



*žene u crnom
beograd*



Report

**January, February,
March and April
2022**

As before, we bring you a brief report on the activities of Women in Black in the mentioned period, and if you are interested in more information, you can find them on our website www.zeneucrnom.org or contact us by e-mail at: office@zeneucrnom.org

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Street actions:

Street actions: In this reporting period, we organized fifteen (15) events and we also actively participated in other street actions:

- Commemorations/marketing important dates of crimes committed in our name;
- Feminist, anti-fascist, anti-war, anti-racist, anti-militaristic actions...

COMMEMORATIONS/MARKING OF IMPORTANT DATES OF CRIMES COMMITTED IN OUR NAME, AS WELL AS OTHER CRIMES AGAINST THE CIVILIAN POPULATION, DURING AND AFTER THE WARS, IN THE TERRITORY OF FORMER YUGOSLAVIA:

Belgrade, 27th February

Belgrade, 27th February “We remember the crime in Štrpci” – commemorating the 29th anniversary of the crime committed in Štrpci, Women in Black organized a vigil in mourning and silence in Knez Mihailova Street in Belgrade.



The following banners were displayed during the vigil:

- 27th Feb. 1993 – Members of the Serbian paramilitary formation Avengers abducted Bosniak passengers from a train on the Belgrade-Bar railway
- The death train number 671 departed from Belgrade
- The train stopped at 3:48 p.m.
- The kidnapped and killed: names of the victims
- We remember the crime in Štrpci (27th February 1993-27th February 2022)
- Solidarity
- Responsibility



About twenty (20) activists were present at the vigil.



Prijepolje, 27th February

Prijepolje, 27th February “We remember victims of Štrpci crime” - in front of the memorial plaque in Prijepolje, the 28th anniversary of the crime in Štrpci was marked. Activists of the association of women Žene Polimlja from Prijepolje (Serbia) and *Bona Fide* from Pljevlja (Montenegro), on behalf of the Network of Women in Black, together with the families of the victims, paid tribute to the victims of crimes in Štrpci.

Belgrade, 6th April

Belgrade, 6th April “We remember the beginning of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina” - on the 30th anniversary of the beginning of the war in BH and the siege of Sarajevo, April 6th, 1992, Women in Black and Youth Initiative for Human Rights organized a peace action in Knez Mihailova Street in Belgrade.

The following banners were displayed during the vigil:

- 30 years since the onset of the war in BH
- We held the same banners/messages during the siege: Do you remember Sarajevo? ; Sarajevo a tomb of the living, etc.
- From April 1992 until February 1996, Women in Black protested against the siege of Sarajevo – every week, in Republic Square, in mourning and silence.
- Belgrade to Sarajevo during the siege:
 - Black band* – on May 31st 1992 in Belgrade, 100,000 people protested against the war and siege of Sarajevo.
 - 1,000 letters for Sarajevo* – civic action (1995) of collecting Belgrade citizens’ letters for the citizens of Sarajevo.
 - Sending packages Belgrade - Sarajevo - solidarity civil action from the beginning to the end of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Solidarity collection of aid in Belgrade for Sarajevo - for women, children, men in cellars...*
 - Peace Caravan 9 -11 April 1995* - for the first time since the beginning of the war in BH, about 40 people from Belgrade visited the besieged city of Sarajevo.

The siege of Sarajevo (from April 1992 till November 1995) lasted 1,475 days and was the longest siege of a city in modern history. During the

siege, over 11,000 adults and 1,601 children were killed. More than 480,000 missiles were fired at the city...

In the war in BH (1992-1995): 97,207 people were killed, about 20,000 women were raped; in Bosnia and Herzegovina there were 1,350 camps through which about 200,000 people circulated, 8,372 people were killed in the genocide in Srebrenica.

During the peace action in which **25** activists took part, messages from people from Belgrade to people in Sarajevo were collected.

Belgrade, April 23th

Belgrade, April 23th “Why?” – on the occasion of the 23rd anniversary of the murder of 16 workers in the Radio Television of Serbia/RTS in the NATO bombing (1999), as a sign of empathy and solidarity with the families of those killed in front of the monument called **Why?** in Tašmajdan Park, activists participated in commemorative rallies on April 23rd (at 2:06 and 14:06).

In these commemorative events, fifteen (**15**) activists of Women in Black, Belgrade and the Citizens' Association “Anima” from Đulići near Zvornik (Bosnia and Herzegovina) participated. During the war in BH (1992-1995): 97,207 people were killed, about 20,000 women were raped; in Bosnia and Herzegovina there were 1,350 camps through which about 200,000 people passed, in the genocide in Srebrenica 8,372 people were killed.

During the peace action in which 25 activists participated, messages from people from Belgrade to people in Sarajevo were collected...

FEMINIST, ANTI-FASCIST, ANTI-WAR, ANTI-RACIST, ANTI-MILITARISTIC ACTIONS:

During this period, we organized the following street actions:

Antiwar actions „Stop the war in Ukraine“

Belgrade, February, 26th

Belgrade, February, 26th – Women in Black organized protest in mourning and silence in Knez Mihailova Street. During the vigil we displayed following banners, which were written in Serbian, English, Russian and Ukrainian:

- *Žene u crnom protiv rata/Women in Black against war*
- *Solidarity with peace movement in Russia and Ukraine*
- *Stop the war in Ukraine*
- *Putine, dalje ruke od Ukrajine /Putin, hands off Ukraine/*
- *Stop ruskoj agresiji na Ukrajinu /Stop Russian aggression against Ukraine*

Fifty-odd (**50**) women took part in this protest, who were joined by a group of people from Russia and Ukraine.



Belgrade, March 1th



Belgrade, March 1th – Women in Black organized a vigil in mourning and silence because of the war in Ukraine, in front of the Russian embassy in Belgrade.

During the vigil we displayed the following banners, which were written in Serbian, English, Russian and Ukrainian:

- *Women in Black against the war*
- *Solidarity with the peace movement in Russia and Ukraine*
- *Stop the war in Ukraine*
- *Putin, hands off Ukraine!*
- *Stop Russian aggression against Ukraine*
- *Stop the occupation of Ukraine*
- *Give peace a chance, etc.*

Fifty-odd (**50**) people gathered in the rally, who were joined by a group of protesters from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

Belgrade, March 5th

Belgrade, March 5th – the vigil in black and silence in Knez Mihailova Street. During the vigil we displayed following banners, which were written in Serbian, English, Russian and Ukrainian:





- Žene u crnom protiv rata/Women in Black against war
- Solidarnost sa mirovnim pokretom u Rusiji i Ukrajini/Solidarity with the peace movement in Russia and Ukraine
- Stop ratu u Ukrajini/Stop the war in Ukraine/Остановите войну в Украине!
- Putine, dalje ruke od Ukrajine/Putin, hands off from Ukraine/
- Stop ruskoj agresiji na Ukrajinu/Stop Russian aggression against Ukraine
- Stop okupaciji Ukrajine/зупиніть окупацію україни!/Остановите оккупацию Украины!
- Podržavamo ruske dezertere/We support Russian deserters
- Podržavamo beloruske dezertere/We support Belarussian deserters
- Dajte šansu miru/Give peace a chance

About fifty (50) activists took part in this anti-war action. The rally took place with police security and was covered by the media.

A counter-meeting organized by the New Communist Party of Yugoslavia was also held at the gathering. They held a red flag with a star, a sickle and a hammer, as well as a photograph of Joseph Stalin. They shouted: Not in NATO, Fascism will not pass (in Russian), NATO, get out of Ukraine, NATO, get away from Serbia.



Belgrade, March 16th

Belgrade, March 16th - on the occasion of the war in Ukraine, Women in Black organized a vigil in mourning and silence, in Knez Mihailova Street in Belgrade.

The following banners were displayed, which were written in Serbian, English, Russian and Ukrainian and Belarussian.



- Žene u crnom protiv rata/ Women in Black against war
- Solidarnost sa mirovnim pokretom u Rusiji i Ukrajini/Solidarity with the peace movement in Russia and Ukraine/
- Stop ratu u Ukrajini/Stop the war in Ukraine/Остановите войну в Украине!
- Putine, dalje ruke od Ukrajine/Putin, hands off Ukraine/



- Stop ruskoj agresiji na Ukrajinu/Stop Russian aggression against Ukraine
- Stop okupaciji Ukrajine/зупиніть окупацію України!/Остановите оккупацию Украины!
- Podržavamo ruske dezertere/We support Russian deserters
- Podržavamo beloruske dezertere/We support Belarusian deserters
- Dajte šansu miru/Give peace a chance
- We support Russian deserters
- We support Belarusian deserters



About fifty (50) activists took part in protest.

Belgrade, March 30th

Belgrade, March 30th – Women in Black organized a protest in mourning and silence “Stop the War in Ukraine” in Knez Mihailova Street. Members of the association “Movement of Mothers of the Srebrenica and Žepa Enclaves” from the village of Bajramovići near Srebrenica also took part in the anti-war protest.



The following banners were displayed at the protest:

Žena u crnom, 1991 →



- *Stop ratu u Ukrajini! Stop the war in Ukraine! Остановите войну в Украине!*
- *Stop ruskoj agresiji na Ukrajinu! Stop Putinu! Putine, dalje ruke od Ukrajine/Putin, hands off Ukraine!*
- *Stop okupaciji Ukrajine/Stop the occupation of Ukraine/зупинить окупацію України!/Остановите оккупацию Украины!*
- *Dajte šansu miru/Give peace a chance!*
- *Solidarnost sa mirovnim pokretom u Rusiji i Ukrajini/Solidarity with peace movement in Russia and Ukraine!*
- *Не війна! Ни вайна! Нем войне! Ne ratu! No war!*
- *Vukovar – Sarajevo – Marijupolj*



The protest, which was attended by about thirty **(30)** participants and Women in Black activists, was secured by a disproportionate number of police, who did nothing to prevent insults. On that occasion, a priest of the Serbian Orthodox Church shouted at the rally:

- *You are a sect, antichrists!*
- *Shame on you!*
- *Where is Jasenovac?*
- *Where are your Bratunac and Kravica?*
- *And the crimes in Metohija?*

Stop the war in Ukraine!

Notice

Belgrade, April 13th

Belgrade, April 13 – Women in Black organized a protest in mourning and silence in Knez Mihailova Street.

The following banners were displayed at the protest:

- *Women in Black against the war*
- *For all the victims of the war*
- *Solidarnost sa mirovnim pokretom u Rusiji i Ukrajini / Solidarity with peace movement in Russia and Ukraine /*
- *Stop ratu u Ukrajini! Stop the war in Ukraine!*
- *Stop the Russian aggression against Ukraine*

- *Stop the occupation of Ukraine / зупиніть окупацію україни!*
Остановите оккупацию Украины!
- *Solidarity with Russian feminists*
- *Dajte šansu miru /Give peace a chance*
- *Stop raping women in Ukraine!*
- *Putin = war criminal*
- *Putin to The Hague*



In this action participated **30** persons.

Kruševac and Leskovac, 13th April

Kruševac and Leskovac, 13th April – activist of the peace group NENA and 'Peščanik' from Kruševac organized and anti-war action in the center of Leskovac "Stop the war in Ukraine", coordinated by WiB Belgrade. Twenty-odd (**20**) persons participated in these actions.

In this period, we actively participated in rallies against the war in Ukraine, organized by the Initiative **RUBS** (Russians, Ukrainians, Belarussians and Serbs) Together against the war in Ukraine: On March 6th and 19th in Belgrade.

FEMINIST, ANTI-RACISTIS, ANTI-MILITARISTIC ACTIONS

Belgrade, 2nd February

Belgrade, 2nd February "We trust Milena Radulović!" - Women in Black, the feminist initiative Verujem ti (I trust you), Women's Solidarity, CK13, and the Autonomous Women's Center organized a protest in front of the Palace of Justice on the occasion of the start of the trial of Miroslav Mika Aleksić, accused of raping and sexually abusing female students of the drama studio 'Stvar srca'(Matter of the Heart), which he owned.



Žena u crnom, 1991 →

Three banners were displayed at the protest:

- *We trust Milena Radulović*
- *Justice for the victims – sanctions for the perpetrators*
- *They raped in war - they also rape in peace*

Fifteen (15) activists participated in the protest.

Belgrade, 4th February

Belgrade, 4th February, „We all have the right to migrate – together against war at the borders! – as part of the global action, three (3) WiB activists pasted leaflets against the killing of migrants and refugees at the borders on city streets. The action ‘K0mmemorAction’ is an act of collective memory and struggle for ‘freedom of movement of all people, demanding truth, justice and reparation for all victims of migration and their families’. For example, at the beginning of 2022, the State of Serbia extradited a citizen of Bahrain who had been in custody in Serbia since November 2021.

Belgrade, 1th March

Belgrade, 1st March “We trust Milena Radulović!” – a feminist action outside the court (the Palace of Justice), on the occasion of the trial of Miroslav Aleksić, organized by WiB, Verujem Ti (I trust You), Women’s Solidarity; with the participation of ten-odd (10).

DEALING WITH THE PAST / TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE – A FEMINIST APPROACH

This is one of the most important activities of Women in Black. It consists of multitude 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).

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE CRIMES – THE PATH TO PEACE WITH JUSTICE: MONITORING THE TRIALS AT THE SPECIAL COURT

Trial for the crime in Bratunac II

The indictment charges *Goran Stjepanović*, a member of the Republika Srpska Army, with crimes against Bosniak civilians in early June 1992 and with raping A.A., a Bosniak woman. The main trial began in January 2021; however, due to the epidemiological situation, hearings were often postponed.

In this reporting period two hearings have been held:

28th February - The main trial started from scratch, because the court panel was changed due to the illness of judge Zorana Trajković. The Prosecutor read the indictment, and the accused G. Stjepanović denied the criminal offense he was charged with in the indictment. *Begajeta Mujić* also testified, a witness who said that she entirely sticks to her statements given in 2006 and 2016.

14th April - Fatima Demirović testified in the continuation of the evidentiary proceedings. She first told the court panel that she knew the accused Goran Stjepanović from before the war, and then she related her knowledge about this sexual crime.

Trial for the war crime in Štrpci – on February 27, 1993, the train on the Belgrade-Bar railroad number 671 was raided at the station of Štrpci, when members of the military formation Osvetnici (Avengers), operating as part of the Višegrad brigade of the Army of Republika Srpska, abducted 20 persons from the train (18 passengers of Bosnian nationality, one passenger of Croatian nationality, citizen of the Republic of Yugoslavia and one unidentified person), took them to the village of Mušići first, and from there to the village of Prelovo, in the community of Višegrad, where they were killed. So far, the remains of four persons have been found.

This trial began on March 4, 2019; the following persons were accused of this crime: Gojko Lukić, Ljubiša Vasiljević, Duško Vasiljević, Jovan Lipovac and Dragana Đekić.

In this period, two hearings were held:

March 30th - Today's main hearing was postponed due to the illness of a member of the court panel, judge Zorana Trajković.

April 18th - Due to a change in the composition of the panel, the main trial began all over again, with presiding judge Snežana Garotić Nikolić: reading of the indictment, plea of the accused, opening of evidentiary proceedings, presentation of the defense of the defendants, reading of the statements of the injured witnesses, etc. However, the trial was interrupted because one of the defendants, Jovan Lipovac, fell ill, so it was scheduled for May 11, 2022.

Kravica War Crime - Eight members of the Special Brigade of the Republika Srpska Army have been charged with war crimes (the murder of 1,313 Bosnians, within the Srebrenica genocide, on July 13th, 1995).

(Let us remind: The Kravica crime indictment was brought at the beginning of 2016. This was the beginning of the most important trial at the High Court in Belgrade / Special Court, the Srebrenica genocide. However, on 14 July 2017, the Court of Appeal ruled to annul the indictment for this crime, which is otherwise not qualified as genocide, since it was raised at the time when the War Crimes Prosecutor's Office did not have a Chief Prosecutor. The trial continued in November 2017, and the hearings are continually being delayed due to non-attendance of witnesses, inaction of the prosecution and the withdrawal of protected witnesses due to the threats they receive).

In this reporting period one (1) session was held:

30th March – In the retrial for this crime, judge Zorana Trajković, a member of the court panel, was replaced by judge Siniša Petrović, due to her illness. However, the hearing that was supposed to be held

on March 30, 2022. it was postponed to May 12 because the accused Aleksa Golijan and the lawyer G. Petronijević did not appear in court.
(You can find reports in Serbian from these hearings on the WiB website)

VISITING THE PLACES OF CRIMES COMMITTED IN OUR NAME, AS WELL AS OTHER CRIMES AGAINST THE CIVILIAN POPULATION DURING THE WAR IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA:

During this reporting period, Women in Black visited:

Ljubljana
26. i 27. februar

Ljubljana/Slovenia, February, 26 and 27 – marking 30 years of ethnic cleansing 'Izbrisani'/Erased - on 26 February, 30 years passed since the erasure of 25,671 inhabitants from the register of permanent residence of the Republic of Slovenia. Erasure, a systematic violation of human rights, has left people on the brink of survival and pushed some to their early death. Many were left with severe health problems and other consequences. For years, they couldn't work legally and travel abroad – even visiting relatives or taking care of documents was impossible. They've lived under the pressure of deportations, persecuted and hated, misunderstood and invisible – until the fight for the restoration of rights and dignity.

As part of the celebration of 30 years, the 'Deleted' collective, as well as activists from Slovenia, organized debates, exhibitions, theater performances, and the organizers and activists of the Women's Court from Croatia participated (Nela Pamuković, Marijana Senjak) and Serbia (Staša Zajović).

(Activists met with women and families of victims after the commemoration of the anniversary of the crimes).

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. In this period, we organized exchanges and visits:

11th February

11th February, Potočare/Srebrenica – visit to the Memorial Center Potočare; members of the association 'Anima' from Đulići, from the area of Zvornik, and WiB activists from Belgrade participated in the meeting with the women from Srebrenica.

28th, 29th and 30th March

28th, 29th and 30th March – *Women's Peace Meeting* - within the framework of the visit of the women of Srebrenica, Refija Hadžibulić and Nura Mustafić from the village of Bajramovići/Srebrenica, several activities were organized:

- Meeting with activists of the WiB Network;
- Visit to Pančevo - meeting with activists from Pančevo, joint walk through the city;
- Visit to Banatski Brestovac, near Pančevo, together with activists of the WiB Network from Belgrade, Leskovac, Pančevo;
- Visit to Kovačica (54 km from Belgrade) - the center of the Slovak national community, the center of naive art; in addition to the tour of the Naive Art Gallery, a meeting with fellow Naive Art artists from Kovačica was held;
- Participation in the 'Stop the War in Ukraine' protest in the center of Belgrade and the return organized by WiB.

NETWORKS, COALITIONS – MUTUAL SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Women in Black are drivers or active participants of 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. In this period, the following activities were realized:

**Radmilovac
18, 19. i 20. mart**

Meeting of the Women in Black Network, March 18, 19 and 20, 2022 in Radmilovac near Belgrade

Women in Black Network meeting took place by **18th to 20th March 2022 in Radmilovac near Belgrade**

This meeting was attended by **67** activists from following countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belarus, Montenegro, Croatia, Kosovo, Poland, Serbia and Ukraine, from **24** towns.

Friday, 18th

Friday, 18th

After the presentation of participants, *'They left a mark on us'* was performed - an homage to our friends and comrades on local, regional and global level who died in the previous period (September 2021).

"Laughter under the gallows - Everything you wished you didn't know about the war in Kosovo" – author **Rade Radovanović**, journalist and editor of *Danas*, anti-war/anti-fascist activist; published by: **Most Art Yugoslavia (2021)**. The following persons spoke about the book:

Nora Ahmetaj, feminist and human rights activist, Pristina/Kosovo emphasized: "The relevance of the book is reflected in the fact that someone from Serbia wrote about this; the book is, first of all, important because of the abundance of facts and documents contained in it; young people do not trust textbooks, media or politicians, they base their views on narratives within the family", etc.





Lino Veljak, philosopher, Zagreb: "The book can be ascribed to the genre of a documentary novel: the structure and narration correspond to the novel category, and the content corresponds to empirically established facts; for the public of Kosovo and Serbia, the book has equal importance in terms of dealing with the past; people who read the book will be able to question their own views on the causes and consequences of NATO bombing; the role of the current president of Serbia (A. Vučić) during the 1990s, as Minister of Information, can explain the reasons why the current political reality of Serbia is the way it is," etc.

Blagoje Grahovac, Retired aviation general, expert in geopolitics, Belgrade: "The book is a kind of textbook that confronts us with the terrible truth of what happened; the book causes catharsis by confronting us to the actual truth; it shows how the current President censored in that period and how he led the entire system into self-censorship. For him, this was a kind of rehearsal for what is happening to us today" etc.

Stefan Surlić, political scientist, Belgrade: "Our society has no knowledge about Kosovo and what happened there. In Serbia, the dominating self-victimizing narrative prevails; the perpetrators of war and crimes were declared heroes, and society rejected taking responsibility for the crimes against others; we are being asked for normalization without reconciliation, and reconciliation without confronting the past, and some international actors will neglect both reconciliation and confronting the past, and this *will not* build a bridge between Serbs and Albanians, but rather strengthen the autocracy, in Serbia first of all".

Dragan Stojković, publisher, Belgrade: "The book is like a historical reading book. There can be no normalization of relations without reconciliation." Reconciliation cannot be established without knowing the facts and acknowledging the facts. The book represents an outstretched hand to Kosovo, to our Albanian citizens, to get down to working together work on catharsis from the disease of nationalism so that we can live and progress in the future".

Rade Radovanović, journalist, Belgrade: "The book has resounded powerfully in all parts of the former Yugoslavia; it explains the complexity of that period, the courage and the difficult position of certain individuals within the security and military structures to express their opposition" etc.

The discussion was moderated Stefan Milosavljević, political scientist, WiB activist, Belgrade/Hale, Germany.

Quo vadis, Aida? (101 min.) – screening of the film by Bosnian-Herzegovinian director and screenwriter Jasmila Žbanić. This war drama follows the fate of Aida, who works as a translator for UN peacekeeping forces in Srebrenica. When Serbian armed formations occupied the city, Aida's family and thousands of residents sought protection inside the UN camp. Aida tries to save her family from imminent death... Starring: Jasna Đuričić, Boris Isaković, Izudin



Bajrović, Raymond Thirty, Emir Hadžihafizbegović, Boris Ler, etc. The premiere of the film was held Venice Film Festival in September 2020, and the film was nominated for an Oscar. In 2021 it won the title of the best European film.

Saturday, 19th March

Saturday, 19th March

Continuity of sexual violence against women – both in war and peace time... – continuation of the topic from the previous Network meeting (September 2021).

The legal framework and the confronting of raped women with stigma – the case of Kosovo – *Nora Ahmetaj, human rights activist and feminist, Pristina/Kosovo.*

At the beginning of her presentation, Nora emphasized that “during the armed conflict in Kosovo, there was no talk of rape, although we know that it happened.” She went on to speak about the struggle for the Law on the War Crime of Rape in Kosovo: “In 2012, the women’s movement began to press for a change in the legislation. We took to the streets, and then appealed to the Parliament with the support of the deputies of the Self-Determination/Vetevendosja movement. After three years, we managed to change the law. From 2012 to 2018, we fought for women to obtain the status, and then to start implementation. The then president of Kosovo, Atifete Jahjaga, influenced the formation of the Verification Commission, composed of 9 people - each party has its own representative, but 5 of them are from the civil society. Now there are 1,200 applications, of which 900 were accepted and 222 were rejected.

The Law recognizes six categories of civilian victims of war. Families of fallen soldiers receive the most - 460 euros. Raped women receive 230 euros in reparation. According to the law in Kosovo, you cannot receive two pensions. It was ordered by the International Monetary Fund. There are women who gave up their smaller pension to get more money than their husbands’ pension. Only 30 women were brave enough to initiate legal proceedings. We had the first verdict and that rapist was sentenced to 10 years; the other case is still being processed”.

Nora referred to **the process of verification of victims of the war crime of rape**: women apply to one of the four women’s groups that deal with the war crime of rape, but later face humiliating treatment within the state verification commission.

Women victims of the war crime of rape face **stigmatization**: “Instead of receiving support, the community puts them under utmost pressure, especially in villages or small municipalities.” Women endure pressure within their families from children, and from society. The number of women whose families know (what happened to them) is small, there are few husbands who support them, and there are also those who constantly cause problems. Communities are controlled by women. Once a month, women go to collect that reparation. They buy food for the family, for the children, they have practically nothing left. There are women who give everything to their husbands. During



the pandemic, they were beaten by their husbands, who mostly work in construction, and now they were staying at home. The institutions are terrible, but the community is even worse. The woman who runs the organization in Glogovac tells me that people call her organization the organization of shame or disgrace. The law is fantastic, but it's only on paper...'

Moderated by: **Sanja Pavlović**,
Autonomous Women's Center, Belgrade

Return/Kthimi (21 min.): a drama about an Albanian woman raped in the 1999 war in Kosovo, directed by Blerta Zeqiri (2012).

The discussion after the film **The Return** focused on the following questions:

Injustice towards women who suffered the war crime of rape –both at the level of the family and the whole community - accusation, rejection, guilt, shame, anger of the man who could not defend the woman's 'honor and face':

'Every raped woman is condemned to feelings of shame and guilt regardless of education, whether from the village or the city' (*Snežana, Kraljevo*); 'In the Balkans, there is no empathy towards victims of war crimes, especially rape - not even by family and society' (*Violeta, Belgrade*), etc.

Activists from Bosnia and Herzegovina spoke about **the trauma of the war crime of rape**: 'I was afraid of rape in 1992. I just wanted a bullet in the forehead so that my children wouldn't see it. I started to fear man as a living being' (*Šehida, Srebrenica*).

DISPUTES IN FEMINISM – THE ISSUE OF TRANSGENDER – feminist roundtable discussion /FRD

Staša Zajović explained the reasons for this FRD:

- Because ever since the beginning of WiB activities, we created and have been creating a safe space for diversity and refuge from various forms of oppression: with our allies - deserters and rebels against the war; victims of crimes committed in our name and all other crimes; persons of homosexual orientation; refugees, in all refugee waves, the Roma population...
- Because the space for critical discussion around the transgender issue has been reduced or even abolished, because instead of serious arguments (or in the absence of them), attacks are resorted to, which cause split/fragmentation, internal conflicts to the point of weakening and even division of both the feminist and trans movements, etc.
- Because giving up the debate and insisting on 'infallible' positions, so to speak, dogmas, is not characteristic of the

feminist movement and, in general, of the culture of the left to which we belong or pretend to belong, etc.

- Because we stand for the recognition of the equality of struggles, for the recognition of the autonomy of all struggles, because these struggles overlap and intersect.
- *Because we advocate attention to various struggles:* we have our priorities, but we must not be careless and inattentive to other struggles...

First session

First session, 15:15 – 16:45 – TRANSGENDERISM?

Lecturer: **Zorica Mršević**, Faculty of European Legal and Political Studies, Novi Sad; Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade

She talked about the concept of transgenderism; about the transgender movement - the identities of the transgender movement; consequences of non-conventional gender and sexual identity; sexual diversity in national communities, as well as overcoming traditional (binary) sex-gender divisions, etc.

Moderator: Bojana Malinovska, Faculty of Political Sciences, Belgrade and WiB activist.

When I was a lad I was a lass (33 min.) - screening of a documentary film directed by Ivana Todorović from 2013 that follows the life of trans woman Gordana Mitrović.

Second session

Second session, TRANSGENDERISM: WHAT'S THE DISPUTE?

(Controversies between the feminist and transgender movements - are trans women women?; what is the problem of self-identification/self-determination?; attitudes within the academic community; the politics of inclusion/alliances...

Moderators: Tanja Marković and Staša Zajović



With the participation of:

Sanja Milojević, feminist activist, London (Zoom)

Nela Pamuković, Centre for Women Victims of War, Zagreb

Jovan Ulićević, civic activist, Podgorica

Daša Duhaček, Center for Women Studies, Belgrade

Laura Pejak, IZAĐI, Novi Sad

Aleksa Milanović, Talas, TIRV, Belgrade

Nora Janković, Talas, TIRV, Belgrade

Here are the highlights of the debate:

Jovan Ulićević spoke about the ***global growth of the anti-gender movement that attacks both women's rights and the rights of trans people; about the possibilities of an alliance between the trans movement and feminism***: "For me, trans activism is feminism, and I find it completely artificial to divide it into two different movements." There are divisions in the feminist movement on various issues, we don't have consensus on a plethora of issues. I would not like to have a debate about whether trans women are women, it is very offensive to me." Jovan advocated that ***disputed issues be resolved with a clear determination of values, respect for dignity***. "We need to talk about issues that are a source of concern for us: safe women's spaces, toilets, self-identification." In such discussions, it is very important to maintain dignity and not to fall into questioning some key values. For example, the relativization of war crimes or violence cannot be a subject of debate. I would like us to determine our values here, that is, whether we are in favor of a policy of inclusion or exclusion. Despite all its positive aspects, feminism has had a history of excluding many women from its movement. I would like that history to become a thing of the past".

Daša Duhaček referred to the ***dangers of essentialism in defining women and reducing women to biology***: "Sex-gender polarization has long been overcome, it is a platitude that sex is biology, which was never really formulated that way, and gender is a social construct. When gender appeared in the history of feminism, theoretically and politically, it only served as a tool to recognize the grounds on which we are all discriminated against, and not as an ideal that we should represent. It is just a theoretical and political tool and that's all it's about."

Nora Janković spoke about ***some common points between gender-critical feminism and some demands of the right***: "The right is trying to maintain the ideal natural state of 'normality'. Unfortunately, I've been noticing that in some feminists as well. Naturalness is equated with morality, with ethics. Specifically, I mean that they prevent trans people from accessing hormone therapy because they are altering their natural bodies. I see their extreme views in that".

Nela Pamuković warned of the **danger of abolishing the category of gender, which can lead to the annulment of the achievements of the feminist movement in the fight against violence against women and all forms of gender discrimination**: “The abolition of gender represents a structural problem because it abolishes something that we endeavored to achieve for years: *firstly*, we fought for international conventions and documents that talk about discrimination based on gender. By erasing gender, we lose those instruments; *secondly*, we are talking about safe women’s spaces that we have secured for decades and fought ferociously for them, and we must not deviate from them under any circumstances, and *thirdly*, we are still in the phase of proving that the problem of violence against women is our reality and a huge social problem, our institutions label women as domestic abusers, and now, by changing, erasing gender, we may also turn out to be rapists”.

The participants of the roundtable discussion reflected on the **disputes related to hormone therapy in the juvenile population, puberty blockers – personal experiences and attitudes of trans activists and feminists...**

‘A puberty blocker is a hormone drug used to delay the onset of puberty (...); administered to both cis and trans children to delay the onset of puberty; trans children are those children whose gender does not match their sex...’ (Nora)

“We can tell you from our own experiences how we felt as trans children (...); that story that trans children do not exist, we can deny you from personal experience’ (Aleksa)

“The trans movement does not have any consensus that children should undergo hormone therapies and surgeries (...); for those children who turn out to be trans, hormone blockers prevent an extremely stressful period. During puberty, menstruation was terribly stressful for me, because in my head I was a boy’ (Jovan)

‘Personally, I set a limit somewhere around the issue of puberty blockers, especially advocating for the lowest possible limits. The LGBT movement is now strongly advocating it. I put a limit on my activism, when the issue is a lot of small children, and I have seen a lot of propaganda in that direction’ (Nela).



Discrimination of trans people in our environment, in family and society; legal obstacles in exercising rights...

“There is a huge marginalization of trans people and I think it’s a level of marginalization that is simply unimaginable to the majority population. It’s exclusion from society - they can’t meet basic economic needs, to have a normal family life because very often trans people are rejected by their families or even thrown out of their homes, put on the street or survive from one friend to another...” (Laura)

About alliances, about intersecting struggles, mutual support, solidarity - final words of the panel participants

I have been involved in trans activism in Serbia since 2007, our movement here has always nurtured feminist principles. So, no one wants to exclude women and simply, our movement rests on that. I deeply believe that our movements can unite, that all conflicts can be overcome, that we can leave them behind and work for the good of all women and trans people’ (Aleksa)

‘We have left our comfort zone. To me, that was radically brave. Without that, there is no common struggle, and I think it is a great luxury not to have a common struggle’ (Jovan).

‘I come from an organization that was also sued by donors and against whom a real witch hunt was conducted and which was followed by a frozen atmosphere, where no one dares to speak out. Credit to WiB for daring’ (Nela).

‘Thank you for this encouragement and starting the discussion. I think that’s valuable. This is a great start and should be followed by other organizations. There are disputes, I totally agree with that. We should talk about those disputes...’ (Daša).

(The full text of the debate in BHS languages can be found on the WiB website)’

Sunday, 20th March

Sunday, 20th March

Where are we going now? – On the elections of April 3rd, 2022 – the debate was moderated by **Nastasja Radović**, journalist, WiB activist. The discussion about elections at three levels: local, national and presidential began with arguments about the boycott of the previous elections held in June 2020, because there were no epidemiological or basic conditions for democratic and fair elections.

The following persons participated in the debate: **Zoran Vuletić**, Civic Democratic Forum, **Biljana Đorđević**, Don’t Let Belgrade D(r)own/Coalition We Must; **Teodora Gavran**, Ecological Uprising, **Aleksandar Kraus**, Left Summit, Solidarity.

In the discussion about “taboo” topics in Serbia: *the independence of Kosovo, the Srebrenica genocide, sanctions against Russia*, the participants had conflicting views: from the necessity of recognizing

Kosovo's independence (Z. Vuletić) to the irrelevance of that issue in relation to ecology and everyday life (T. Gavran and B. Đorđević). Regarding the Srebrenica genocide, they all agree that it is necessary to respect the judicially established facts and rulings of international courts of justice, i.e., that genocide was committed in Srebrenica. They also agree that in Ukraine Russia carried out aggression, but most believe that sanctions will affect ordinary people, etc.

Session

Session – **Planning joint activities in the forthcoming period**

Evaluation: What have we gained/in these three days also?

(Ervina Dabižinović, Herceg Novi)

The participants mentioned the following:

The issue of transgenderism bears an extraordinary emotional and political significance: just raising the topic is an important political act; the deficit of knowledge about the transgender issue is recognized and therefore it is necessary to acquire knowledge about the position and problems of trans people; expanding the space for solidarity: "We learned a lot about the trans movement" (*Violeta, Belgrade*); "The most important thing for me is what I learned about transgenderism, it's not a shame not to know" (*Mira, Tuzla*); I didn't know anything about trans people, and now I got direct information' (*Suvada, Đulići*); "The biggest impression for me was the debate on transgenderism, where I learned a lot" (*Ljiljana, Belgrade*); "The issue of transgenderism was the most important to me, it was the first time I encountered it" (*Verica, Kruševac*);

"The most important topic for me is the transgender issue, about which I knew nothing" (*Stefan, Belgrade/Hale*); "Transgender people were a new experience for me" (*Reiha, Merima, Tuzla*); "Transgender people are new to me and I am sorry that they are in that situation, that they are not accepted" (*Milka, Leskovac*); "The topic of transgenderism was the most educational" (*Nastasja, Belgrade*); "The very important issue of transgenderism was raised" (*Snežana, Kraljevo; Fahrudin, Novi Pazar; Vladimir, Leskovac, Ervina, Herceg Novi, Staša, Belgrade*).

Discussion about Ukraine, Belarus, Russia - encounters and testimonies of activists from the field 'first hand', a concert by the Ukrainian artist Sasha - activists from all countries of the former Yugoslavia assessed that it was an extremely valuable event, that they learned a lot in an atmosphere of trust, closeness, solidarity...

Extraordinary presentation by Nora Ahmetaj, human rights activist and feminist, Pristina/Kosovo

"We learned a lot. Nora gave new insights into the situation and position of raped women in Kosovo" (*Ljilja, Pančevo, Violeta, Ramiz, Tuzla; Zinaida, Nastasja, Belgrade; Mira, Tuzla; Miloš, Belgrade, etc.*).

In connection with Kosovo, numerous activists have assessed that the promotion of the book *'Laughter under the helmet – everything you didn't want to know about the war in Kosovo'* by Rade Radovanović, is an exceptional *document about the war, a brave moral and political act.*

The valuable experience of the activists who participated in the Network meeting for the first time, as well as the continuity of joint reflection, exchange, socializing: 'The whole event was significant for me, because it was my first time here. I had the opportunity to hear different perspectives, all of which is important for my future activism' (*Nikola, Bijelo Polje*); 'This is the first time I've been here. An intense experience. I am impressed. It is significant to me that we were in the space of the peace movement. All the discussions about the peace movement were important to me' (*Jovan, Podgorica*); "Everything was important to me, I've learned and heard a lot and everything is useful to me" (*Enesa, Đulići/BH*); "I am so grateful to WiB and it is a great privilege for me to be there, because every time I learn something more" (*Šehida, Srebrenica*), etc.

(The integral text about the meeting of the Network in BHS languages can be found on the WiB website)

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Educational programs –in addition to the aforementioned, were realized within the Network (feminist discussion circles, educational activities, women's peace activism, feminist discussion circles, debates...):

Women's Peace Activism, Đulici, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Educational program that the civic association "Anima" from Đulići and Women in Black Belgrade have been organizing since the beginning of 2016. Meetings within Women's Peace Activism are strengthening trust, mutual support and solidarity, wider areas of women's autonomy and self-confidence. This meeting is a continuation of many years of cooperation, friendship, mutual support and mutual cooperation of "Anima" and WiB.

In this reporting period, one meeting was organized:

Đulići, 28th March

Đulići, 28th **March** – with the participation of **21** women from ten-odd villages in the area of Zvornik.

In the discussion about the war in Ukraine: **What worries and scares you the most?**, the women stated:

Fear of another war, and that means for us:

Re-traumatization - revival of war traumas: 'We have already experienced all too much, I don't know how I would survive it again';

The fear of being evicted from our homes again because we invested everything we had to rebuild our homes and rebuild our lives: 'It

seems to me that I would never be able to leave my home again, let there only be peace.'

Fear of being raped by various soldiers and armies: 'That would scare me the most...'

Fear that we won't find our missing and bury them if war breaks out again; fear of watching TV: 'all the news about the war disturbs me, that's why I watch series...'

Regarding the *accountability* for the war, the participants stated: Putin and the USA, whereas the Ukrainians "defend their country, they were attacked, just like we were". In short, women have neither the will nor the knowledge to deal with 'geopolitical' issues...

In the final session, we agreed on joint activities in the coming period. In this period, the following events were held in the organization of WiB or related civil society organizations (discussion circles, lectures, book promotions...). We list them in chronological order:

Belgrade, January 8th

Belgrade, January 8th "Bosnia and Herzegovina in the jaws of the Serbian world" - a forum organized by the Civic Democratic Forum/CDF, the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, the Alliance of Anti-Fascists of Serbia and Women in Black in the premises of the GDF, and the participants were: *Aleksandar Sekulović*, Alliance anti-fascist of Serbia and *Izabela Kisić*, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, in the presence of ten **(10)** people.

Belgrade, February 5th

Belgrade, February 5th – debate on the upcoming elections (April 3rd) organized by: Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Alliance of Anti-Fascists of Serbia, Civic Democratic Forum/CDF in the premises of CDF. Keynote speakers: *Zoran Vuletić*, CDF and *Aleksandar Kraus*, Alliance of Anti-Fascists of Serbia; **11 people present**.

Novi Sad, February 19th

Novi Sad, February 19th – "*Holocaust in literary works - testimonies and thoughts of camp survivors, (in)expressibility of experience; the duty to testify, convey the truth - feminist roundtable discussion group/FRD*" organized by the Center for Women's Studies and Research, Novi Sad and Woman in Black, Belgrade.

The template for the conversation was literary works:

Chil Rajchman: I am the last Jew, Treblinka 1942-1943 (born in Poland in 1914, he survived the hell of Treblinka and after escaping from the camp, was hiding until the end of the war. He emigrated to Uruguay in 1946, where he died in 2004 - said *Lino Veljak*, Faculty of Philosophy, Zagreb

About the Holocaust in the works of: Imre Kertesz (Nobel Prize for Literature in **2002** for his book "Man without Destiny");

Amos Oz: On the transfer of European trauma and European conflict beyond Europe (based on his book 'The Story of Love and Darkness' - presented by *Staća Zajović*, Women in Black

After that, the following FRD participants spoke: *Relja and Silvija Dražić*, *Svenka Savić*, *Edita Jankov*, *Margareta Bašaragin*, *Uglješa Belić*,

etc. **15** people from Novi Sad, Subotica, and Belgrade participated in this FDK held in the premises of the "Iz KRUGA (Out of the CIRCLE) Vojvodina" association.

Novi Sad, 21. februar

Novi Sad, 21st February – Peace encounters organized by Women in Black, Belgrade, CK 13, Novi Sad and the Humanitarian-Cultural Center Association from Vukovar were held in the premises of the Social Center CK 13 Novi Sad. During this event, the screening of the documentary film: **"Communist party of Yugoslavia/CPY and Vukovar – from creation to disappearance"**, took place. It is a 57-minute documentary (2021), directed by *Milan Paun*, produced by the **Humanitarian and Cultural Center Association**. This documentary shows the formation of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia in Vukovar in 1920 and follows the relations between the CPY and Vukovar for 70 years, until the disappearance of the CPY in 1990 and the destruction of Vukovar by Serbian armed formations.

The following persons participated in the discussion after the film projection: *Borislav Prodanović*, CK 13, *Staša Zajović*, Women in Black, *Nikola Tarle*, Humanitarian and Cultural Center Association, Vukovar, *Lino Veljak*, Zagreb, *Aleksandar Kraus*, Association of Anti-fascist of Serbia, *Milan Paun*, *Bojana Malinovska*, *Nastasja Radović*, *Tamara Spaić*, *WiB activists* This event was attended by **25** persons.

February 21, 2022 – Interrogation and harassment of Vukovar citizen at Bačka Palanka border crossing: On the return to Vukovar, at the Bačka Palanka border crossing, at around 11 pm, four members of the State Security Police detained and interrogated Nikola Tarle (from Humanitarian and Cultural Center Association) for about two and a half hours. They asked him what he had said at the panel, why he was coming to Serbia, where he had met Staša Zajović, whom he was seeing, who was investigating the missing Serbs and the like. They then confiscated his mobile phone and allowed him to continue his journey.

March 2nd

March 2nd – "Amplifying Voices of Women affected by war-related SGBV in the Western Balkans- For a Culture of Recognition and Reconciliation", online working meetings within the regional project were attended by partner activists from Kosovo, BH and Serbia (Autonomous Women's Center, Youth Initiative for Human Rights and WiB), as well as representatives of Medica Mondiale Foundation, Germany, who support this project.

Belgrade, 23rd March

Belgrade, 23rd March – "Anti-war Resistance of the Nineties" – a panel organized by the Center for Yugoslav Studies was held in the Youth Center. *Staša Zajović* participated on behalf of WiB, and spoke about the women's peace movement of the 1990s; *Dejan Ilić* (writer), spoke about challenges and achievements in the field of transitional justice and law; *Ajna Jusić*, activist of the "Forgotten Children of War" organization from Sarajevo (online).

Sarajevo, Tuzla, Srebrenica 18–24.

Sarajevo, Tuzla, Srebrenica 18–24 April „Europe today/Evropa danas" – as part of the Third international encounters, several events took place:



22nd April, Sarajevo – debate at the Faculty of Political Sciences on: EU policy towards migrants/refugees, Russian aggression against Ukraine, etc.

23rd April, Tuzla – during the meeting with NVO 'Amica', we talked about: the political situation in BH and the role of the international community in solving the current problems, regional policy towards BH, the influence of Serbia and Croatia.

23rd April, Memorijal Center Potočari/Srebrenica – The Srebrenica Women's Association informed the participants of the international meeting: about their struggle for fair trials of those accountable for genocide and other war crimes, including the process against members of the Dutch UNPROFOR battalion.

The aforementioned meeting was organized by the NGO 'Adriatic green-net onlus' Monfalcone, Italy, with the participation of: Nastasja Radović, Tanja Marković (WiB, Belgrade) and Branka Ćurčić, Conceptual Policy Group, Novi Sad.

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.

I Solidarity with War Refugees: Women in Black started in 2013 when solidarity campaigns against racist attacks were organized that culminated at the end of 2013, and since then, Women in Black have organized a lot of activities, about 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:Pljevlja, Montenegro (on the border between Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina) – April 29 – the visit of WiB activists (Fahrudin, Lino, Nastasja, Stefan Staša, Tanja, Violeta) to the open center Bona Fide, consisted of help and support to refugees. Bona Fide activists organized aid for refugees from 2017 and till now several thousand refugees / migrants passed through this center. In this place, they can get food, clothing and footwear, and large numbers stay overnight, while some stay for a longer period of time. WiB network activists provided humanitarian aid (food and hygienic products etc.) and WiB used to support solidarity activities to Bona Fide center.

II Solidarity support and assistance to Ukrainian refugees and anti-war activists from Russia in Belgrade – since the beginning of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, in February 2022, WiB has established contacts with Ukrainian refugees, as well as anti-war activists from the Russian Federation, who sought refuge in Serbia, fleeing war or repression in Russia. Solidarity was manifested through

support and participation in anti-war protests organized by the RUBS initiative (Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians and Serbs together against the war); through involvement in various activities of WiB: protests, debates, gatherings...

III Solidarity with the participants of the protest camping - environmental activists from all over Serbia – as of February 10, 2022, they camped in Pioneer Park in the immediate vicinity of the Presidency of Serbia, demanding a permanent ban on lithium mining (Rio Tinto company) in Serbia. WiB activists visited them, with modest humanitarian aid (February 12, 13, 14). WiB activists also participated in the protests of the environmental movement, which began in Serbia at the end of November 2021, namely: blocking highways and roads, which was followed by police violence, etc.

In addition to the afore mentioned, during this reporting period, we also monitored the following trials:

I Trial

I Solidarity with the Milivojević Family from Lučani – The Ivanjica trials

Criminal proceedings against the Director General of the Milan Blagojević-Namenska Arms Factory, Lučani - Radoš Milovanović and two executives from the same factory (Vladimir Lončarević and Toma Stojic). They are charged with 'committing a serious crime against general security' because on July 14th, 2017, workers Milomir Milojević and Miloško Ignjatović were killed after a gunpowder explosion.

Several hearings were held in this reporting period:

March 17 – Milovan Milivojević, the father of the deceased Milomir Milivojević, testified; he repeated the accusations of the factory managers regarding the death of his son.

April 29 - the judge stated that the first defendant, **Radoš Milovanović**, died on April 21, 2022, which is why the proceedings against him were suspended. The mother and sister of the deceased Milomir Milivojević, Nela Milivojević and Mirjana Milivojević-Tadić, testified, repeating the accusations about the full responsibility of the factory and its managers for the death of Milomir. Maja Kovačević, an employee-controller at Namenska industrija, also testified.

II Trial

II Trial of Miroslav Mika Aleksić for rape and sexual abuse

January 2021 – several former students of the "Matter of the Heart" acting school made accusations of rape and sexual abuse against their former acting teacher Miroslav Aleksić.

April 21, 2021 – an indictment was filed against Miroslav Mika Aleksić. He was arrested and spent eight months in detention, when he was released to defend himself.

February 2022 – the court proceedings against Aleksić began after several delays and final preparatory hearings:

February 2 - at the trial, the accused M. Aleksić said that he was going

to fight the accusations for the rest of his life because he is 'part of the Serbian people and culture', etc. He pointed out that "the victims had been prepared for the trial for months, that everything had been organized in team work - from psychologists, police officers, to the media and NGOs."

April 4 – in the continuation of the evidentiary proceedings, the defense of the accused Miroslav Aleksić continued. The accused entered a plea on the counts of the indictment related to the victims Jefimija Vujović, Maša Đorđević and Ivana Velinović, who were all minors at the time of the crime.

The defendant denied the allegations of the indictment, with disqualifications and heinous sexist insults against the victims ('fools, 'narcissistic personality disorder', non-thinking people', 'irrelevant', etc.

April 28 – the main hearing was canceled due to the illness of the judge.

III Trial

III Trial for setting journalist Milan Jovanović's house on fire

Former President of the Municipality of Grocka, Dragoljub Simonović, has been accused of inciting the burning of the house of journalist M. Jovanović, working for Žig Info. On 12/12/2018 somebody set fire to this journalist's house, in which his house burned down. Former president of the municipality of Grocka, Dragoljub Simonović, was sentenced to 4 years and 3 months in prison. However, on December 24, 2021, the Court of Appeals in Belgrade overturned the conviction for setting fire to the house of journalist Milan Jovanović, returning the case to the Second Basic Court in Belgrade for a retrial. In this reporting period, the trials were, at the last moment, postponed several times (*February 24, April 8*), which is yet another way of obstructing this trial, which has been the case from the very beginning.

IV Trial

IV Trial for the burning of the US Embassy and the attack on the embassies of Turkey, Germany and Croatia - on February 21, 2008 (after the declaration of Kosovo's independence), a group of hooligans attacked some embassies after the "**Kosovo is Serbia**" rally, organized by the Government and the Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, during which the US embassy was set on fire and one of the attackers was killed there.

In 2019, the trial of the seven immediate suspects for these attacks ended with acquittals and conditional verdicts, which were later revoked. In October 2020, the trial of five, at the time of the event, high-ranking officials of the Ministry of the Interior of Serbia began: **Slobodan Vukolić**, former head of the Belgrade Police Directorate and his deputy **Zoran Rašković**, general **Stevan Bjelić**, the then chief of police for the City of Belgrade and former head of the Police Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior of Serbia, general **Mladen Kuribak**. **Bojan Marković**, at the time of the incident the commander

of the Gendarmerie platoon from Kraljevo, was also charged. They are accused of the criminal offense of 'serious crime against general security', i.e., not taking measures within their jurisdiction to protect the US embassy.

In this period, two hearings were held: March 15 and April 18 - hearing and questioning witnesses who denied the criminal offense they were charged with.

(You can find integral reports in Serbian from the above trials on the WiB website)

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS, LECTURES, DEBATES AT THE WOMEN IN BLACK PREMISES – “WEDNESDAYS AT WIB”

The practice of regular discussions, lectures and joint reflections on important social and political issues in the country and the world, continued in this reporting period, which included sixteen (16) lectures, debates, book presentations, film screenings, with the participation of more than 250 persons.

19th January

19th January “Ten myths about Israel” by Ilan Pape – this book, published in 2017, was presented by Mirko Medenica. Pape, an Israeli historian living in exile in Great Britain, presents myths about the creation of the state of Israel in the book, and believes that the essence of these myths is to deprive the Palestinians of their right to land. Some of the most important “myths about Israel” that Ilan Pape writes about: *Palestine used to be an empty space; Jews - a nation without a country; Zionism is Judaism; Zionism is not colonialism; The Palestinians left voluntarily in 1948; The 1967 war was a war of “no choice” for Israel.* In a series of arguments with which the Pope refutes these myths, Medenica singled out that: Israelis are a people, but that is not the same as the term Jews; Any criticism of the state of Israel qualifies as anti-Semitism; About four million Palestinian refugees sought return; After 1967, all of Palestine was under Israeli control; In Israel, some laws are discriminatory against Israeli citizens of Palestinian origin; In Israel, 90% of the land is owned by the state; The occupation also resulted in every fifth Palestinian being arrested or in military custody... Pape also offers a solution that is not “two states” but **one state for the Palestinians and the Israelis**. This discussion was attended by 9 people.

26. januar

26th January “Holocaust in literature” – roundtable discussion on the occasion of January 27 - International Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Holocaust. On the examples of several works by writers who survived the Holocaust or, as Jews, had that experience in their family history (especially in the works of the Hungarian writer *Imra Kertesz* in his book “A Man Without a Destiny”), argues that ‘*the Holocaust is the greatest trauma’ of the European man and European civilization’* and not just some historical event. This is evidenced by the genocide in Srebrenica, etc.

The Israeli writer *Amos Oz* refers to *the transmission of European*

trauma and the European conflict outside of Europe: he saw Europe as the continent that “spilled the most blood” in the history of mankind, and he believed that Europeans had no right to moralize because of their strong anti-Semitism, stated Staša Zajović.

In the continuation of the roundtable discussion, there was deliberation and debate about the historical burden of European Christian civilization, about books and films on the subject of the Holocaust that left the strongest impression on those present... The novel by **Đorđe Lebović** “Semper idem”, an autobiographical work of the writer who, just as Imre Kertész had been taken to Auschwitz, as a boy, etc. The roundtable discussion was attended by **14** people.

2nd February

2nd February “Holocaust in literary works” – joint reflection on the book “*Why didn't you kill yourself - searching for the meaning of life*” by Viktor Frankl (1905-1997). Frankl was an Austrian neurologist and psychiatrist who survived the Holocaust; the book was published by Kontrast from Belgrade (2019).

Viktor Frankl conceived logotherapy (“**logos**” here means “**significance**”), based on his camp experiences because, as a Jew, he spent three years in four Nazi concentration camps, one of which was *Auschwitz*. In a very interesting dialogue that followed the introduction about Frankl and his work, the participants commented on the settings and technique of logotherapy. They also discussed the experiences of WiB activists in working with women victims of war in the 90s: many of them managed to find meaning in their suffering, either in some clear goals related to the search for their missing ones, in the acceptance of suffering through religiosity or, which is rarest, in the sublimation of that suffering through the struggle to move towards a better future in solidarity, etc. The Roundtable is a continuation of the debate on the occasion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, moderated by *Tanja Marković*, with the participation of **17** people.



9th February

9th February “How did we pull through 2021? What marked the previous year?” – About what was most important to us in the previous year 2021, what is of general importance and significance, but also what marked our personal, private life in that year - either in the positive or negative sense - was discussed in groups consisting of several people. The following were selected as the most important events: civil uprisings related to lithium mining by the Australian-British company Rio Tinto; disclosure of several cases of rape and sexual abuse of girls (cases of “Mika Aleksić”, “Palma”, “Petnica”...); the drawing of graffiti with the image of the person convicted of genocide in Srebrenica - Ratko Mladić - as well as the shameful reaction of the state and society in this regard. On the private level, there was mostly reaction related to the loss of loved ones, the situation with the uncertainty of the course and duration of the pandemic, the apathy of the whole society, etc. They also discussed current events in Serbia, as well as the regional and international context. **14** people participated in this conversation.

16th February

16th February “Anti-fascist women of Subotica: SKOJ women, (Yugoslav Alliance of Communist Youth) Partisan women and AFŽ women (Women’s Antifascist Front of Yugoslavia)” by **Margareta Basharagin**, published by the Women’s Studies and Research Association and Futura Publications, Novi Sad (2021).

After the book about famous Jewish women who lived and worked in Subotica, the author, as she said, wanted to make a “brochure” about anti-fascist women from Subotica. The book is divided into *three time periods: 1918-1941, 1941-1945 and 1944-1953. This third period refers to the time from the establishment of the Women’s Anti-Fascist Front in Subotica to its abolition at the level of the Yugoslav state.* Basharagin spoke in particular about the civil and labor movement of women between the two world wars, with an emphasis on the organization of women in Subotica. Seventeen (**17**) people participated in the discussion, and the topic of feminism and women’s anti-fascism continued to be discussed.



23rd February



23rd February – promotion of the book “Kvartida” by Šaban Šarenkapić from Novi Pazar, published by Darma Books, Belgrade (2020.); the book is dedicated to the Bosniak victims of the crime - kidnapping from train 671 on the Belgrade-Bar route (February 27, 1993). The action of this novel takes place in the second half of the 20th century in a Pazar neighborhood, following the life story of three members of the Kocilj family.

All the actors are victims of patriarchy, especially women, deprived from early childhood until maturity of the possibility of fulfilling any of their desires, trapped in their gender and with a feeling of disgust towards the roles imposed on them. Socialism has not even succeeded in abolishing deep class differences: education is for the “smart children” of officials and model workers, while poor families are left to employ their daughters in unskilled jobs in a factory “that is not for “honest women”, because it allegedly “corrupts women and endangers the entire patriarchal order’.

The following persons spoke about the book: Lino Veljak, Fahrudin Kladničanin, Staša Zajović, Senka Knežević, Zinaida Marjanović, Tanja Marković, Ljiljana Mitrović, Nastasja Radović, Aleksandar Kraus, the author, etc. This event was attended by **28** people.

2nd March

2nd March “The truth in the transition period – a feminist approach – the concept and importance of truth in the lives of women and the community” workshop on the connection between lies as patriarchal domination over women and among women in the everyday experience of women (family, relationships in the environment) and patriarchal lies at the state level in relation to the past of wars and war crimes. The template for the conversation was, among others, the essay by *Adrienne Rich, ‘Women and Honor: Notes on Lying)*. Fourteen **14** people participated in this workshop, which was moderated by Staša Zajović.

9th March

9th March “The truth in the transition period – a feminist approach – the concept and importance of truth in the lives of women and the community”, continuation of the workshop from the previous Wednesday, with the **screening of the film “Parallel mothers”/“Madres paralelas”** (123 min.); production: 2021. Director: Pedro Almodovar; actresses: Penelope Cruz, Aitana Sánchez-Gijón. Summary: two women meet in a maternity hospital, both single, who got pregnant by accident. A very close relationship develops between them, and at the same time, the drama of confronting the past is played out - the search for the truth about those who disappeared during the Spanish Civil War. Ten (**10**) people participated in the discussion that followed.

16th March

16th March “Gender disguise: on the transgenderism of Balkan sworn virgins” - the introductory lecture was given by **Lada Stevanović**, Ethnographic Institute of SANU (Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts), Belgrade.

“The existence of Balkan sworn virgins was recorded, except in

Montenegro (where this phenomenon persisted for the longest period of time) also in Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo; they were of different ethnicities and religions. Namely, those were women by birth, but, by their family's decision or their own, they were given the social status of men. Ethnologists believe that this was the need of clan-patriarchal societies in order to maintain the family. Sometimes it was agreed to voluntarily, and sometimes it was imposed," said Stevanović. The discussion focused on the experiences of virgins in various contexts, and especially on the position of transgender people in the current context. The lecture was followed by the film *Una mujer fantástica/A fantastic women (104 min.)*: a Chilean film directed by Sebastian Lelio. The film received numerous international awards, including the Oscar for the best foreign film in 2018. The film shows a love relationship between a trans woman and a man, which is not accepted by the man's family or state institutions. Eleven (11) people attended this event.

23rd March

23rd March "Cry it out, it will make you feel better." The position of women in Poland and the right to abortion" - Magdalena Sztandara, professor at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland.

"Poland is one of the countries in Europe that has the strictest abortion laws." Abortion is almost prohibited or almost impossible to obtain. Inside hospitals there is a so-called "Crying Room" - a special room whose purpose is to allow women to relieve themselves. In response to state legislative campaigns to almost completely ban abortion, women's protests across the country have been called the "Women's Strike" and "Black Monday" (2017-2019). Various banners were displayed at those protests (2016-2017), and some of them are: *Solidarity is our weapon;*

The parliament is yours, but the bodies are ours; I think, I feel, I decide; I am afraid of living in this country; In addition to the womb, we also have a brain; Instead of repression, introduce sex education; I decide; We are pissed off; I will not give birth to a dead child, etc.

At the protests that started on October 20, 2020, and culminated on January 27, 2021, the following banners were being carried:

- *Stop killing Polish women!*
- *Write out this banner, I have no more words.*
- *This is how Izabela from the city of Pszczyna passed away.*
- *And her heart was still beating.*
- *Not one woman more!*
- *uck off! Get out of here, fuck you!*
- *Fuck PIS! Let's all go together, fist up, dictatorship down!*
- *Here are the police! We are in the midst of a pandemic.*
- *Here is the women's strike. Protests are legitimate.*

Campaigns to ban abortion in Poland are led by the extremely

conservative Catholic Church. "Desolation begins for a woman when she wants to wear trousers, earn money and decide about her body." (Bishop Marek Jedraševski)

In the public space, there is an extremely strong pro-life propaganda highlighting billboards that say:

- *Abortion kills children,*
- *I'm only 11 weeks old,*
- *Politicians can stop this slaughter: contact the deputy, present your demands.*
- *Mom and Dad, you love each other.*
- *Mom and Dad, love me.*
- *Wherever you go, you are not alone.*
- *I depend on you, I trust you.*

They also organize buses that drive around the cities.

Embryobuses bear the following inscriptions:

- *Stop abortion,*
- *They sell contraceptive pills,*
- *This is what their victims look like.*

Homobuses bear the following inscriptions:

- *The LGBT lobby teaches minors masturbation, consent to sex, first sexual experiences and orgasm.*

An alternative for women in Poland is "Abortion without borders" which is advertised under the slogans:

- *Do you want to have an abortion? Dial the number...*
- *34,000 abortions with the organization Abortion without Borders;*
- *Abortion means life.*

This lecture was attended by **15** people.

6th April

6th April – "A look at the history of the relationship between Ukraine and Russia" - the introductory lecture was given by Michal Ramač, a journalist and writer from Novi Sad. The discussion was held within the cycle *International politics - challenges, dilemmas, controversies...*

Ramač presented in great detail the turbulent history of relations between the two countries that are currently in conflict, from the 12th century until Russia's aggression against Ukraine. The lecture was followed by questions and discussion. The participants were particularly interested in the history of the **Donbass** region, whose parts **Donetsk and Lugansk** were recognized by Russia as independent territories. It was said that as early as 1917, the "settlement of the proletariat" and the creation of an industrial region began: "Thus the Donbass became majority Russian." About 90% of

the population today speak Russian. It is a powerful industrial center. In Odesa, too, the majority speak Russian"... They also discussed the **Uniate Church**, which is mainly active in western Ukraine, although it is also present in Kyiv. "The Uniate Church is Catholic. Since accepting Christianity in 988, they were always tied to Constantinople, only in the 16th century, due to Polish pressure, they accepted Catholicism, but kept the Byzantine rite," Ramač explained. Twenty-two (22) people attended the lecture and discussion.

13th April

13th April "Historical and geopolitical dimension of the war in Ukraine" - lecture by **Dr. Neven Cvetičanin**, Institute of Social Sciences-Belgrade. Cvetičanin believes that "the war in Ukraine is an episode of another thirty-year war in Europe (1618-1648). We have not moved beyond the 20th century politically. This is a new episode of the collapse of the USSR. What follows is a cold war. The war in Ukraine is one of the "proxy" wars, where military confrontations between the powerful take place in the territories of third countries. Cvetičanin considers not only Ukraine, but also Russia to be part of such a war, which, according to him, is actually being waged between the USA and China. "Everything is going in China's favor." Because the goods are circulating..." The lecture was attended by **29** people.

20th April

20th April "Ukraine, Russia, Western Balkans" - introductory lectures were held by: **Boris Varga**, journalist and writer from Novi Sad and **Sonja Biserko**, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Belgrade.

Varga believes that Russia's aggression against Ukraine began with the annexation of Crimea (2014): "Since 2014, Maidan-Putin's propaganda, its bots, fake news factories, have been creating the story that the Nazis are in power in Ukraine." His story is completely absurd, but he managed to lobotomize the citizens of the Russian Federation. From 2014 until now, there has been a great control of the entire system, armed forces, manipulation of people. Now the goal is to occupy part of Ukraine, to change the government, to organize referendums, to organize small republics that would erase the name Ukrainian. Putin's regime is the new neo-Nazi regime. The goal is to destroy Ukraine as such, to dismember it and to annex it piece by piece, just as Crimea was annexed, and as preparations are being made for the Donbass republics. The goal is to dismember the other parts and annex them to Russia, with enormous destruction and complete expulsion of people..."

Sonja Biserko warned about the continued policy of destabilizing the Balkans: "Russia's soft power is manifested through media propaganda: "Sputnik" is the main media outlet quoted in all Serbian newspapers, then "Russia Today" etc. Russia "participated in all disruptive actions in Macedonia, Serbia and Russia also participated in the coup, and of course in Montenegro, where there was a serious attempt to completely divide Montenegro." Biserko added that Russia is also involved in the Balkans 'through criminal activities, because both in Serbia and the Republika Srpska you have entire networks

of mobsters and tycoons - both around Dodik and Vučić, and that's what Putin relies on'. Twenty-nine (**29**) people attended the debate.

27th April

27th April "The novel about Biljana" - by **Dragan Lakićević Lakas**, doctor of philosophy and author of both theoretical and literary texts, is autobiographical-biographical prose, based to a large extent on personal experience, but also on subsequent reflection on the life and works of the Yugoslav writer and activist, Biljana Jovanović (1953-1996), poetess, author of plays and novels - Čuvar (The Guardian), Pada Avala (The Collapse of Mount Avala), Psi i ostali (Dogs and Others), Duša (The Soul), Jedinica moja (My only Daughter), Ulrike Meinhof, Leti u goru kao ptica (Soar Over the Mountain like a Bird), Centralni zatvor (Central Prison), Soba na Bosforu (Room on the Bosphorus...). WiB following activists spoke about the book: Tamara Spaić, Lino Veljak, Nastasja Radović, Senka Knežević and the author. The discussion was moderated by Miloš Urošević, and **18** people attended it.

(Integral reports on the above events can be found on the WiB website)

PUBLISHING ACTIVITY

In this period, we published the following:

Alternative history – Women in Black editions - Ever since its inception, Women in Black has advocated for the plurality of history - inscribing in the history of otherness and diversity, primarily the voices of women, but also of all the marginalized, excluded from economic, political and social power, both in our environment and all over the world... Our policy of written recording, leaving a written record of women's testimonies, joint reflections on the issues that preoccupy us, is based on the equal evaluation of academic knowledge and activist experience. So far, we have issued about **300** different publications. This publication presents a concise overview, divided into 15 chapters: Collections of Women for Peace; Magazines; Monographs and photo monographs; Testimonies: about war, war crimes, resistance to war...; Compilations, notebooks, manuals, research; Women's Court - feminist approach to justice; Edition: "Feminism, Pacifism, Nonviolence"; Edition: What every citizen ought to know;

Translations of literary works (Women in Black and Feministka '94); Women's Peace Agendas; Women in Black Peace Calendars; Feminist Mapping of Serbia and Anti-War Mapping of Serbia; Edition: They left a mark on us - a tribute to our activists; P(j)esnice and P(j)esnici - engaged poetry and Info about WiB Network. The publication was edited by: Staša Zajović and Miloš Urošević, cover design: Škart, layout: Zinaida Marjanović ; contains 54 pages.

“Agonistic Mourning – Political Dissidence and the Women in Black” – glossary/guide intended for a better understanding of the work of the Greek philosopher Athena Athanasiou (*Agonistic Mourning - Political Dissidence and Women in Black*, Athena Athanasiou, Edinburgh University Press); the translation of the book (Ana Imširović) was published by Women in Black, September 2020. The glossary was created as a result of the joint deliberations of the activists of WiB Network about the mentioned work, etc. The publication has **33** pages, edited by Staša Zajović, technical processing and design by Zinaida Marjanović.

Always disobedient – still in the streets – 30 years of resistance – presentation of the stage action **“Personal/political/internationalist”** performed by WiB activists, with the support of art-activist collectives Škart and Hleb Theater; the action was carried out at the meeting of the Network, in September 2021. The publication in BHS languages has **20** pages, and was prepared by: Staša Zajović, technical processing and design: Zinaida Marjanović.

Transgenderism – reader – contains **16** texts (**74** pages) both by authors from Serbia (Zorica Mršević), as well as translated and adapted from English and Spanish. The publication is divided into five chapters: Disputes between the feminist and transgender movements; Controversies around the Trans Law in Spain - for and against; For the policy of alliances and cross fighting; Transgender people among us. Prepared by: Staša Zajović, technical processing and design: Zinaida Marjanović. The reader was created as part of the preparation of the debates on transgenderism held at the WiB Network meeting in March 2022.

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; in relation with the refugees, etc.

We trust all women victims of sexual violence - Miroslav Aleksić was accused of 19 criminal acts of sexual violence committed between 2008 and 2022 against seven students of the acting school owned by Aleksić. Criminal proceedings were initiated against Aleksić before the High Court in Belgrade. We express our dismay at the Court's decision to open the trial to the public, even though the Prosecution proposed to the Court to exclude the public during the main trial, in order to protect the privacy of the participants in the proceedings. This decision of the Court is contrary to the previous practice of the Higher Courts in Serbia, according to which rape trials are closed to the public. We warn of the fact that this procedure is being carried

out in a social atmosphere that mostly encourages mistrust towards women who have survived sexual violence, while public space and trust are given to persons accused of violence. We see this as a symptom of a society that fosters a culture of rape and that is numb to compassion and solidarity with victims". WiB requests from judicial institutions: to conduct the procedure with special attention to the care and well-being of the survivors and by placing their trust in the testimonies of the survivors, not the abusers; that the prosecution continue with the investigation of other perpetrators accused of the crime of rape; that the media professionally report on this case and actively engage in dismantling the culture of disbelief in victims, avoiding any relativization of violence, ostracization and banalization of the experiences of survivors. We pledge for the punishment of sexual crimes, both those committed against women in times of so-called peace, and those committed against women during the wars in the former Yugoslavia", reads the announcements of February 1 and 28, 2022.

Serbia – a safe house for war criminals! - Women in Black condemned the shameful and cynical decision of the Court of Appeals to release convicted war criminal Miroslav Vujović on parole after serving two thirds of his sentence. In court proceedings that lasted more than a decade, he was sentenced to 20 years in prison for the massacre of civilians on the agricultural estate Ovčara, who had been taken away from the Vukovar Hospital in November 1991. More than 200 people were killed on that occasion.

"The Court of Appeals explained its decision by saying that the accused will not commit the same criminal offense until the end of his sentence. This is offensive to say the least. Of course, the accused will no longer have the opportunity to participate in the armed aggression against Vukovar, unless Serbia again contemplates launching conquest campaigns. Of course, the members of the armed formations of Serbia will no longer have the opportunity to demolish, kill, rob, rape. The Special Court for War Crimes in Belgrade is exhausting the families of victims and survivors with court proceedings that last for an inappropriately long time. With its decisions, the Court of Appeals in Belgrade humiliates and insults the dignity of the victims and renders the very concept of justice meaningless. "Women in Black will continue their practice of monitoring trials for war crimes in the Special Court in Belgrade, and in this way, above all, lend emotional, moral and political support to the families of the victims and survivors - in search of justice," as was stated in the announcement of February 8, 2022.

Stop to the war in Ukraine! – In 2014, the Russian Federation attacked Ukraine and annexed Crimea. In 2022, the Russian Federation recognized Donetsk and Lugansk - the regions that broke away from Ukraine in 2014. The invasion it carried out (February 24, 2022) is part of the militaristic imperial goals of the Russian regime led by the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin. "We

deamand urgent cessation of all military operations and withdrawal of all Russian troops from the territory of the independent state of Ukraine, as well as from the occupied territories; The introduction of new and expansion of the existing sanctions that the European Union undertaken against the Russian Federation. The International Criminal Court's investigation into crimes against the civilian population committed by Russian military formations by bombing not only military, but primarily civilian facilities in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odesa and other Ukrainian cities; That the state of Serbia adhere to the legal ban on sending volunteers from Serbia to the battlefield in Ukraine; We express our solidarity with the peace movement both in the attacked Ukraine and in the Russian Federation", reads the statement dated February 25, 2022.

We remember the crime in Štrpci 1993-2022! - On the occasion of the 29th anniversary of the crime in Štrpci , when members of the Army of the Republika Srpska (VRS), at the train station in Štrpci (BH), abducted and killed 20 passengers, civilians of non-Serb nationality, from train number 671, which was traveling on the Belgrade-Bar route.

The victims of this crime are: Esad Kapetanović, Ilijaz Ličin, Fehim Bakija, Šećo Softić, Rifat Husović, Halil Zupčević, Senad Đečević, Jusuf Rastoder, Ismet Babačić, Tomo Buzov, Adem Alomerović, Muhedin Hanić, Safet Preljević, Džafer Topuzović, Rasim Ćorić, Fikret Memović, Fevzija Zeković, Nijazim Kajević, Zvezdan Zuličić and one unidentified person. The victims were from Serbia and Montenegro, from Belgrade, Prijepolje, Bijelo Polje and Podgorica. The oldest victim was 59, and the youngest 16 years of age.

On this occasion, we sent the following requests to the state: to remove the rest of the remains from Perućac Lake, where the remains of four victims were found, and bury them with dignity; to stop obstructing the judicial proceedings against the lower-ranking perpetrators of this crime, and reveal the names of the planners, commanders and organizers of this crime; that the family of the members of this crime be allocated monthly compensation, which was denied to them because the legal framework that regulates it is discriminatory", it was emphasized in the announcement on 02/25/2022.

Against the mobilization of reserve troopers and the creation of war psychosis - Last week, the Department for Emergency Situations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Serbia invited conscripts to report to the Departments of the Ministry of Defense in regional centers, so that they would be informed of the dates for the training of members of the Civil Protection. Only this news was confirmed by the Ministry of Defense, denying that reservists are being called to military drills. "In the pre-election campaign, the regime manipulates sensitive topics, and relies, among other things, on the demonstration of the power at its disposal - on the mechanisms by which it decides on human destinies. Public communication of the Ministries of Police and Army, the key levers of the monopoly of physical coercion, in

the atmosphere of war psychosis, clearly do not act as democratic institutions of the system, but as mere executors of the will of the ruler and his camaraderie.

Women in Black warn the regime of Aleksandar Vučić not to resort to new fabrications of military summons and fictitious state interests. We also send our call to the citizens not to respond to the calls of the regime, determined to continue providing support to deserters and conscientious objectors," reads the announcement of March 8, 2022.

Stop the war in Ukraine! Зупиніть окупацію України! Остановите оккупацию Украины! – In the invasion of Ukraine, which the Russian Federation is mercilessly carrying out, the biggest victims are the civilian population, primarily women and children. "We support peace agreements aimed at ending all military operations that lead to ending the suffering of the civilian population; we express our solidarity with the peace movement both in Ukraine and in the Russian Federation" - *it was emphasized in the announcement of March 1, 2022.*

Stop the war in Ukraine! – "The occupation troops of the Russian Federation have been carrying out barbaric attacks on Ukraine since February 24, 2022. Invading troops, criminally besieging cities, depriving the civilian population of water, electricity, medicine, food and destroying civilian infrastructure - hospitals, schools, all places supporting life... As a result of the humanitarian disaster, terror and fear, over 2.8 million people from Ukraine sought salvation by fleeing to neighboring countries. The war in Ukraine threatens to compromise the more extremely fragile world peace, and the imperial militaristic campaign under the leadership of V. Putin bears the danger of using nuclear weapons. In addition to the demand for putting an immediate end to all military operations and the withdrawal of the occupying troops of the Russian Federation from Ukraine, WiB demands that *"the state of Serbia adhere to the legal ban on the participation of volunteers from Serbia on the battlefields in Ukraine, especially bearing in mind the previous favorable attitude of the judiciary towards Serbian volunteers on the pro-Russian side. We express our solidarity and support to the anti-war movement in Russia, Belarus and the invaded Ukraine. We express our deepest respect and solidarity to the brave and responsible feminist activists across the Russian Federation who stood up against the war and Putin's tyranny!"* – read the statement dated March 15, 2022.

Stop the war in Ukraine! - Stop the war in Ukraine! Остановите войну в Украине! Stop ruskoj agresiji na Ukrajinu! Stop Putinu! Putine, dalje ruke od Ukrajine/Putin, hands off Ukraine! Stop okupaciji Ukrajine/зупиніть окупацію України!/Остановите оккупацию Украины! Dajte šansu miru/Give peace a chance! Solidarnost sa mirovnim pokretom u Rusiji i Ukrajinu/Solidarity with peace movement in Russia and Ukraine! Не війна! Ни вайна! Нет войне! Ne ratu! No war! – *those are some of the messages sent out at the protest rally on 30th March.*

Remembering the victims of the siege of Sarajevo through messages of peace from Belgrade - on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the beginning of the siege of Sarajevo, Women in Black and the Youth Initiative for Human Rights in Serbia stated in a press release dated April 5: *"The war in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BH) was until then the bloodiest armed conflict on the soil of Europe after World War II, which left behind at least 96,000 killed people, 2 million displaced persons, more than 20,000 women who survived wartime rape. Terrorism, indiscriminate shelling and sniper fire by units of the YNA and the Army of the Republika Srpska against the citizens of Sarajevo lasted for 1,475 days, which is the longest siege of a city in the modern history of warfare. During the siege, over 11,000 adults and more than 1,600 children were killed.*

It is estimated that around 500,000 missiles were fired at the city during the siege, while a record 3,777 missiles were fired at the city on July 22, 1993. Stanislav Galić, Dragomir Milošević, Radovan Karadžić and Ratko Mladić were convicted for crimes committed during the siege of Sarajevo before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Courts (IMRC). Instead of Mladić, whose graffiti and murals continue to desecrate the capital of Serbia, with messages of peace, we show respect for the victims and solidarity for the families of the victims, witnesses and survivors of the siege of Sarajevo"

Stop the war in Ukraine! – "The occupation troops of the Russian Federation have been carrying out barbaric attacks in the territory of Ukraine since February 24, 2022. The biggest victim of the Russian aggressors is the civilian population, and the Ukrainian cities of Mariupol, Irpiny, Bucha, Kramatorsk, Makarin and others are becoming toponyms for mass crimes against humanity. Evidence of mass graves, rapes, tortures, collective executions is piling up every day. The criminal imperial militaristic campaign under the leadership of V. Putin must be called GENOCIDE"; it was emphasized in the announcement of April 12, 2022. It was also requested that *"Serbia join the EU sanctions against Russia, not only because of the obligation arising from the status of candidate for membership in EU, but also as an act of clear condemnation of Russian aggression; to stop and sanction war-mongering propaganda in the regime media in Serbia, which, while celebrating the crimes of the Russian occupation troops, deny the crimes against innocent Ukrainian civilians; to sanction the rampage of Serbian neo-Nazis who publicly and freely celebrate Putin's crimes and to sanction the use of the 'Z' mark (as a symbol of Putin's criminal army and politics) in public space,"* etc.

We remember 23rd April 1999 – 23rd April 2022 – On 23rd April 1999, in the NATO bombing of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Radio Television of Serbia building, in Aberdareva Street, in Belgrade, was also hit. At that moment, there were 16 workers in the building, who died on that occasion. The responsibility for their death, according to the factual truth established by the court, lies with the former



director of RTS, Dragoljub Milanović. Despite the fact that he had clear knowledge that the RTS building was going to be bombed, he did not inform his employees about it. Dragoljub Milanović, as well as the entire regime of Slobodan Milošević, in which Aleksandar Vučić was the Minister of Information at the time, are responsible for the sacrifice of innocent people. Women in Black from Belgrade and the Women's Association 'Anima' from Đulić (BH) also expressed their sympathy and solidarity with the families of those killed, with a request to the Serbian authorities to acknowledge their accountability for this crime and to compensate the families of the victims.

The language of lynch always precedes lynching! - The verbal outbursts of extreme right-wingers culminated in the recent organized threats to journalists of the daily newspaper Danas that they were going to be slaughtered, that their children would suffer... Most resolutely condemning those threats and expressing undivided solidarity with the members of the editorial staff of one of the few free media in today's Serbia, we would like to remind you of the following: the existence and strengthening of the extreme right in Serbia (neo-fascist, clerical-fascist, neo-Nazi and any other) is a direct result of the actions of certain security structures motivated by the aspirations of the current regime to abolish any space of freedom, it was emphasized in the announcement of *April 26, 2022*.

*Report prepared by: Staša Zajović with the support of:
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Women in Black, July 2022