



# ACTIVITY REPORT

*žene u crnom  
beograd*

**for the period  
May - August 2014**

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

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



# STREET ACTIONS

During the period covered by this report we have organized seventeen (17) actions:

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

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

**May 12<sup>th</sup>, Bratunac, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** in occasion of 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of crime against Bosnian civilians in Bratunac, eight (8) activist of Women in Black attended in Memorial Center Veljaci the eighth collective funeral/jenaza of remains of 6 identified persons/ bodies of the killed Bosnian civilians during 1992.

267 bodies/remains – Bosnians were buried and about another 300 bodies are still being searched for. During 1992 in Bratunac area, 602 persons were killed and 18000 were banished. In mid-April 1992, Novi Sad Corps of Yugoslav National Army arrived to Bratunac, and it was followed by arrival of Serbian paramilitary formations, which committed numerous crimes.



**May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, Omarska and Trnopolje, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** memorialization of opening of concentration camps Omarska and Trnopolje (1992), where population of Prijedor Municipality were held captive; in mentioned concentration camps, Serbian military and police kept imprisoned about 6000 persons of Bosnian and Croatian nationality, and 700-900 persons were killed in the camp. In these camps, women were exposed to most brutal sexual crimes. A group of 40 women, among whom two of Women in Black activists (Lepa Mladenović and Dragana Garić), was allowed by the authorities to visit “the White House” in Omarska for one hour – the place of torture of women and men camp prisoners, which was ultimately humiliating and all over again traumatizing for everyone. It should be mentioned that the complex is in Repulika Srpska/RS and that it is owned by the leading multinational iron company “ArcellorMittal”.

**May 31<sup>st</sup>, Prijedor, Bosnia and Hezegovina, “International Day of White Armbands”:** Remembering the beginning of the campaign (1992) of extinction, during which the mass executions were conducted, and concentration camps opened (Trnopolje, Omarska and Keraterm). On the mentioned day, the authorities of Bosnian Serbs in Prijedor ordered non-Serbian population to mark their houses with white flags or sheets, and to wear white armbands around their sleeves when they leave the house.



This year, following activists of Women in Black from Belgrade participated in memorialization: Lepa Mladenović and Dragana Garić, both of these participants also contributed to preparations of the march organized by initiative “Because it concerns me”; about 300 participants attended the march.

During the march, petition was organized for building a monument to 102 children killed in war.



**June 1<sup>st</sup>, Zvornik, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** During May and June 1992, on area of Zvornik Municipality, Serbian armed formations subjected civilians of Muslim nationality to torture – about 700 men, women and children, who were then killed in a place called Gerina klanica (Gera's slaughter house). In occasion of 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of this crime, a peace march was organized – visiting the places of persecution and mass graves and camps in Zvornik region (Snagovo, Crni vrh, Karakaj, School-technical center...). On the same day, on cemetery in Memići, remains of victims found in exhumation were buried. In this act of remembering, eight (8) Women in Black activists took part, together with the families of the victims and survivors.



**July 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>: We will never forget the genocide in Srebrenica:** as part of memorialization of 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of genocide, several actions were organized:

**July 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>: "Peace activism – activist cyclism – Srebrenica 2014":** Peace March from Belgrade to Srebrenica. Organizers are a group of activists (Eva Dinić, Vladimir Jevtić and Nina Đurđević Filipović) in co-operation with organization SOS Vlasotince and Women in Black Network from Serbia, with support from Reconstruction Womens' Fund.

This action was organized for the second time this year: nine cyclists departed from Belgrade. The participants of this cycling campaign wanted to remind the inhabitants of West Serbia and Podrinje of Serbia's role in war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the mentioned are often served as logistic support for campaigns of various military and paramilitary formations, which took part in war on territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Participants of this peace action departed on July 8<sup>th</sup> from Belgrade, through Valjevo, where a peace action was organized.



**July 8<sup>th</sup>, Valjevo: "We will never forget genocide in Srebrenica":** on the main city square, manifestation of protest in black and in silence was held, in which a group of eight (8) activists of Women in Black from Belgrade participated together with the crew of cyclists, participants of the mentioned march. Three slogans featured on this protest: We will never forget the genocide in Srebrenica, Responsibility, and Women in Black for peace and justice, and also leaflets about Srebrenica genocide were distributed to citizens.



During this peace action, the activists of Women in Black were attacked both verbally and physically, by the group of ultra-wright wing organization "Chetniks of Valjevo", football supporters and hooligans. In these events, four activists were injured: Dejan Gašić, Ljiljana Radovanović, Miloš Urošević and Staša Zajović. Participants of the cycling tour returned to Belgrade together with Women in Black activists due to unsecured circumstances, and on July 10<sup>th</sup> continued their journey from Belgrade to Potočari/Srebrenica.

**July 8<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade: Sending the open letter July 11<sup>th</sup> – Memory Day of genocide in Srebrenica – declare!:** to the president of Serbia Tomislav Nikolić, to the president of the Government of Republic of Serbia, to the president of the National Parliament of Republic of Serbia and all its deputies, in occasion of 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica. The request was repeated to declare July 11<sup>th</sup> the Memory Day of genocide in Srebrenica and to sanction denial of genocide by proclaiming it a felony.







**July 10<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade: “July 11<sup>th</sup> – Memory Day of genocide in Srebrenica – Declare!”:** Protest outside the Presidency of Serbia as part of the campaign with the same title, in organization of Women in Black, Center for Cultural Decontamination, Committee of Layers for Human Rights, Humanitarian Law Center and Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia. Activists from the Women in Black Network from Serbia also participated, as well as activists of Association for Social Research and Communication from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Following slogans featured on this occasion: Responsibility, Solidarity, July 11<sup>th</sup> – Memory Day of Genocide in Srebrenica – Declare, Nationalism kills, We don't want to be shadows, we want to be witnesses.

On this occasion, the above mentioned open letter was read out loud to the highest representatives of Republic of Serbia, demanding that the Parliament of Serbia brings a Resolution, modeled on European Parliament, which would declare July 11<sup>th</sup> Memory Day of genocide in Srebrenica. Over **150** persons took part in this action.

**July 10<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade: “We will never forget the genocide in Srebrenica”:** protest in black and in silence, and a scene action “We remember – Srebrenica – 8372” was performed in organization of WIB Network and Association for Social Research and Communication from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This peace action, attended by over **100** activists from entire Serbia, continued building up a live monument to the victims of genocide in Srebrenica. By “moving” Srebrenica to Republic Square in Belgrade, with 8372 names of genocide victims, we warned that eyes cannot be shut before the committed genocide, and that only facing it can contribute to establishing the political culture where crimes are punishable.

**11<sup>th</sup> July, Potocari/Srebrenica: “Remembering and Responsibility”, solidarity with victims of crimes committed in our name:** about 50 activists of the Network of Women in Black from Serbia and related organizations attended the commemoration/dzenaza and the burial of 409 victims of genocide. 175 victims were buried inside the Potocari Memorial Center. So far, 6066 victims have been buried, and another 2000 and more are still in secret mass graves in Podrinje area.

**July 18<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade – memorialization of 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of crime against civilians of Serbian nationality on Kosovo:** to mark memory of murder of 25 civilians of Serbian nationality in July 1998 on area of Orahovac Municipality, in villages Opteruša and Retimlje, we held a commemoration act on cemetery Orlovača, in organization of Association of Families of the Kidnapped and Missing Persons on Kosovo. On this occasion, activists of Women in Black from Belgrade laid a wreath with expressions of compassion and solidarity with the families of the victims of this crime.

**August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, Trnopolje and Omarska, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Upon the call from the Union of Camp Prisoners of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Union of Camp Prisoners of Prijedor, Women in Black activist Goran Lazin participated in the act of memory, of marking the closing date of the mentioned camp (August 6<sup>th</sup> 1992). This visit represents paying respects to the victims, act of solidarity with the survivors, support to building a Memorial Center on the area of ex camp Omarska.





## **Feminist, antifascist, anti-war, antiracist and antimilitarist actions:**

(we are presenting them in chronological order)

**May 9<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade: "Antifascism Is My Choice":** In occasion of Day of Victory against Fascism, Women in Black with support of artistic collectives Škart and Biro organized a peace action with a title I demand, in front of the monument to the hanged antifascists (in Second World War) on Terazije, in center of Belgrade. Participants in this action addressed the state with a request to protect the defenders of human rights from violence and lynch, to respect antifascist values and inheritance; to abolish those laws which enable equalization of fascism and antifascism and rehabilitation of the war criminal from the Second World War Draža Mihailović; to appropriately punish organizations and individuals who with their words and actions persecute others and different; to affirm otherness, difference and ethics of responsibility towards others, etc.



Following organizations participated in this peace action: Gay-Straight Alliance, Reconstruction Women's Fund, Queer Center, Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Committee of Layers for Human Rights and Republika. Entire action was attended by about 50 persons.

**May 15<sup>th</sup> – Kruševac "We remember the brave resistance of women":** Peace action/tribute to brave women who, in Kruševac in 1999, rebelled against forced mobilization of men to war on Kosovo.

The action was organized by Association of Women Pešćanik from Kruševac and Women in Black from Belgrade; over **50** activists of the Women in Black Serbian Network participated in this action, reminding of the rebel of women of Rasinski county against the forced mobilization in 1999, paying respect to their act of civil courage and responsibility, and expressing deepest appreciation for the contribution of women in building peace.



**June 7<sup>th</sup>, Niš, "Food, not arms":** in occasion of International Day of Women's Actions for Peace and Disarmament, Women in Black with support of Network of Women against Violence organized an antimilitarist action "Food, not arms" on the main square in Niš. About 150 activists from the region participated, all of whom previously attended the Conference against violence against women. The action was held as part of global campaign against militarism, which is organized by International Network against small caliber arms and light armament (IANSA), whose members are Women in Black. The action expressed a protest against militarization of state and of society and against accumulation of weapons, which led to increase of all forms of violence in Serbia, and especially to ending women's lives by their mail partners and family related persons. It has been pointed out as a fact that investment in wars and military industry, instead of investment in infrastructure to serve the civil population, harms peace and security of the people and brings human victims and immense material damage, as proven by recent catastrophic floods.







Throughout the action, following antimilitarist parols were held up: Food, not arms! Stop arms importation! We demand control of armament! The flood has thrown out arsenals of weapons around houses! – as well as parols that reminded of state neglect and its lack of any sustention of systems for defense against flooding: Had the state been investing into embankments, there would be no flood! Flood = state organized irresponsibility! We received the solidarity lesson by asylum seekers! People are better than elites! Don't feed us fear – I don't want to be fed with fear, but with fruits of my labor! The flood threw up the sediment and the sludge of irresponsible state! Freedom is always freedom for those who think different then the regime! Solidarity is our strength! Solidarity with the threatened from flooded areas!

Leaflets with antimilitarist messages, as well as apples and carrots, were also distributed to the citizens. The action ended with loud calls for active resistance to militarism in all its forms, in order to enable the overcoming of deep injustices we are living through.

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

This year's action was dedicated to solidarity of LGBT population with Roma community, and a walk was organized to the place where in 1997 a boy of Roma nationality Dušan Jovanović was murdered. Organizers sent a message that such hate crimes must never happen again in Serbia against anyone, and that they will fight persistently and committedly against all forms of xenophobia, racism, homophobia, chauvinism and hate and intolerance against different social groups and individuals.

**July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Belgrade, "Stop Israeli aggression on Gaza":** Concerning the actual political situation in Gaza, Women in Black organized on July 25<sup>th</sup> 2014 a protest in black and in silence, on Republic Square in Belgrade. There were about twenty (20) Women in Black activists on this protest, but the protest was also attended by activists from Zagreb (Center for Women War Victims and Center for Women Studies), from Skopje (Council for Equal Gender Rights), from Kotor (Center for Women and Peace Education). Activists of Autonomous Women's Center and Reconstruction Women's Fund from Belgrade also gave their solidary support to the protest of Women in Black.





# FACING THE PAST TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE - A FEMINIST APPROACH

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

## VISITING THE PLACES OF CRIMES COMMITTED IN OUR NAME

During the period covered by this report, the Women in Black visited:

- Bratunac/Bosnia nad Herzegovina/B&H
- Omarska and Trnopolje/B&H, May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>
- Prijedor / B&H, May 31<sup>st</sup>
- Zvornik / B&H, June 1<sup>st</sup>
- Memorial Center Potocari / Srebrenica / B&H, June 20<sup>th</sup>
- Tuzla/B&H, June 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>
- Memorial Center Potocari / Srebrenica / B&H, July 11<sup>th</sup>
- Omarska and Trnopolje / B&H, August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>

(More information available in section – Commemorations/memorialization of important dates of crimes committed in our name)





# WOMEN'S SOLIDARITY FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF WAR CRIMES

The action of female 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 the following visits:

**May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, Ilok, Croatia:** peace meeting was held in organization of Women in Black from Belgrade and Vukovar Mothers, association from Vukovar, with participation of 21 attendants from several organizations: Vukovar Mothers, Žar, European House, Association of Women of Srebrenica, Women in Black Network from Serbia. Throughout this meeting, numerous workshops were held, as well as lectures on confronting the past, on process of transitional justice in Serbia, Croatia and the region, on participation of women in peace building.



**May 12<sup>th</sup>, Bratunac, B&H:** Meeting of the WIB activists with the organizers of commemoration in Bratunac, with the activists of Movement of Mothers of Srebrenica and Žepa Enclaves, Association of Women of Srebrenica and Tuzla.

**May 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, Kozarac, B&H:** international peace meeting "With hart to peace" in organization of House of Peace. During the four days of a meeting, the participants discussed the following topics: transitional justice, dilemmas about memorials/monuments marking crimes in B&H, experiences of cooperation between activists Israel-Palestine, experiences of the second generation of displaced Greeks from Turkey, experiences of women whose family members are missing or killed in camps, etc. Lepa Mladenović and Dragana Garić participated in the name of WIB, Belgrade.

**May 30<sup>th</sup>, Prijedor, B&H:** Meeting with the women gathered around Prijedor group Izvor/Spring, whose mail family members were murdered in local camps. Meeting in the House of Peace on May 30<sup>th</sup> 2014, was held in organization of feminists from Sarajevo, Izvor/Spring from Prijedor and feminists from Zagreb, Belgrade and Banja Luka.

**June 1<sup>st</sup>, Đulići, B&H:** Eight (8) activists of WIB Network of Serbia visited Đulići and Zvornik, met with the families of the murdered in that region, and attended together the burial in Memići.

**June 20<sup>th</sup>, Memorial Center Potočari, B&H:** Visit to the mentioned center by WIB activists and Carlos M. Beristain, activist from Basque/Spain, and a meeting with members of Association "Mothers of Žepa and Srebrenica Enclaves" (Munira Šubašić, Kada Hotić), and with Hatidža – Đida Memedović and Suhra Malić from Srebrenica.

**June 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, Tuzla, B&H:** Visit by WIB activists and Carlos M. Beristain, activist from Basque/Spain, to the Association of Women of Srebrenica, meeting and exchange of experiences with their activists.

**June 21<sup>st</sup>, Bela Reka, near Šabac, Serbia:** Visit by WIB activists and Carlos M. Beristain, activist from Basque/Spain; meeting and exchange of experiences between activists and Jakovljević family, whose son Dragan Jakovljević was killed during his obligatory military service, on October 5<sup>th</sup> 2004, in a military facility Karaš, a military barrack of Yugoslav Army on Topčider.

**July 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade:** Meeting of WIB Network activists with the activists of Association for Research and Social Communication from Sarajevo, throughout which experiences were exchanged and future common actions were agreed.





**July 26<sup>th</sup> and August 30<sup>th</sup>, Bela Reka, near Šabac, Serbia:** Visit to Jakovljević family – continuation of the work on preparation of archive/documents about the crime in the military barrack in Topčider; preparing monography about the crime, memorial – peace endowment “Dragan Jakovljević”; organizing together the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of murder of D. Jakovljević, etc.

### **Educational activities regarding confronting the past**

– transitional justice: lectures, debates, workshops, film screenings in organization of Women in Black and related organizations:

**May 14<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade:** “Reflecting together on confronting the past, on process of transitional justice in light of current situation in Serbia and in the region” and film screening „Through Their Eyes – Witnesses to Justice“, organized by WIB, Belgrade: speaker Morgiana Brading, representative of Secretariat of Hague Tribunal in Belgrade; conversation and film screening were held in WIB office, with 12 attendants.

**May 15<sup>th</sup>, Kruševac:** In organization of “Peščanik” from Kruševac and WIB from Belgrade, and after the ending of the peace action “We remember the brave resistance of women”, 45 activists of the Women in Black Network participated in continuation of the program, dedicated to culture of memory from perspective of engaged women’s art, by watching documentary films about forced mobilization and brave resistance of citizens and civil society. After the screening, participants exchanged their experiences and developed a discussion on forced mobilization during wars in ex-Yugoslavia.

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Leskovac,** „Through Their Eyes – Witnesses to Justice“: screening of documentary film of 42 minutes duration, produced by Hague Tribunal/International Criminal Tribunal for ex-Yugoslavia/ICTY Outreach Program. Film was made in 2013. Hague Tribunal has heard, since the first trial until today, statements by over 5000 witnesses. In this film, five of them are talking about experiences of testifying in front of an international court and contributing to justice. After the screening, there was a discussion about the film, as well as about confronting the past – process of transitional justice in light of current situation in Serbia and the region.



Introduction was made by Morgiana Brading, representative of Hague Tribunal in Belgrade; Janja Beč, sociologist and international expert in transitional justice, Pančevo; Jelena Cakić, coordinator of Women for Peace, Leskovac and Staša Zajović, Women in Black, Belgrade.

The event was held in Cultural Center in Leskovac, in organization of Women for Peace from Leskovac and Women in Black from Belgrade, and was attended by about twenty (20) persons.

**Cycle of debates: Srebrenica 2014:** Reflecting together on political context in which action takes place:

- Process of confronting the past in Serbia – on institutional level
- Process of confronting the past in Serbia – on civil society level
- Confronting the past (and especially confronting the genocide in Srebrenica) – in spite of organized oblivion of the crimes committed in our name...
- Particular agreements concerning confronting the past, and especially the continuing of activities regarding memorialization of genocide in Srebrenica, etc.





As part of this cycle, four (4) debates were held in WIB offices and were attended by 63 activists:

- July 3<sup>rd</sup>: about 15 persons participated;
- July 5<sup>th</sup>: twelve participants of action "Peace activism – activist cyclism" and WIB activists;
- July 9<sup>th</sup>: with participation of about twenty activists, the debate was about the attack during the action in Valjevo (We will never forget the genocide in Srebrenica), about the security situation and continuance of this peace action;
- July 16<sup>th</sup>: with participation of 16 WIB activists.

The debates were moderated by Vladimir Jevtić and Staša Zajović.

## VIDEO ACTIVISM: TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE - FEMINIST APPROACH

In order to improve the visibility of the effects of different models of transitional justice, particularly one from a feminist point of view, promoted by Women in Black, WIB activists created, during the 2010, a group of video activists, who are trained in recording, editing, digitizing and posting on internet, the video and audio material collected during the regular activities of WIB, so that they would, in the form of short films, be more available to the general public.

Next to films mentioned in the section related to Women's Court, group of video activists, coordinated by Mary Vidic and Goran Lazin, in cooperation with Marija Aranđelović, Zinaida Marjanovic and other WIB activists. In the period covered by this report, the group produced seven (7) video materials in total duration of **40, 41** minutes:

**We remember crimes on Kosovo (6:52 minutes).** The film shows the protest and the performance which Women in Black organized on March 26<sup>th</sup> 2014, on Republic Square in Belgrade, in occasion of 15 years since NATO bombings and persecution of Albanian population on Kosovo.

**Solidarity with families of RTS employees killed in NATO bombings (4:26 minutes):** Women in Black joined and expressed their solidarity with the families of RTS employees, killed in bombing of RTS building on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1999.

**March 8<sup>th</sup> (5:53 minutes):** film shows the street protest and the march in Belgrade "Women – work – famine! Quit giving us flowers, give us our companies back", both organized in occasion of March 8<sup>th</sup> by the Women in Black.

**Antifascism is our choice (5:12 minutes):** antifascist action organized on May 9<sup>th</sup> – Day of Victory over Fascism; action took place in Belgrade.

**We remember the brave resistance of women (4:27 minutes):** feminist-antimilitarist action organized in Kruševac – in memory of resistance of women of Rasinski county against forced mobilization during the war in Kosovo and NATO bombings.

**Food, not arms (5:56 minutes):** feminist-antimilitarist action in Niš in occasion of International Day of Women's Actions for Peace and Disarmament.

**We will never forget the genocide in Srebrenica (9:15 minutes):** peace action in Valjevo in organization of WIB and peace initiative "Peace activism-cycling activism".

**We will never forget the genocide in Srebrenica (9:53 minutes):** actions organized by the Women in Black in Belgrade, in occasion of anniversary of genocide in Srebrenica.



# WOMEN'S COURT FEMINIST APPROACH TO JUSTICE

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

If you need additional information, you can find them on websites [www.zeneucrnom.org](http://www.zeneucrnom.org) and [www.zenskisud.org](http://www.zenskisud.org) or write to us on email address [zeneucrnombeograd@gmail.com](mailto:zeneucrnombeograd@gmail.com).

We thank you in solidarity in advance.

At the end of 2010, the members of the Initiative Board (IB): *Women to Women*, Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), *the Center for Women and Peace Education Anima*, Kotor (Montenegro), *the Center for Women's Studies* and the *Center for Women War Victims*, Zagreb (Croatia), *Women's Network Kosovo*, Kosovo, and *Women's Studies and Women in black*, Belgrade, launched an initiative to organize the Women's Court for the former Yugoslavia. IB now has 10 organizations from all countries of the former Yugoslavia. At a meeting, organized in early February 2013, the Initiative Board has evolved into the Women's Court Organizing Board (OB).

Women in Black are the leading organization, regarding the implementation of the activities related to the organization of the Women's Court; they negotiate and coordinate all activities with other organizations, OB members.

In the period covered by this report, the following activities were conducted:

## **I Educational activities – seminars, lectures, public presentations, conferences as part of process of organizing the Women's Court: feminist approach to justice**

### **1. Public presentations:**

Public presentations/PP of the initiative to organize the Women's Court, are an integral part of the research and activist process, aiming to gather information and suggestions regarding the concept and vision of justice and the choice of topics of the Women's Court.

In the stated period, following PP have been organized:

Bosnia and Herzegovina – 10 public presentations:

- 2 workshops in Tuzla,
- 2 in Goražde,
- 2 in Bijeljina,
- 1 workshop in Jajce
- 1 workshop in Zvornik





Through these workshops, we managed to strengthen our network of Women's Court supporters. A large number of women, after the presentation was done, wanted to know how they could contribute to further work of Women's Court in B&H.

## 2. Conferences – promotion of WC

- **June 12<sup>th</sup> 2014, Sarajevo** – Press conference was organized with a goal to introduce the wider public into the existence of the process of the Women's Court in B&H, as well as into the current status of women survivors and their needs.
- **June 12<sup>th</sup> 2014, Sarajevo** – Conference "Obligations of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Women Survivors of War Rapes, Sexual Abuse and Other Forms of Torture" was held in Hollywood hotel, with participation of 41 persons. Along with NGOs and individuals, the Conference was attended by representatives of: Ministry of Labor and Fighters-Invalids Protection of Republika Srpska, Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of B&H, Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Federal Ministry of Justice, Gender Center of Federation of B&H and RS, Agency for Gender Equality, OSCE, Delegation of European Union in B&H, MIKSJ.

## II Feminist Discussion Circles

Feminist discussion circles represent: the joint reflection of important issues we deal with, place to foster critical reflection and questioning, in order to strengthen the autonomy of women and increase the collective power and political power of the feminist movement. Feminist discussion circles are a combination of workshops, debates-interactive lectures, and filmscreenings.

In the stated period, following feminist discussion circles have been organized:

### May 21st, 23rd, 24th: Sremski Karlovci

Feminist ethics of care and economy of care. It was attended by 26 persons from following towns: Zagreb, Novi Sad, Beograd, Niš, Kruševac, Sombor, Pančevo, Leskovac, Novi Bečej. Feminist discussion circle/FDK consisted of following interactive lectures and debates:

- **Selma Sevenhuijsen:** Values that sustain life – ethics of care, on vulnerability and protection; commented by: Janja Beči and Miloš Urošević
- **Sara Radik:** Notes towards feminist motherly politics of peace; commented by Staša Zajović and Ana Vilenica
- **M.V. Lee Badget, N. Folbre:** Care for others – gender norms and economic consequences; commented by Vesna Đorđević and Olivera Babić
- **Eva Kamberer:** Feminist ethics of care – lecture and discussion with the author of the essay
- **Sandra Li Bartki:** Feeders of ego and comforters: subjugation and alienation of feminine emotional work; commented by Biljana Branković, Tanja Marković, Maša Malešević, Saša Kovačević and Miloš Urošević
- **Marija Perković:** Economy of care – short historical overview – lecture and discussion with the author of the essay
- **Maja Hrgović:** When women go to the West, families pay the price; commented by Svenka Savić and Maja Sedlarević
- **Marija Babović:** Gender inequalities from perspective of feminist economy; lecture and discussion with the author of the essay





- **Activism and ethics of care** – workshop; coordinated by Milka Rosić
- **Alpar Lošonc: Bio-politics of pride and Lino Veljak:** Tong Rosemary and Nancy Williams: Feminist ethics
- **Aintzane Saitua and Maruha Sarasola:** Care for others as a choice; commented by Slobodan Sadžakov and Milka Rosić

A theme reader under the title “Feminist Ethics of Care” has been prepared for these Feminist discussion circles, as it was the case with the previous ones. The reader consists of fifteen (15) essays of local and international authors from the region and the world, who deal with issues of feminist ethics of care and economy of care. At the same time, these topics make the titles of the two parts of this reader.

**June 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, Avala, Belgrade – Alternative models of justice – practice of justice within community.**

Attended by **40** persons from following towns in Serbia: Leskovac, Kruševac, Niš, Dimitrovgrad, Belgrade, Šabac, Bela Reka, Novi Bečej and Sarajevo B&H, and the guest and the lecturer was Carlos m. Beristain from Bilbao, Basque/Spain.

Program of FDC consisted of following parts:

- **From institutional to alternative models of justice** – lecture and video presentation, delivered by Staša Zajović and Ivana Vitas
- **“Deceptively simple – curing memory”** – discussion on the essay from the book From victim to winner, by author Michael Lapsley
- **Legal practices in communities – historical experiences on Balkans**
  - “Blood reconciliation on Kosovo” – people’s initiative started in early 90ies, with aim to eradicate blood vengeance; commented by Maša Malešević, ethnologist, Belgrade
  - Ethics of reconciliation in work of Marko Miljanov; commented by Marija Perković, Women in Black, Belgrade
- **Feminine approach to justice: I know justice – experiences from Africa; Women’s initiative for justice – experience from Guatemala; Umoja women’s village – experience from Kenya; City of Joy – experience from Congo.** Work of these groups was presented by Miloš Urošević (WIB), with use of video presentations
- **Pray to Devil Back to Hell** – screening of documentary film about women from Liberia fighting for peace, after twenty years long civil war
- **Informal education for confronting the past** – lecture by Marijana Toma, from Humanitarian Law Center
- **Activist-artistic initiatives of women in fight for peace and justice**
  - **Chile** – Arpillera – memory/remembering as art – presented by Miloš Urošević
  - **Serbia** – Artistic engagement in confronting the past – experience of Women in Black – presented by Marija Perković



Work and exchange with Carlos M. Beristain consisted of following contents:

- **What I do and why I do it? - Introduction of Carlos M. Beristain** (doctor, antimilitarist activist, expert in mental health, has worked continuously for over 20 years with victims of political violence and with groups for human rights in Peru, Guatemala, Salvador, Columbia, Mexico, Basque; also active in Inter-American Court for Human Rights; participated in four commissions for truth in Latin America: in Guatemala, Equador, Peru and Paraguay, currently working on starting up a Commission for Truth in Columbia. In that country, he worked from 2009 to 2013 in Women’s Commis-





sion for Truth, Justice and Reparation in Columbia, together with feminist network Ruta Pacifica (Women's Peace Path); he is author of numerous books and works on political violence in areas of crises and on mental health of victims/survivors. Last years, Carlos extended his operations also to Africa, where he works in West Sahara and in Congo).

- **Trauma and recovery – how to heal and renew societies hit by war sufferings, or natural catastrophes? Experiences from Latin America, Europe, etc.**
- **Truth, justice, reconciliation – workshop**
- **Experiences on building peace and justice in Latin America**
- **Guatemala** – Reconstruction of historic memory/REMHI – Commission for Historical clarifications
- **Columbia** – Women's Commission for Truth, Justice and Reparation
- **"Garden filled with women's hopes"** – screening of the film about Women's Commission for Truth in Columbia
- **Resistance – strengthening and mutual support** – in community, in organizations of civil society in situation of political repression and violence – international experiences, morals/lessons...



A small theme reader under the title *"Alternative models of justice – practices of justice within community"* was prepared for this FDC, as it has been the case for the previous ones. The little reader contains fourteen (14) short overviews, divided into two parts: I – Practices of justice within community, and II – Women build peace and justice together.

### III Feminist ethics of care – support to potential witnesses

Within support to women who testified in feminist discussion circle on militarist/ethnic/economic/gender violence

1. Group and individual meetings and discussions: aiming to keep communication with the women who testified in feminist discussion circles and in other activities in process of organizing WC; in the period covered by this report, following meetings were held:

#### **Bosnia and Herzegovina:**

- *Six (6) meetings:* in Jajce, Donji Vakuf, Sarajevo, Zenica, Vogošća. Work with therapists in Zenica and Sarajevo.

#### **Montenegro:**

- *Kotor, May 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>* – Individual conversations with two women, and then meeting with three women from factory Livnica. Participated: Ljupka Kovačević, Ervina Dabižinović and Senka Rastoder

#### **Croatia:**

- *May 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>* – Meeting and workshop for women potential witnesses from Croatia, held in Center M:A:R:E: in Rovinj, center for mine victims and other persons who survived traumas; the space was provided thanks to support from Dijana Pleština.

There were 24 women on the meeting, about one half of them were activists of civil society, while the other half were potential witnesses. The workshop was coordinated by Marijana Senjak.

#### **Serbia:**

- *Kruševac, May 15<sup>th</sup>* – support to potential witnesses in Women's Court: feminist approach to justice – work meeting with participation of 40 activists of WIB Network from Kruševac, Trstenik, Niš, Belgrade, Leskovac, Vlasotince...







#### IV Working consultative meetings

In accordance with the Feminist Code of organizing the Women's Court, in which we committed to the divisibility of knowledge, and creating common thinking processes, these meetings are part of that democratic process. We use them to jointly analyze the results of implemented activities, and define the next steps in the process of creating and understanding justice from a feminist perspective. In accordance with the process of WC organizing and feminist ethics, in addition to joint working consultative meetings, we initiated a variety of different types of work at the country level: the regular operational meetings, conferences, workshops, meetings, legal team meetings, focus group discussion, discussion circles, etc. In the period covered by this report, we have organized following meetings:

**1. Meeting of the Women's Court Organizing Board (WC OB): held on July 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, in Belgrade, in WIB offices.** This working meeting of WC OB was attended by following members of WC OB:

- Daša Duhaček, Center for Women Studies, Belgrade/Serbia
- Jadranka Miličević, Fondation Cure, Sarajevo/Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Ljupka Kovačević, Anima, Kotor, Montenegro
- Nela Pamuković, Center for Women War Victims, Zagreb/Croatia
- Savka Todorovska, Council for Equal Rights, Skopje/Macedonia
- Staša Zajović, Women in Black, Belgrade/Serbia
- Meeting was also attended by: Marijana Stojčić and Zorica Trifunović WIB, Belgrade/Serbia

Topics of this meeting were: the so far process of organizing WC; challenges, hardships, obstacles; agreement on common activities for the following period; common design of regional project for WC. Due to the lack of possibilities to hold the final WC event on the previously planned date, it has been agreed to organize this event on May 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, etc.

**2. Common reflections of the WC process**

*May 17<sup>th</sup>, Kotor:* Common reflections of the WC process for Montenegro – was held in the House of Free Thought in Kotor, in organization of Center for Women's and Peace Education from Kotor and Women in Black Belgrade. This activity was attended by 10 persons from Nikšić, Bar, Bijelo Polje and Kotor, and the meeting was coordinated by Staša Zajović. The event was coordinated by Staša Zajović and Ljupka Kovačević.

*July 24<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade:* Debate on so far process of organizing WC: feminist approach to justice – on challenges, obstacles, hardships; in this debate held in WIB office, participated seven members of WC Organizational Board from B&H, Montenegro, Croatia, Macedonia and Serbia.

**3. Meetings with other groups/organizations of civil society**

*May 6<sup>th</sup>, Zagreb:* as part of Subversive Film Festival, on the "On Doorstep of Violence" panel discussion, along with judge Branka Žigante Živković and Želimir Ponoš, and along moderation by Aleksandar Stanković, Rada Borić introduced and talked about the Women's Court.

*May 10<sup>th</sup>, Zagreb:* in Center for Women Studies, as part of exchange program Erasmus, Rada Borić gave a two hour lecture (with two short film screenings) and held a discussion on the Women's Court with female students and program conductors from Italy and Cyprus. The guests showed a great interest for the topic of the Court and a vivid discussion developed around feminist responsibility and care.

*May 13<sup>th</sup>, Zagreb:* Meeting in Center for Women Studies – Rada, Renata and Paula about participation on the panel Feminist approach to justice, as part of Subversive Film Festival.



May 14<sup>th</sup>, Zagreb: In Cultural-Informative Center, two panels were held as part of 7<sup>th</sup> Subversive Forum:

- "Feminism and responsibility" in the morning, where speakers were Rada Borić, Vlasta Jalušić from Peace Institute from Ljubljana and Daša Duhaček from Belgrade.
- "Feminist approach to justice – activist responses" in the afternoon, with the film of the participant Vlasta Jalušić, about her work in Ruanda. Two panel discussions "Feminism and responsibility" and "Feminist approach to justice – activist responses"/presentation of the WC, Rada Borić, Paula Zore, Nela Pamuković, Renata Ćuk. Both panels were organized by Center for Women Studies in cooperation with other members of the initiative for Women's Court. About 50 persons participated.

June 7<sup>th</sup>, Zagreb: Rada Borić held a workshop on discrimination, with particular overview of ethnic and gender discrimination, in Jezerčica for young members of Serbian National Council. She introduced the participants and the conductors with the initiative for the Women's Court.

4. **Regular work meetings:** in the office space of Women in Black; in this reporting period couple of meetings were held, every Thursday, with the presence of members of the WiB coordinator team and sometimes members of the Center for Women Studies from Belgrade participate as well. At meetings we: share information, deliberations, and dilemmas, analyze results of previous activities, define and arrange future activities, etc. About 5 – 10 members of coordinate team attend these meetings.

## V Video activism

*Video activism* which includes realization of video material related to the feminist approach to justice; translation and creating subtitles for documentaries on experiences of non-violent movements against impunity of crimes, neoliberal economic globalization, etc.

In this reporting period following documentaries have been done:

- **Shortcut to justice:** Duration 41 minutes, directed by Daniel Burkholz and Sybille Fezer, Germany, 2008. This documentary movie is about experiences of women in their struggle for justice in the community.
- **Pray the Devil Back to Hell:** Duration: 82 minutes, Directed by: Gini Reticker, Produced by: Abigale E. Disney

Plot: Civil war in Liberia, that has expanded to Ivory Coast (Cote d'Ivoire) and Liberia lasted from 1999 and ended with signing peace agreement in 2003. The movie is testimony about initiative of brave women who forced parties in war to sign peace agreement (2003).

## VI Publishing activity

Goal is to expand the knowledge necessary for the process of organizing Women's Court – feminist approach to justice: leaflets, readers, etc.

In this reporting period we published following issues:

- **Alternative models of justice – practice of justice in the community** – short reader created for the FDC with the same name, consists of 65 pages and 14 texts, divided into two chapters: I – *Legal practice in communities: Deceptively simple* – Healing the memory (Michael Lapsley), Ethics of reconciliation in the work of Marko Miljanov (Senka Rastoder), Council for blood reconciliation, Courts of the Navajo Indians, Gacaca courts and II – *Together women are building peace and justice*: Umoja women's village, I know justice – Women's approach to justice, Arpillera – Memory



as art, Liberian initiative for justice, Justice for women, Women's initiative for justice, Common initiative for justice, Women's Court, City of joy.

- **Transcript Feminist ethics of responsibility** – Sremski Karlovci – transcript from the feminist discussion circle under the same title – 17 pages.
- **Transcript Meeting of potential witnesses** – Andrevlje – transcript has 18 pages
- **Transcript Feminist ethics of care and economy of care** – Sremski Karlovci – transcript from the feminist discussion circle with the same name – 10 pages
- **Transcript Peace meeting of the activists from Croatia and Serbia** – Porec – transcript has 16 pages
- **Transcript Alternative models of justice – practice of justice in the community** – Avala – transcript from the feminist discussion circle with the same name – 47 pages.

## VII Artistic-activist engagement – street actions

Developing and strengthening feminist ethics of responsibility, as well as non-violent resistance to all forms of discrimination and exploitation:

### 1. Street actions:

- May 15<sup>th</sup>, Kruševac: *We remember brave resistance of women* – peace action/homage to brave activists who have rebelled in Kruševac, in 1999, against forced mobilization of men for war in Kosovo. Action was organized by Association of Women Sandglass from Kruševac and Women in Black from Belgrade, and over 50 activists participated.

### 2. Visiting sites of crimes committed in our name

- **Montenegro:** May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, Herceg Novi, camps Morinj, Bukovica, Kaludjerski Laz and Murina. 24 activists took part in visiting these places of committed crimes, together with about twenty locals, family members of the victims and witnesses of crimes.
- **Serbia:** Under the chapter "Street actions" these activities are already noted.







# WOMEN, PEACE, SECURITY A FEMINIST-ANTIMILITARISTIC APPROACH

Within our continuous work on the feminist approach to security and UN SC R1325 – Women, Peace, Security – we have initiated large number of different programs.

**I – Educational activities:** “Engendering human security - towards feminist anti-militarist concept” – Autonomous Women’s Center, ASTRA/Antitrafficking Center and Women in Black Belgrade have conducted together a project “Gender perspective of human security”. Aim of this entire project is contribution to promotion of peace, human security, women’s human rights, protection from gender based violence by strengthening women to cooperate, by building solitary coalitions and by larger participation of women in peace processes and decision making and according to Resolution 1325 “Women, Peace, Security”. This educational program consists of following segments:

**1. “Women build peace together”** – Regional peace meeting directed towards common reflection of the role of women in peace building, further strengthening of women’s solidarity, cooperation and mutual support, exchange and friendship aiming to build the just peace and human security in the region; four regional peace meetings have been planned, and in the period covered by this report the following meeting was organized:

**May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, Ilok, Croatia:** peace meeting was organized by Women in Black from Belgrade and Association Vukovar Mothers from Vukovar, with participation of 21 persons from several organizations: Vukovar Mothers, Žar, European Home, Association of Women of Srebrenica, Women in Black Network from Serbia. During this meeting, numerous workshops were held, as well as lectures on confronting the past, on process of transitional justice in Serbia, Croatia and the region, on women’s participation in peace building, on Resolution 1325, on gender dimension of justice, feminist concept of security, interculturalism, and also documentary films were shown on the topic of the meeting.



Coordinators of the program were Ljiljana Radovanović and Staša Zajović from Women in Black Belgrade, while facilitators were: Ivana Vitas, Violeta Đikanović (Women in Black, Belgrade) and Milka Rosić (Women for Peace, Leskovac), activists of Women in Black Network Serbia.

**2. “Engendering human security - towards feminist anti-militarist concept”** – educational seminar aimed at introducing the women into the term, content and meaning of human security, especially security from gender perspective (Resolution 1325 “Women, Peace, Security”); research-activist creation of the feminist concept of security – Women’s security chart; strengthening inter-cultural values as respect for other cultures, equality in differences and above all, strengthening women’s solidarity in order to build the just peace.

This educational program consists of following workshops, lectures, screenings of documentary films:

- “Security seen through women’s eyes” – stands and experiences of women in the field
- Resolution 1325 “Women, Peace, Security” (application and achievements, hardships and challenges of R1325, implementation of National Action Plan/NAP for R1325 in Serbia, monitoring implementation of Resolution 1325 by Women in Black, etc.)



- Living together in differences and tolerance – workshop
- Interactive lecture on racism, prejudice, tolerance, inter-culture...
- Documentary films by the group for video-activism of Women in Black, about fight for the just peace, human security, solidarity and mutual support;
- We learn together against sexism, racism, nationalism, homophobia... exercise in politically correct speech...
- Feminist-anti-militarist concept of the Women in Black: "Everything for peace, health and knowledge – nothing for arms" – video clip and discussion and Women's Security Chart – together we build feminist concept of security.

In the period covered by this report, there have been six educational seminars in six (6) towns in Serbia, each lasting one day. **123** persons participated in following towns:

**May 10<sup>th</sup>, Varvarin:** 12 women participated, mainly women from Varvarin, as well as activists of Alternative Center for Girls from Kruševac and of Youth Office from Varvarin.

Instructors were Ivana Ristić – Women for Peace, Leskovac and Anđriana Kocić – Alternative Center for Girls, Kruševac. Coordinators are also activists of Women in Black Network from Serbia.



**June 5<sup>th</sup>, Zrenjanin:** Seminar was organized By Women in Black, Belgrade and members of Association of Citizens UG "Ravnopravnost"/"Equality" from Zrenjanin. On this seminar, sixteen (16) women from Zrenjanin participated, from Jugoremedija for the larger part, as well as those temporarily and occasionally employed – women in question are "losers" of transition – victims of unjust privatization. The other part of participants were students and retired (in pension). By social engagement, most of the participants are union activists or supporters of Association of Citizens/UG "Ravnopravnost", and above all from the medical drugs factory "Jugoremedija" from Zrenjanin.

Coordinators of the seminar: Ivana Vitas, Staša Zajović (Women in Black, Belgrade), Marija Kovačev, activist from Novi Bečej, Vesna Đorđević and Valerija Stevčić (UG "Ravnopravnost" from Zrenjanin). Instructors are also activists of peace Network of Women in Black Serbia.

**June 7<sup>th</sup>, Priboj, on Lim:** In this seminar organized by Women in Black, Belgrade and Voice of Women from Priboj, eighteen (18) women participated, all of different generations, education, professions, ethnicity, religions and life styles. Participants are workers of FAP (fired or temporarily employed), activists of local NGOs, citizens without formal social engagement, students.

Coordinators are activists of peace Network Women in Black Serbia: Ivana Vitas (Women in Black, Belgrade) and Snežana Obrenović (Women in Black, Kraljevo);

**June 11<sup>th</sup>, Leskovac:** In this seminar organized by Women for Peace Leskovac and Women in Black Belgrade, twenty six (26) women participated; concerning the structure of the participants, they come for the most part from Leskovac: activists of Women for Peace Leskovac – peace Network of Women in Black, women with special needs, Roma women and about 50% of them are under 30 years of age.

Coordinators were Ivana Ristić and Milka Rosić – Women for Peace Leskovac and also activists of peace network of Women in Black.



**June 14<sup>th</sup>, Vlasotince:** In this seminar, twenty five (25) women participated; participants were for the most part from Vlasotince: SOS telephone activists, activists of Society for Education of Roma, high school students, students, house



wives, retired (in pension) and Women for Peace from Leskovac. On this seminar, 48% of women participants were under 30 years of age.

Ivana Ristić and Milka Rosić – Women for Peace Leskovac – were coordinators, and they are also activists of peace Network of Women in Black Serbia.



**June 21<sup>st</sup>, Kraljevo:** In this seminar, there were 26 persons who participated, they are of different gender identity (19 women and 7 men), of different age (14 young – 7 girls and 7 boys – and 12 young and older women from 30 to 70 years of age), of different levels of education (primary school to master degrees), of different professional orientations and different racial, ethnical and religious belongings, of different sexual orientation and life styles.

Coordinators were Nadežda Kostić (Pešcanik and Women in Black, Kruševac) and Snežana Obrenović (Women in Black, Kraljevo).

## NETWORKS. COALITIONS MUTUAL SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Women in Black initiated or actively participated in numerous regional networks, coalitions and alliances, active participants in activities of similar organizations, in order to strengthen mutual support and solidarity between civil society and democracy in Serbia and the entire region.

In this period, numerous activities were conducted, and we will name some of them:

**Women in Black Serbia Network:** Women's Peace Network, which engages activist groups and individuals from all parts of Serbia. The Network organizes working meetings to arrange common actions and in this report we have covered common activities (street, educational, etc.)

In the period covered by this report, we have held numerous meetings of working groups on issues that WIB Network deals with (Women's Court – feminist approach to justice, feminist-anti-militarist approach to security – Resolution 1325, video activism, artistic engagement in dealing with the past...); all this has already been reported on in previous columns of this report.

In the period covered by this report, activities of mutual support within the Network were also held:

**August 1<sup>st</sup> – August 13<sup>th</sup> – House Seka, Brač (Croatia)** – Active women's vacation, eleven activists of the WIB Network (Belgrade, Kraljevo, Novi Sad, Niš, Vlasotince, Leskovac), two from Montenegro (Pljevlja), and two women from Bosnia and Herzegovina (from association Women of Srebrenica and Association "Anima", Đulići) were there.

**August 12<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, Kotor, Montenegro - Summer Academy** – strengthening and education of activists on seminars that Anima from Kotor gives; in the first seminar (August 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>), three activists from the Network also participated, from Zrenjanin, Novi Bečej and Priboj on Lim; in the second seminar (August 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>) again three activists from the Network participated, and they were from Leskovac and Kruševac. There were following topics on these seminars: solidarity with marginalized groups, traumatic experiences, individual and social trauma, ways to overcome and possibilities to heal, etc.



## **Feminist solidarity for reproductive and working rights of women – ad hoc coalition**

**Working group – ad hoc coalition for reproductive and working rights of women:** consists of activists of feminist groups and related organizations (Autonomous Women's Center, Astra, Center for Comparative Right/CUPS, Voice of Difference, Labris, Uzbuna, Women Studies and Women in Black). Working group started in occasion of Law on health care for children, pregnant women and new mothers (issued by the end of 2013). Demagogic-populist character of this Law shows in reducing identity of women on reproductive role, in context of clerical and re-traditional trends. Articles of this Law, as well as of previously issued Law on Labor (2014) have negative influence on women on the employment market, and they make the access of women to employment more difficult, etc. The aim of this ad hoc feminist coalition is: gathering of information on Laws concerning reproductive and working rights; introduction to the position of women in the world of work; common reflections – articulation of feminist concepts of working and reproductive rights; widening the circle of allies, initiating actions together. As part of these activities, requests were addressed to institutions regarding working and reproductive rights, and also numerous working meetings were held during the period covered by this report.

### **“Solidarity is our strength” bulletin:**

Bulletin of the international solidarity campaigns in which Women in Black participate, comes out every other month, but the material is collected daily. The campaigns are related to international organizations dealing with human rights, such as Amnesty International, Women Living under Muslim Laws (WLUM), Code Pink, Human Rights Defenders, etc. Campaigns are mostly related to the pressure put on international institutions, as well as on institutions of particular country, in order to save lives of human right defenders, but may also be related to the preservation of the environment and other social issues. We invite you to join in campaigns of global solidarity and mutual support. The bulletin is edited by Saša Kovačević.

### **Solidarity actions with members of vulnerable and deprived minority groups**

(Social, class, ethnic, racial, sexual groups), and with citizens whose human rights (work rights, education rights, cultural rights) are violated, and the defenders of human rights at risk.

**Solidarity with the Roma population** against the institutionalized violence against the Roma population, for human security and human rights.

### **Solidarity is our strength – help of Women in Black to the people from the flooded areas in Serbia:**

During the nineties, Women in Black provided organized support and help to refugees from Croatia, Bosnia nad Hercegovina, displaced persons from Kosovo and asylum seekers in Bogovođa. In accordance with our concept of feminist ethics of care, Women in Black tried, in frames of modest possibilities, to minify the consequences of catastrophic floods in May 2014, by providing help to endangered persons: in Obrenovac, Kraljevo (Grdica suburb), Trstenik (suburb Grabovica and village Planinice) and Smederevska Palanka (Karađorđevo suburb).

In accordance with our ethical principals in providing humanitarian aid, we acted in the following way:

- Direct intervention in the field;
- collecting humanitarian aid in solidarity, in accordance with the needs of the endangered persons, especially considering groups of minorities, multiply traumatized and poorest people – displaced from Kosovo, refugees from B&H, Croatia;





- solidary feminist actions of collecting humanitarian help for persons in flooded areas;
- providing information to the endangered on everything that happens on the institutional level regarding their position, and support in organization against misuse of humanitarian aid by the state, etc.

*I Direct intervention in the field – solidary help, visiting flooded areas, support to the endangered*

Since May to the end of August, we organized 20 visits – as part of solidarity actions of providing humanitarian aid and support to the endangered people in following places:

- May 21<sup>st</sup>: Grdica near Kraljevo, with support of WIB Network activists;
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Hotel Bristol, Belgrade: in this hotel, persons endangered by floods in Obrenovac were settled;
- May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Smederevska Palanka, Karađorđevo suburb;
- May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Hotel Bristol in Belgrade;
- May 24<sup>th</sup>, Kombank Arena, Belgrade: visit to endangered persons from Obrenovac;
- May 24<sup>th</sup>, Hotel Bristol, Belgrade;
- May 26<sup>th</sup>, Kombank Arena, Belgrade;
- May 29<sup>th</sup>, Karađorđevo suburb near Smederevska Palanka;
- June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Grabovica and Planinica near Trstenik, together with activists from the WIB Network (Peščanika and Alternative Center for Girls, Kruševac);
- June 4<sup>th</sup>, Obrenovac: first visit to Obrenovac after the floods;
- June 6<sup>th</sup>, Obrenovac: help in clearing the debree and remains of the ruined furniture;
- June 12<sup>th</sup>, Bežanijska kosa, Belgrade: solidary visit to the endangered from Obrenovac, who were temporarily placed in B. kosa;
- June 11<sup>th</sup>, Obrenovac: visit to the endangered persons;
- June 16<sup>th</sup>, Obrenovac: visit by the WIB activists and Carlos M. Beristain, international activist for peace and human rights from Basque/Spain;
- June 17<sup>th</sup>, Obrenovac: ad hoc “peace brigade” from the WIB helped the endangered families, above all single mothers and women, in cleaning the consequences of the floods (debree, mud, etc.)
- June 26<sup>th</sup>, Obrenovac: solidarity visit by WIB activists to endangered families;
- July 27<sup>th</sup>, solidarity visit to endangered families in suburb Karađorđevo near Smederevska Palanka;
- August 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, solidarity visit to endangered persons in Obrenovac.

*II Providing information to the endangered on everything that happens on institutional level regarding their position and support to organizing against misuse of humanitarian aid by the state:*

On July 7<sup>th</sup> 2014 citizens of Obrenovac gathered in front of the Government of Republic of Serbia building, to protest against the neglect by the state and misuse by the local government after the floods that affected this town. Activists of Women in Black supported this protest and they were outside the Government building together with the citizens of Obrenovac;



### III Sisters do it the best way – solidarity feminist actions of collecting humanitarian aid for persons in flooded areas:

As part of organized evenings of solidarity "Sisters do it the best way" in Belgrade, in organization of Reconstruction Women's Fund, on June 9<sup>th</sup> 2014 in Cooperative October and on July 15<sup>th</sup> 2014 in café Ljutić, humanitarian parties were organized and collected means on these events were delivered as aid to the suffering from the floods.

This activity within WIB was coordinated by: Violeta Đikanović and Ljiljana Radovanović, with support and help by activists (Danica Pupovac, Goran Lazin, Džana Tepavac, Vahida Ramujkić, Jovan Pavićević, Dragomir Olujić, Snežana Tabacki, Staša Zajović...)

**Solidarity with asylum seekers in Serbia:** continuation of solidary actions against racist attacks that culminated in the end of 2013, and as part of this support many activities were conducted:

- Working meetings with related organizations in order to accomplish common activities;
- Street action of solidarity with asylum seekers as part of the action "Food, not arms" in Niš, on June 7<sup>th</sup>;
- August 21<sup>st</sup>: solidary visit to asylum seekers in Center for Asylum seekers in Bogovođa; participants were Violeta Đikanović and Zorica Trifunović; on this occasion, humanitarian aid was delivered (primarily to children and women, and in accordance with the stated needs of the mentioned Center). On the same occasion, the activists met with the asylum seekers from Syria, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan, and during this meeting, the asylum seekers placed in this Center presented problems regarding procedure for gaining documents, but also the need that WIB organizes workshops on inclusion, inter-cultural process etc. In this Center, 133 persons are placed, while the entire number of registered asylum seekers since the beginning of 2014 in Blegrade and Valjevo areas is about 10 000 people.
- Requests for the state to respect the dignity and human rights of persons seeking asylum; protection of asylum seekers, sanctions for violence against asylum seekers and all the different persons, based on racial, ethnical, socio-economic belonging or sexual orientation.

### **Solidarity with the workers in the fight for labor rights - against privatization theft**

- **Women's workers' circle/WWC/ŽRK – solidary activist-workers' meeting**, Zlatar, June 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> 2014: meeting was organized by Women in Black Belgrade and Women's Voice from Priboj; In work of WWC/ŽRK, 28 activists of civil society participated, and union activists from Serbia and Montenegro. This meeting opened space for women to talk about their position primarily in world of work, but also about influences of the world of work on everyday life of women. The aim was mutual introduction to problems which workers and civil society activists face every day, exchange, learning together, analyses and thinking through serious social problems, above all socio-economic problems which women are facing. WWC/ŽRK is a concrete contribution to cooperation, mutual support, solidary actions of workers and activists from Serbia and Montenegro.
- **Solidarity with workers of "Agroživ"** from Žitište: in occasion of state violence against workers of the factory; on June 30<sup>th</sup>, gendarmerie intervened against legitimate strike in the mentioned factory.
- **July 17<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade – protest of workers** downtown Belgrade against passing the Law on Working and the Law on Pension and Invalid Insurance: this protest was summoned by the Alliance of Independent Unions of Serbia (SSSS) and "Nezavisnost"/"Independence"; the requests were addressed to National Parliament deputies (Parliament was voting that day on the Law on Working) to bring back the changes of both these Laws into procedure again, and over 4000 people participated in the protest. Unfortunately, both Laws were elected. WIB activists together with other organizations of civil society joined the protest.



## Solidarity with defenders of human rights

In this period, Women in Black were again the target of attacks by pro-fascist groups and individuals:

- *Valjevo, July 8<sup>th</sup>*: Attack on WIB activists: On occasion of 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of genocide in Srebrenica, Women in Black and participants of initiative "Peace activism – activist cyclism – Srebrenica 2014" organized on the main square in Valjevo, in black and in silence, a peace action "We will never forget the genocide in Srebrenica". From the very beginning participants in the peace action were exposed to national-militarist-misogynous insults by pro-fascist group of men who were wearing t-shirts with sign "Chetniks of Valjevo), as well as t-shirts with pictures of Ratko Mladić. Violence escalated, police didn't manage to prevent the break through their own cordon by pro-fascist group and so, during the attack in atmosphere of lynch and calls to destruction, following activists were injured: Staša Zajović, Ljiljana Radovanović, Miloš Urošević and Nenad Gašić. Police managed in the end to evacuate the activists, and for security reasons all participants returned to Belgrade with police escort. Police in Valjevo arrested 11 persons for attack on Women in Black, those persons were suspected of violent behavior, endangering security and attacking official persons. Nevertheless, on July 10<sup>th</sup>, the case was dismissed by the Primary Court in Valjevo and by out-of-trial criminal council of Primary Court in Valjevo.



- *July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Belgrade*: On the bus stop in Zemun, unknown man passed threats to Staša Zajović, WIB activist: "I know you, you are Staša Zajović from Women in Black. And just so you know, there's no place for you in Serbia... Are you afraid for your own safety? For safety of your family? You ought to be afraid, because you hate Serbs and work for the Muslims... We are invisible, we come from the dark and operate in the dark, we are everywhere... You won't be defended by American commandos..." etc.
- *July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Belgrade*: Trial to Radomir Počuča, ex spokesman of the anti-terrorist unit of Ministry of Interior Affairs, for threatening security of Women in Black, was supposed to start on July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014, but this time again the hearing was delayed because the public defender of the defendant missed to appear. The trial is scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup> 2014.
- *Legal protection*: Women in Black and Committee of Lawyers for Human Rights initiated a series of legal procedures in front of the institutions in charge for numerous omissions, lack of responsibilities and lack of punishments for violence against Women in Black.

## Campaigns of solidarity with WIB

- *Support of local organizations for human rights*: As in previous period, organizations of civil society in Serbia and in the entire region expressed their clear solidary support to Women in Black. With the team of lawyers from Committee of Lawyers for Human Rights (YUCOM) who also represent us, Women in Black are in permanent contact, together we create strategies for protection and security. Numerous meetings were organized also with other organizations, which represents a contribution to common fight against ultimately authoritarian state, non-punishable violence against defenders of human rights and different persons (in ideological, ethnical/racial, socio-class belongings and sexual orientation).
- *Support of regional organizations for peace, human rights, women's human rights*: Women's Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina: "Organizations of civil society in B&H seek urgent processing and rethinking of this crime against organizations of civil society in Serbia. We call the representatives of international community to use all mechanisms and to protect the defenders of human rights", etc.



- *Support of international organizations for human rights:* In previous period, numerous organizations for human rights, above all Amnesty International, reacted immediately addressing the requests to the relevant institutions of Serbia to punish the violent offenders. Solidary support was continued by numerous actions, petitions, and we will name some of them here in the follow up.
- *Women in Black Network of Europe:* Participants of the European conference of Women in Black (123 of them from 22 countries), held in Lueven, Belgium, from May 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> 2014, addressed an appeal "Stop repression against activists for peace and human rights" to Catherin Ashton, High representative of EU for security and foreign politics, as well as to EU candidates for the EU Parliament.
- *International organizations and networks for human rights, peace, feminism, antimilitarism:* support was declared all over the world: War Resisters International, Amnesty International, International Women in Black Network, Front Line Defenders, Women Living Under Muslim Laws, Secularism is a Womes's issue/SIAW, Network of Organizations for Peace of Italy/Associazione per la pace, etc. These organizations request from Serbian authorities to conduct an urgent, detailed, complete investigation of attacks against Women in Black, to bring the responsible persons to justice in accordance with international standards, to undertake necessary measures which will guarantee safety and integrity of Women in Black, to guarantee in all circumstances that the legitimate engagement of defenders of human rights will be possible without fear from retaliation and without restrictions, etc.
- *International petition addressed to all embassies of Serbia in the world:* Individuals and organizations who signed this petition express their concern for threatening violence against women's peace organization Women in Black Belgrade, and especially against its founder Staša Zajović, given the frequent attacks in the last months by ultra-right wing organizations and individuals, as well as by the state actors in Serbia. This petition was initiated by 45 persons from following countries: Austria, Australia, France, USA, Great Britain, India, Israel, Switzerland, Canada, Guatemala. Feminist-pacifist activists and members of academic communities in following universities signed this petitions: UCLA (California), Goldsmiths University of London, Columbia (NY), Minesota, Rutgers (USA), Manchester, Toronto, Connecticut, Arizona, Hyderabad, Clark (USA), Delawere, Canberra, Glasgow, Bristol, Monash (Austria), Washington DC (USA), etc.

### **International institutions – contact with the UN and EU Mission in Serbia**

In numerous contacts held in this period, WIB activists presented the facts about the attacks, as well as their perspective on political context in which violence takes place against defenders of peace and human rights. We will write some of them:

- *UN – working meetings – May 14<sup>th</sup>, May 30<sup>th</sup>, June 11<sup>th</sup>, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Belgrade:* Working meeting with Irena Vojackova Soloorano, United Nations Resident Coordinator and with NGOs for human rights, about position of defenders of human rights in Serbia. Participants in the meeting presented the facts on unfavorable position of defenders in Serbia. In the WIB name, Zorica Tifunović and Staša Zajović participated, who met again with the UN Resident Coordinator in Serbia. They also held a working meeting with Asya Varbanova, UN Women representative in Serbia, on status of defenders of human rights in Serbia, on attacks on WIB, etc.
- *EU Mission – June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Belgrade:* Working meeting at Delegation of the European Union at the Republic of Serbia; WIB activists (Zorica Trifunović and Staša Zajović) talked to Luca Bianconi, Counselor Head of Political Section at Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia, about the attacks against Women in Black and generally against defenders of human rights in Serbia.





## Campaigns, appeals

Along with the stated initiatives in the period covered by this report, we also initiated or actively participated in numerous campaigns, above all in relation to requests for confront the past – responsibility for war crimes, for demilitarization, against repression against political opponents; we report on the following among all appeals and campaigns:

**Antifascist appeal “I Demand”:** In occasion of May 9<sup>th</sup>, International Day of Victory over Fascism and Day of Europe, Women in Black and art collectives Škart and Biro Belgrade warned about “many years of passivity and indifference of state institutions regarding discrimination, defense of human rights, protection of defenders of human rights and public condemnation of organizations and individuals who disseminate hate and intolerance”. An appeal was addressed to state institutions to “fulfill their international obligations in relation to respect of human rights, non-discrimination, protection of defenders of human rights, and to publicly condemn stigmatization and lynch of organizations for human rights and to appropriately punish those who disseminate hate and wish for violence”.



**Antimilitarist-feminist appeal “We remember the brave resistance of women!”** in occasion of 15 years since the rebel of women against enforced mobilization (1999), in which women's association Peščanik from Kruševac and Women in Black Network request from those in charge responsibility for enforced mobilization and deployment of reservists from Rasinski county to Kosovo: “Why? Who will answer for consequences? Who will answer for immense losses, sufferings, traumas of women caused by enforced mobilization of their mail relatives? When will the state institutions take concrete steps on confronting the state and society with the past?” On same occasion, on May 15<sup>th</sup>, a request was addressed on institutions of Kruševac to declare May 24<sup>th</sup>, the International Day of Women's Actions for Peace and disarmament, also the Day of Memory of Women's Rebel in 1999.



**Antimilitarist appeal “Food, not Arms”:** on occasion of International Day of Women's Actions for Peace and disarmament, in this appeal it is requested that instead of investing in wars, militarist values and violence, investments go to “peace, health, disarmament, to infrastructure which serves civil population”.



**Brutality is the state's name:** In announcement on occasion of state violence against workers of factory “Agroživ”, on whom the state sent gendarmerie during legitimate strike on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2014, Women in Black underline that “the state of Serbia openly shows that it considers workers to be enemies against whom it should conduct a war. With this move, after several decades of nationalist rhetoric and delusions on national unity, elites in power finally showed their real faces. After crimes against non-Serbs, exclusion of and violence against homosexual persons and persons who think differently, this brutality in Žitište against workers clearly shows that elites, hiding behind the alleged nation, make special war against their own population”, it is stated among other things in this announcement of WIB.

**July 11<sup>th</sup> – Memory Day of Genocied in Srebrenica – Declare!** In open letter to president of the Republic of Serbia Tomislav Nikolić, to the Government of Republic of Serbia and to the National Parliament of the Republic of Serbia,



it is requested that July 11<sup>th</sup> be declared Memory Day of Genocide in Srebrenica and that denial of genocide be legally sanctioned by declaring it a criminal act. This campaign that has lasted for many years was initiated by Center for Cultural Decontamination, Humanitarian Law Center, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia, Initiative of Youth for Human Rights, Committee of Lawyers for Human Rights and Women in Black, with support of dozens of organizations of civil society.

**Serbia still denies the genocide:** announcement on occasion of anniversary of the genocide warns that on July 11<sup>th</sup> 2014 posters with image of Ratko Mladić appeared – which proves that Serbia is buried in denial of genocide and other crimes. Glorification of the criminals and absence of marking the anniversary of genocide cast a shadow over all apologies by official Belgrade concerning the crimes committed by Serbian forces during the 90ies. Organizations of civil society have been trying for years to get July 11<sup>th</sup> declared the Memory Day of Genocide in Srebrenica, but the authorities decisively oppose that, and the parliamentary opposition doesn't show it is ready to pay respects to victims of genocide and "instead of that, almost the same absence of compassion reigns the public discourse today as it did in 1995", it is stated in the announcement by Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, with support of numerous NGOs including WIB.

**Stop Israeli aggression on Gaza:** In announcement on July 25<sup>th</sup>, Women in Black, Belgrade joined the demands by the International Women in Black Network to "end permanent violence in Gaza and the West Bank, to respect the OUN Resolution and the International Law". Support for and solidarity with Palestinian civil population was repeated, as well as support for Women in Black Israel who have, for almost three decades, acted non-violently against national-militarist politics of their government, and solidarity with all the groups of civil society in Israel which fight for peace and life together with Palestinian people.



### Discussion circles, lectures and internal debates in Women in Black office

We continue our practice of regular discussion circles, lectures and common reflections on important social and political issues in the country and in the world, also in the period covered by this report, during which ten (10) lectures and debates have been organized, with 182 participants:

**May 7<sup>th</sup> – Fascism – social-historic study by Todor Kuljić** – reading circle – discussion on the study "Theory on fascism: critic or apology of capitalism" – introductory notions by Nebojša Milikić, moderated by Marija Perković, 18 persons participated in the debate.

**May 14<sup>th</sup>, "Common reflections on confronting the past, process of transitional justice in the world and current situation in Serbia and the region":** screening of the film „Through Their Eyes – Witnesses to Justice“ in WIB, Belgrade; Morgiana Brading spoke, the representative of Hague Tribunal Secretariat in Belgrade; 12 persons participated.







**May 28th, „Non-violent movement for human rights in the USA – thought and action of Martin Luther King“;** interactive lecture held by Luna Đorđević, with 20 activists participating.

**May 30<sup>th</sup>, „Fundamentalist tendencies and attacks on reproductive rights in the USA“:** lecture by Isabel Marcus, feminist lawyer from the USA; 13 activists participated.

**June 11<sup>th</sup>, reading circle: on social-historic study Fascism by author Todor Kuljić** – introduction by Nebojša Milikić, number of attendants 17.

**June 18<sup>th</sup>, debate „Europe? – What kind and for whom?“** European Union after the elections for European Parliament on May 15<sup>th</sup> 2014: Introduction by: Carlos M. Beristain, Bilbao, Spain; Lino Veljak, Zagreb; Milovan Pisarri, Belgrade and Italy, Vladan Jeremić, Belgrade, and moderated by Ivana Vitas. The debate that was held on June 18<sup>th</sup> 2014 in Women in Black office was attended by 29 persons. During the debate there has been word about increase of right-wing, ultra-right wing, even pro-fascist movements and tendencies in countries of the European Union; also about further collapse/degradation of social state in face of strengthening neoliberal capitalism and financial centers of power; about the wide spread climate of xenophobia towards immigrants, further marginalization of the poor, as well as about strengthening social movements on the left, especially in Spain and Greece...

**„We will never forget the genocide in Srebrenica“** took place: 4 debates were held in July (on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>), where 63 activists participated (more information available in the column Confronting the past – educational activities during the period covered by this report).



## Mutual support

In the stated period we also took part in numerous initiatives of civil society organized by related groups. Here we state in chronological order the ones we actively participated in (as lecturers, panelists...):

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Podgorica, Montenegro:** Participation in the conference „Position and influence of women in public and political life on the West Balkan“, organized by Coalition for Equal Rights Korak; Marija Perković participated in the name of Women in Black.

**June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, Niš:** Participation of activist Marija Perković on the conference „Safety and security – from women to women“ in organization of the Women's Network against Violence in Serbia.

**June 9<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade:** Attending the ceremony of „Duga“ awards for 2013/2014, issued by Gay-Straight Alliance/GSA on occasion of May 17<sup>th</sup> – the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia – IDAHO).

**June 9<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade:** Promotion of anthology „Anti-fascism – AVNOJ – Authonomy“ in organization of Alliance of Anti-fascists of Serbia; this event in the Center for Cultural Decontamination was attended by activists Ljiljana Radovanović, Snežana Tabacki and Violeta Đikanović.

**July 16<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade:** Coordination meeting with organizations of civil society on occasion of preparations for presidency of Republic of Serbia in OEBS in 2015. Conference was organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office for Cooperation with Civil Society of Serbia and Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, and in the name of Women in Black, Staša Zajović participated.

**July 28<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade:** „Less Likely Mission“ debate as part of Speaking Program in Cultural Center Rex, about attacks of state and non-state actors against WIB; activists of WIB participated, as well as activists of related organizations of civil society from Belgrade.



## International politics

Active participation in international conferences, in global actions of solidarity, in exchange visits, etc. We state some of the activities:

**May 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>, Lueven/Belgium:** Second Conference of Women in Black European Network "Hear the New World Breathing... She is Coming"; 123 women participated at the Conference from 22 countries, from Europe: Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Danmark, France, Netherlands, Croatia, Italy, Armenia, Germany, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Great Britain, Switzerland, Sweeden, Spain... as well as from non-European countries: Israel, Congo, Uruguay... Organizers of the Conference were WIB/Women in Black from Lueven, Begium.

Women in Black Belgrade activists Staša Zajović and Zorica Trifunović actively participated in this meeting, in numerous working groups, they presented the political context in Serbia, as well as activities of WIB Belgrade:

- Video activism and Women's Court – feminist approach to justice;
- Position of defenders of human rights in Serbia: attacks against WIB;
- Resolution 1235 and non-punishable Blue helmets/UNSC R1325 and peace-keepers ("Against the abolition of the immunity of members of peacekeeping missions of the UN"), together with WIB London.

**May 28<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade: Working meeting in organization of Autonomous Women's Center with Steven E. Steiner** – Ambassador in pension (Ambassador Ret), Gender Advisor at Center for Gender & Peacebuilding at United States Institute of Peace, on feminist-antimilitarist concept of security of WIB monitoring of NAP for R 1325 for Serbia, on position of defenders of human rights in Serbia; Staša Zajović participated in the name of WIB.

**June 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, Dures, Albania:** regional conference "**Good Practice Conference**" in organization of KTK; attended by Staša Zajović and Zorica Trifunović as panelists on the full day panel discussion on June 25<sup>th</sup>: Resolution 1325 (in the morning and in the afternoon) and on June 26<sup>th</sup>: "Women's Human Rights Defenders".

**June 30<sup>th</sup>, Belgrade: Working meeting with UN representative Deborah Clifton**, Humanitarian Gender Advisor at UN Women Office for Serbia, on gender dimension of humanitarian aid, on our work so far on the flooded ares, especially with the women's needs; we presented our working principals to her and the extent of our activities. Participant in the name of WIB were: Ljiljana Radovanović, Violeta Đikanović and Staša Zajović.

In this period Women in Black were visited by several dozens of international activists, as well as researchers from: Spain, France, Italy, Great Britain, Sweden, USA, etc.



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