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia, Mirko Gaspari, philosopher, Lino Veljak, philosopher, Dragan Jovanović, philosopher. In the debate took part 22 people.

October 26<sup>th</sup>, meeting with Kurdish activists, Congress of Free women / KJA - activists Ayşe Gökkan, Nebile Oydaş Çetinkaya and Cavlan Erengezeggin spoke about the situation in Kurdistan, about the crackdown on activists, etc. The meeting was attended by 13 people.

November 2<sup>nd</sup> "Zvzdan" - projection of movie Zvzdan, directed by Dalibor Matanic / Croatia. This projection was attended by 12 people

November 9<sup>th</sup> "Antifascist friendly night" - on the occasion of the International Day against Fascism and anti-Semitism. On this occasion, we present two documentaries about Neda Bozinovic (1917 -2001.), Women in Black activist: From partisan to antimilitarists (15 min.) And the continuity of the struggle for peace and women's rights (17 min.). The event was attended by 33 people.

November 16<sup>th</sup> debate on the book "The Hole" - book is evidence of the wartime suffering in this city, and the war and the postwar Mafia. About the book spoke: Snežana Tabački, Stasa Zajović and Violeta Đikanović. On this occasion also was presented a documentary film about Vukovar, produced by videoactivism group of Women in Black. It was attended by 15 people.

November 23<sup>rd</sup> "Activist resistance to repressive legislation: A law on the restriction of civil liberties and human rights" - a lecture held by Sofia Vrbaški, Women in Black volunteer from Canada, and was attended by 15 people.

December 7<sup>th</sup> "Abolition of prostitution" - On Milica Bogdanović and protectors of women, lecture given by Milos Urosevic in the presence of 8 people on one of the pioneer social worker in Croatia, the organization that rescuing women from prostitution, advocated for the abolition of prostitution in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.

December 14<sup>th</sup>, "War has no woman's face" - a conversation about the book of Belarus Svetlana Aleksijević, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature (2015). The book was presented by Miloš Urošević, Senka Knežević and Stasa Zajović. Then projection of Polish documentary "Soldiers who do not exist" (32 minutes), about the Russian soldiers killed in the war in Ukraine, was held in the presence of 14 people.

December 21<sup>st</sup> "You may dream" - theater performance of Dah Theatre, directed by Dijana Milosevic, the author of the text and actress Ivana Popovic Milenović sets in present significant but painful issues related to the history





of the 90's, the dilemma of young people in connection with these and other issues. Therefore, after the show was organized debate "go or stay - that is the question?" on the issues raised in the play, as well as the dilemmas of young people in relation to the life prospects in this country. Young activists of Women in Black from Belgrade, Nis, Zrenjanin participated ... After that the WIB choir sang anti-fascist songs. This event is also an act of solidarity of Women in Black with Dah Theater, who is threatened with eviction from its premises, which represents an attack on the anti-regime engaged art - the freedom of thought and expression ... This event was attended by about forty persons (40).

### **Mutual support and solidarity**

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

**October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Zagreb / Croatia** - participation in humanistic conference organized by the Centre for Civil Courage (Zagreb, Croatia). In this conference participated activists of Women in Black and the Coalition for a Secular State we talked about following subjects:

Stasa Zajović, Belgrade (Religious abuse and its impact on the human rights of women;

Snežana Tabački, Beograd (The influence of the Serbian Orthodox church on public affairs and public policy);

Anđelija Vučurević, Humans, Novi Sad (On repression against small religious communities in Vojvodina) and Biljana Stojković, Belgrade (clericalism in education).

**October 17<sup>th</sup> Belgrade** - Femicide in Serbia, press conference at the Media Centre, organized by the Network of women against violence. It was attended by several activists of Women in Black.

**October 31<sup>st</sup>, Požarevac / Serbia** - The trial for femicide in the High Court in Pozarevac, Miloš Urošević, Women in Black activists has been to this trial together with activists of the Network of Women Against Violence.

**December 9<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade** - on the occasion of December 10<sup>th</sup>, International Human Rights Day, the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights and Women in Black organized by the Media Centre press conference of non-governmental organizations in relation to continuous defamation campaigns, criminalization and attacks on defenders of human rights, the media and individuals in Serbia.

At this conference, human rights defenders have highlighted the problems faced by activists, the media and citizens in Serbia, what types of attacks experienced, as well as the measures taken by themselves, which is possibly taken by the State.

On this meeting participated:

**Bobana Macanović**, AZC

**Borka Pavićević**, CZKD

**Dragoslava Barzut**, Da se zna – web-portal for documentation of violence towards LGBT persons

**Jovana Prusina**, YIHR

**Ksenija Radovanović**, „Ne da(vi)mo Beograd“

**Kristina Todorović**, JUKOM

**Milica Kostić**, Humanitarian Law Center

**Marijana Savić**, Atina

**Sonja Biserko**, Helsinki Committee Serbia

**Stasa Zajović**, Women in Black

Moderator Tanja Tagirov, journalist Vreme



## Campaigns, appeals

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

Appeals and campaigns listed:

**Stop the strengthening of militarization!** - In this statement (19.9.) Women in Black protest against the increased militarization of society in the form of extending the voluntary military service (compulsory military service was abolished in 2010), and the dangers of reintroduction of compulsory military service: "After all the lunatic wars, executed and planned in Belgrade, the issue of military service, as did the question of arming, equipping, or the military budget, is one of the most important to prevent new militarization of society, characteristic of undemocratic regimes, followed by unreasonable spending and corruption ...". On this occasion, Women in Black has instructed the authorities with following requirements: to prevent the extension of the voluntary military service; that all discussions on the allocation of budget funds to be made public and that civil and military leadership suspend all attempts of a new militarization of society, and so on.

**Stop the War, Not Refugees!** - A statement on the occasion of 21<sup>st</sup> September, the International Day of Peace, in the statement WIB's highlights. "On behalf of the geostrategic and territorial objectives, countless armed formations for five years killing, torturing, expelling the civilian population. And not only in Syria but also in the whole area of the Near and Middle East ... Hundreds of thousands of refugees from Syria and Middle East, fleeing the war, daily, seeking refuge in Europe, where they are greeted by wire fences, walls, new types of concentration camps, smuggling networks, harassment by police, military and civilian authorities ...While the EU and the Balkans closing refugee routes, roads for smooth trade in arms are free, open and very profitable. The weapon ends up in the hands of the armed forces in Syria and elsewhere, further fueling the war ...". On the occasion of Serbian officials' statements that export of arms has a positive influence on the development of the defense industry in Serbia, WIB warns that "it is shameful that a region that has recently experienced the horrors of war, don't have different way of earnings, than production and sales of tools of death".

**Discover the killers of soldiers!** - On the occasion of the twelfth anniversary of the murder of two soldiers, Dragan Jakovljevic and Drazen Milovanovic at the military facility "Karas" in Topcider (05.10.2016.) and the fact that the judicial process is still in the pre-trial stage. WIB's repeated requests that the state leadership (primarily the ministries of police, defense and justice) "to immediately stop the obstruction of investigation of the murder of Dragan Jakovljevic and Drazen Milovanovic; to told the truth about the murder of the soldiers, and the hiding of Ratko Mladic in the facilities of the Army of Serbia. This is the only way for Serbia to move away from the past and war crimes committed in its name; that the competent institution punish all the commanders and perpetrators of crime in Topcider and to ensure justice for the families of victims!"





**We do not want a fortress Europe - we want open borders! Refugees are welcome!** - The statement (8.10.) Repeated the request for “stopping the war in Syria and elsewhere - because the responsibility for the war, suffering and destruction shall be borne by the European countries that are exclusively managed by geostrategic interests and profits from the sale of weapons,” protest against the closure of the borders - wire fences, persecutions, deportation, humiliation of refugees fleeing from war, poverty, repression ... “Women in Black activists from a dozen countries in Europe and countries of the former Yugoslavia, confirmed: “Solidarity, responsibility, support for women and children as the most vulnerable part of the refugee population, but also with the men who refuse to be cannon fodder in wars, seeking refuge in European countries; To welcome refugees - with dignity and equal treatment, integration and regulation of the status of refugees,” etc..

**Tightens the iron ring around the refugees** - in a statement Women in Black (10.11.) On the occasion of an open letter from the Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs to the organizations that assist to refugees in which they warned them that: “... assistance to refugees residing outside the centers, in the form of food, clothing and footwear ... is no longer acceptable, especially in the city of Belgrade”. This Ministry, Commissariat for refugees and the police from the outset of the refugee crisis have a clear agenda ... It is based on the exploitation of refugees by taking money from them and the use of refugees to obtain huge financial resources from the EU and other countries and organizations. Despite the big money that the state of Serbia has received from international factors, it is not able to provide the minimum conditions for the stay of refugees. This is done intentionally and constitutes the second part of a national strategy for refugees, and that is to create unbearable conditions for refugees to stay so they would “voluntarily” left Serbia ... WiB in the statement warned:” ... increasingly common practice of illegal deportations, conducted by the police with the help of the Commissariat for Refugees. Refugees excerpts from the center of Presevo and take them to the border with Macedonia, where they are forced to cross into Macedonia.”

**Initiative of Women in Black from Belgrade, Multimedia Centre/MMC Led Art/Art klinika** from Novi Sad for building a memorial plaque to Croatian war prisoners in Begejci and Stajićevo: Women in Black and Art klinika addressed in November 2016 the representatives of municipal parliaments in Municipalities of Zrenjanin and Žitište appeals to adequately memorialize concentration camps Begejci and Stajićevo, where civilians and war prisoners of Croatian nationality suffered in the beginning of the 90ies. This year, our appeal is joined by a dozen of organizations of civil society in Serbia. This way, we repeated our years long initiative to adequately memorialize places of torture and suffering of Croatian war prisoners and civilians in concentration camps Begejci and Stajićevo, which are located on territories of town Zrenjanin and Municipality Žitište. The authorities in charge have not yet responded to this request.

**We remember the crime in Lovas** - on the occasion of 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the crime (18.10.1991.) In the village of Lovas / Croatia where 70 Croatian civilians were killed by members of the Serbian armed forces, the aggressor JNA. WIB in a statement reminiscent on the shameful verdicts for this crime by the Special Court in Belgrade (2008): “the verdict misinterpreted nature of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia: relativized is the responsibility of JNA, which in the name of Republic of Serbia attacked a other republic of Yugoslavia, Croatia. Senior officers of the former JNA, under whose command executed this crime are not accused ...

**“We will never forget the crimes in Vukovar** - on the occasion of 25th anniversary of the crime in Vukovar, Women in Black and the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights warned:” For Crime of Urbicide, for the establishment of the camp, killing and torturing Croatian prisoners in Serbia still nobody was prosecuted, which points to the continuity of impunity .... the truth about the crimes committed during the wars of the nineties of the last century not to be buried along with the victims and their instigators, organizers and perpetrators should not escape the moral, political and criminal responsibility. it is a prerequisite of a just peace and regional stability.”





**November 19<sup>th</sup>, Sid, on the border between Serbia and Croatia** - activists of Women in Black talked out of the camp because the entry to a refugee camp in Sid is limited to employees of the Commissariat for Refugees, the staff of the camp, and several employees of humanitarian organizations. As for the refugees, the entrance to the camp is limited just to those who are registered in the police after entering Serbia, and the registration process can be carried out only in Belgrade, which is about 100 km! Refugees told us about the brutality of the Croatian police. After illegally crossed the border, they were caught and physically abused. After this, they were deported back to Serbia, but in Sid, officials told them that they need to register at the police station in Belgrade. They refused to give them medical assistance in the camp ... This is just one of the documented cases of illegal deportation from Croatia. Although the refugees when they were caught, asked for asylum, Croatian police ignored their request and deport them to Serbia or Bosnia, depending on the country from which they come.

**In Serbia lynching is always precedes by language of lynch** - a statement on the occasion of the spread of false rumors by the tabloid "Informer". WiB statement (17.11.) warns: "On November 9<sup>th</sup> Informer published an article entitled: "WOMEN IN BLACK LARGEST FOREIGN MERCENARIES: West gave them 1,587,596 euros to accuse Serbia for war crimes." In the text, the organization Women in Black is called "obscure" and states that Women in Black receive huge sums of money for "anti-Serb operation," insinuating that Women in Black are "traitors", "foreign agents" and that for money they "working against the state" and the like. From day to day it published photos of Stasa Zajović, and beside her stood her name and the amount of 1,587,596 euros, which insinuates that she personally received the said sum of money, which made her a target. Similar articles were published for other people from related NGOs. " "We hereby inform the public that all information presented in the Informer Informer are false - devoid of any factual truth" and that we will press charges against "The Informer," the statement said.

**Stop violence against human rights defenders!** - On the occasion of 29<sup>th</sup> November - International Day of Human Rights Defenders, Women in Black has warned the public to the alarming situation in which human rights activists are placed, the impunity of violence against them, as well as the latest defamation campaign in the newspaper 'Informer'. "Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic and Minister of the Interior Nebojša Stefanović, with their shameful statements directly involved in the campaign against the Woman in Black. Creating a false public image that Women in Black are working with their activities against Serbia and that for this work they gain huge amounts of money from abroad, the authorities of Serbia, led by Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic have created an atmosphere where every attack on our activists is expected, is justified and even desirable. The attackers impunity for previous attacks, sent a message that they do not need to care for the consequences of their actions," the statement on 29.11.2016 .

**State blessing for violence against human rights defenders** – on the acquittal in Pocuca Case : On December 14<sup>th</sup> 2016 Court in Belgrade acquits Radomir Pocuca for threats and endangering safety of Women in Black activists.

Radomir Pocuca in March 2014<sup>th</sup> urged hooligans to attack activists of Women in Black during their street action. At that time Pocuca was a high official of Anti-Terrorist Unit of Serbian Police. When the case was brought to Court, he escaped in Russia, where he was for 18 month. His defense was based on freedom of speech. Pocucas explicit and brutal call for violence was presented as a „normal“ opinion, which he practiced freedom of speech. Second argument of his defense was „extreme stances“ of Women in Black. As his lawyer said „anti-militarism, feminism, insisting on war crimes prosecutions...are extreme stances and someone who promote them can expect extreme answers“. With a lot of anxiety we have received the fact that the court accepted these arguments and with this verdict, made them an official policy. This decision represents an encouragement for anyone who wants to commit violence, verbal or physical, towards human rights activists. It is also a message to all state institutions, the police, the courts how to deal with similar cases. This verdict is a confirmation of what we were fairly confident, taking into account the intensification of attacks on activists in the last 3 years, and the absence of state response. Serbian authorities are the most responsible for this situation. For all future attacks we will considered Serbian government led by Prime Minister Vucic, as directly responsible. At the same time Women in Black will continue, by all legal means to seek justice and punishment for attackers on human rights defenders.



**Initiative to name one street in Belgrade by the name of Dejan Nebrigić** – on December 29<sup>th</sup> 2015 was the sixteen anniversary of death of Dejan Nebregić (1970-1999), gay activist, pacifist and antifascist. Dejan was murdered in 1999 at twenty eight years of age. As declared antifascist, antinationalist and antimilitarist, he declined his military service obligation, publically announcing that he was homosexual, which at that time was treated as a disease for which he was permanently liberated from obligation to military service. In the beginning of 1992 he joins Women in Black, and he gave a very significant contribution to antimilitarist-feminist engagement of Women in Black with his enrollment in establishing a network for conscientious objection. From authorities in charge, we demand that “one of many streets in the city which are nameless be given the name by Dejan Nebrigić, one of the first fighters for respect of human rights of LGBT persons, a feminist, antifascist and antimilitarist”, which would be a way for authorities to show they oppose homophobia, and a way to “prevent discrimination of others and different to keep labeling the reality of Serbia”.

### **Publishing activities:**

In addition to the publications listed in the preceding sections of this report, we published the following:

**Women's Peace Agenda 2017** – is dedicated to the women's peace movement; provides a brief historical overview of women's peace movement, organizations of the first women's initiative that evolved into a powerful global peace movements, specificity / currents within the movement, and so on.

Women's Peace Agenda 2017 - brings significant dates from the women's peace movements at the regional and international levels. Women's peace agenda for 2017.- dedicated to all the brave peace activists, and women who are fleeing from war violence around the world - Near and Middle East, Africa ...

Women's peace agenda for 2017 has 164 pages, it is edited by Stasa Zajović and Milos Urosevic in cooperation with Snezana Tabački, Ana Pandey, Ivana Vitas, Violeta Đikanović, layout and design was done by Marija Vidić, photography is done by Srđan Veljović.

**Peace calendar of Women in Black for 2017:** Calendar consists of photographs of the street actions of Women in Black (Srđan Veljović), design was done by Marija Vidić.

**“Tomb of Miroslav Milenkovic”** - in memory of Miroslav Milenkovic, informal antiwar movement from Belgrade published a book, entitled “Tomb of Miroslav Milenkovic.” Miroslav Milenkovic, a reservist from Gornji Milanovac was killed in Sid, September 17<sup>th</sup> 1991, finding himself between two group of soldiers, those ready to go to the front, and the group which refused. The book contains messages of participants in anti-war campaign in October and November 1991; publication was first published in late 1992, WIB has released a reprint in October 2016 on the occasion of 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of antiwar resistance in Serbia; publication has 55 pages.

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**Belgrade, February 2017.**

