



*žene u crnom
beograd*

Report



**September, October,
November
and December 2021**

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

September, October, November and December 2021

Report

Street actions: In this reporting period we organized twelve (12) events, and we also actively participated in other street actions:

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

COMMEMORATING/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, October 5th “We shall never forget the Topčider crime”-
On the occasion of the anniversary of the crime - the murder of two guardsmen in the barracks in Topčider, on October 5, 2004, Women in Black organized two protests in mourning and silence:

- *Protest in front of the barracks in Topčider, together with the families of the killed guardsmen. The banner “We will never forget the crime in Topčider” was displayed. Flowers with the message “Remember - Women in Black” were laid there.*
- *Protest in the city center (Knez Mihailova Street) where the following banners were displayed:*
 - *We will never forget the crime in Topčider*
 - *We remember Dragan Jakovljević and Dražen Milovanović*
 - *Who killed the guards?*
 - *Discover the killers of soldiers!*

Ten (10) activists took part in the protest.





Then the stage action “**We demand accountability for the camps for Croats in Serbia 1991-1992**” was performed, during which the following banners were displayed:

Camps for Croats in the territory of Serbia 1991/92: after the occupation of Vukovar on November 18, 1991, the YNA captured a large number of members of the Croatian forces and civilians, who were afterwards transferred, by bus and trucks, to camps in Serbia. The detainees spent from a couple of days to nine months in the camps. About **7,000** people passed through the camps, and about **3,500** people were kept in them for a long time. At least **14** detainees died in camps in Serbia as a result of battering and ill-treatment, as well as a lack of adequate medical care. Only one person was convicted for all these crimes committed in the camps (according to the Belgrade Humanitarian Law Center).

- **Camp Begejci** - located in the municipality of Žitište. The camp was established on September 16, 1991. The Begejci camp was closed on December 21 or 22, 1991. At the time of closure, there were 555 prisoners in it. About 37 women passed through this camp.

Nobody was held accountable for these crimes!

- **Stajićevo camp** ' located in the municipality of Zrenjanin. The camp was formed on November 20, 1991 in the village of Stajićevo in Zrenjanin, on the farm “Livade”. More than 1,200 prisoners passed through the camp. The camp was closed on December 22, 1991.

Nobody was held accountable for these crimes!

- **Correctional Institution Sremska Mitrovica** - the camp was established on November 21, 1991. About 4,000 prisoners passed through the camp, 90 of them women.

In 2015, Marko Crevar, a member of the Territorial Defense, was sentenced to 18 months in prison for crimes against prisoners of war in the Sremska Mitrovica Correctional Institution.

- **Camp in Aleksinac** – this transit camp was established on November 22, 1991; was in the YNA barracks in Aleksinac, when 400 prisoners were transferred from the Sremska Mitrovica CI.

Nobody was held accountable for these crimes!

- **Camp in Niš** – the camp was established on November 18, 1991; it was located within the Correctional Institution in Niš and was under the control of the YNA Military Police. Detainees from the Sremska Mitrovica CI were transferred to this camp, as well as from the Begejci and Stajićevo camps, which were closed in December 1991. The camp existed from November 18, 1991 to February 26, 1992. 447 detainees were released from this camp.

Nobody was held accountable for these crimes!

- **Military Remand Prison (MRP) in Belgrade** – from December 1991 to the beginning of the summer of 1992, several groups of captured members of the Croatian National Guard Corps (ZNG) and the Ministry of Interior of Croatia were transferred from the MPR camp. Indictments were filed against 82 detainees, 25 of whom were convicted before the Military Court in Belgrade. In mid-August 1992, 121 people left this camp.

Nobody was held accountable for these crimes!

- **Sexual abuse in camps** – according to the testimony of detainees in camps in Serbia, women were subjected to rape and sexual abuse.

Nobody was held accountable for these crimes!

We demand ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE CAMPS!

We demand JUSTICE FOR THE VICTIMS, SANCTIONS FOR THE CRIMINALS!



Belgrade, December 6 “Dubrovnik 1991 – 2021 – We remember the killing of the city and people” - on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the shelling of Dubrovnik, Women in Black in Belgrade and Anima in Kotor, held a protest in mourning and silence.

Three banners were displayed at the protest:

Dubrovnik (1991-2021) – We remember the killing of the city and the people

Dubrovnik is the world

**Pravda za žene u Avganistanu! / Justice for women in Afghanistan!
Stop talibanskom teroru! / Stop taliban terror!**

پرک دن ب تشحو و ا درى و ن ابل اط

Žene i devojke imaju pravo na rad i obrazovanje! / Let women and girls study and work!

Podržavamo borbu avganistanskih žena! / We support the fight of Afghan women!

September 21st – WORLD DAY OF PEACE

Women in Black against War



The protest was attended by twenty-odd (20) female and male activists.

October 9th

Belgrade, October 9th – “30 years of resistance – Always disobedient!”

Vigil in black and silence in occasion of 30 years of Women in Black, Belgrade (October, 9th, 1991 – October, 9th 2021); this action was attended more than fifty (50) activists from BH, Montenegro, Croatia, as well as activists from WiB Network from Serbia.



Žene u crnom, 1991 →



Belgrade, 27th October "Cleaning Hate Graffiti " – a solidarity action against the attack on the premises of Women in Black (22 / 23 October, 2021) organized by the Youth Initiative for Human Rights with the support of the WiB and dozens of civil society activists from Belgrade.



Belgrade, 9th November "Solidarity with the women of Poland" - The *I Believe You Initiative*, *Women's Solidarity* and *Women in Black* organized a protest "Solidarity with the Women of Poland" in front of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Belgrade. The protest was organized because one woman died in Poland, since doctors refused to perform an abortion.

Banners in Serbian and Polish were displayed at the protest. A dozen (**10-odd**) activists attended the protest.



Belgrade, 25th November "Stop sexual violence" - On the occasion of November 25 - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, activists of the *I Believe You Initiative*, *Women's Solidarity Collective*, *Women in Black* and independent activists held an action of distributing flyers in front of the Faculty of Contemporary Arts. The action was held with the idea of informing female students about sexual violence within educational institutions. The Faculty of Contemporary Arts was chosen because of our concern for the safety of female students, considering that one of the employees, Professor Branislav Lečić, was accused of rape by several women.



Žene u crnom, 1991 →

Belgrade 6th



Belgrade, 6th December "Stop the killing of women!"

– on the occasion of the International Day against Femicide, Women in Black and the Autonomous Women's Center together with the Women's Association Anima, Đulići (BiH), Bona Fide, Pljevlja (Montenegro), Nena - Group for Peace and Women's Rights (Leskovac), SOS hotline women and children, victims of violence, Vlasotince organized a street action 'Stop killing women'.

The following banners were displayed at the protest:



- December 6 - Femicide Day
- Men in the world kill 137 women a day
- 350 women have been killed in Serbia since 2010
- Femicide is killing women because they are women
- Femicide is the killing of women by men out of hatred, contempt, pleasure or feelings of ownership over women, or sexism
- Femicide is the killing of women by men because they are women

On this occasion, a stage action was performed: black tulle was spread on the Republic Square, on which five silhouettes of women were placed first, and then red shoes were arranged. Banners were also displayed:

- Stop killing women!
- Stop femicide!

The action ended with the presentation of the banner *Women's Lives Matter*.

About **50** activists took part in the protest.

An incident occurred during the protest. A man from the neo-Nazi organization Leviathan, together with a Staffordshire dog, broke into the central area where the artifacts of the action were placed, kicking the shoes and saying: "Fuck the violence." Shortly afterwards, plainclothes police stopped him and then identified him.

December 26th

Belgrade, 26th December – Feminist protest against sexual violence was organized in front of the Yugoslav Drama Theater because the mentioned theater performed a play starring the actor Branislav Lečić, whom Daniela Steinfeld had accused of rape. A dozen activists (**10**) from Belgrade (Women in Black, Autonomous Women's Center, I Believe You, Women's Solidarity) and from Novi Sad (CK13) organized a protest. Three banners were displayed at the protest:

- We trust Daniela Steinfeld
- Rape is a crime
- I didn't report

DEALING WITH THE PAST / TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE – A FEMINIST APPROACH

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

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

During this reporting period, many trials were canceled due to the epidemiological situation, so we will list the trials that were held.

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, and so far two hearings have been held: *in September and on November 30th*, while all other hearings have been postponed.

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 the 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; for this crime were accused: Gojko Lukić, Ljubiša Vasiljević, Duško Vasiljević, Jovan Lipovac i Dragana Đekić.

During this period, one hearing was held: *on October 14*, when the court expert Prof. dr. Ratko Kovačević testified. A couple of written

pieces of evidence were presented before his testimony. Also, it was stated that the proceedings concerning the accused Ljubiša Vasiljević, who passed away were thus terminated. Witness Ratko Kovačević examined the mental state of witness Mitrašin Glišić. Defense attorneys asked for the disqualification of this witness, but the trial chamber decided to reject this request.

Kravica War Crime

– Eight members of the Special Brigade of the Republika Srpska Army are 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, because it is a 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 a 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 delayed due to non-attendance of witnesses, inaction of the prosecution and the withdrawal of protected witnesses due to threats they receive).

In this reporting period, two (2) sessions were held:

3rd November – Today's main trial was not held because the accused Petrović Jova did not appear, nor did his defense counsel, lawyer Rajko Jelušić. Lawyer Željko Jotanović (according to the deputy's power of attorney) informed the court panel that the accused informed him yesterday that the defendant was Covid positive.

As the procedural preconditions for holding the main trial were not met, it was postponed.

29th November – Two witnesses testified via video conference with the Sarajevo court, Petar Mitrović and Đurić Mendeljev, who are serving prison sentences. Both witnesses: Petar Mitrović, sentenced to 20 years in prison for genocide before a court in BH, and Đurić Mandeljev, also sentenced to 28 years in prison for genocide before the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, denied all allegations in the indictment.

(You can find reports 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:

Lovas, Croatia, October 18th –The commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the crime in Lovas (October 18th, 1991), where Serb armed formations killed 70 civilians of Croatian nationality, attended by three (3) activists of WiB.

November 19th

Vukovar / Croatia, November 19th “Responsibility and solidarity”

– on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the crimes in Vukovar, Women in Black activists visited Vukovar, where along with the families of victims, as well as with citizens of Vukovar, attended the commemoration of the crimes in Borovo settlement, also visited the memorial on Ovčara. We then attended the commemoration on the Danube.

December 20th

Vranić, near Belgrade, December 20th – antifascist solidarity action on the 78th anniversary of the crime in Vranic. In the Second World War, on the night between December 20 and 21, 1943, the fascist Chetnik formations killed 68 inhabitants of the village of Vranić, most of the family members of the Pantić family. Ten WIB activists, together with activists from Cultural-humanitarian association from Vukovar/Croatia, and Antifascist Union and Civic democratic Forum from Belgrade attended an event in the local Culture Center together with locals. Later on activists visited Memorial room in family Pantić.

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

September 24th and 27th

27th September and 24th October, Đulići, Bosnia and Herzygovina

– Women in Black activists and witnesses at the Women’s Court in Eastern Bosnia (from the villages of Đulići and Klisa) also held a working meeting on joint future activities as part of a mutual support visit.

October 15th

15th October – solidarity visit to the witnesses at the Women’s Court, namely, the survivors of the genocide in Srebrenica, Nura Mustafić and Refija Hadžibulić in the village of Bajramovići near Srebrenica.

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

WOMEN’S COURT A FEMINIST APPROACH TO JUSTICE

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

zeneucrnornombeograd@gmail.com

The first Women’s Court on the territory of Europe, was held in Sarajevo from May 7th to 10th 2015, organized by 10 women’s groups from the former Yugoslavia (Movement Mothers of Srebrenica and Žepa; Cure Foundation, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Center for women victims of War; Center for women’s studies, Zagreb, Croatia;

Center for women and peace education Anima, Kotor, Montenegro; The Council for Gender Equality, Skopje, Macedonia; Women's Lobby, Ljubljana, Slovenia; Center for women's studies and Women in Black, Belgrade, Serbia. Women's Court was attended by over **500** people from all the countries of the former Yugoslavia, but also from Argentina, Algeria, Palestine, Israel, USA, Spain, Italy, Sweden, Austria, Belgium, Great Britain, etc. Women in Black, during the five years, are the leaders of program activities of the Women's Court.

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

In the continuation of the process of the Women's Court, Women in Black, Belgrade coordinates program and other activities with the support of organizations: Anima, Kotor (Montenegro), Center for Women Victims of War, Zagreb (Croatia), Foundation 'Cure', Sarajevo, some members of the former Organizing Committee of the Women's Court that took part in the events in Sarajevo participates sporadically, while other members of the support activities without active participation.

In the course of this reporting period, we organized the following activities:

October 8, 9 and 10th

Regional meeting, October 8, 9 and 10, Belgrade / Radmilovac

The *fourteenth Regional Meeting* of the Women's Court was attended by **35** women - witnesses at the Women's Court from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as the organizers, therapists, associates of the Women's Court.

The following activities were held during this meeting:

October 8th

October 8th (Friday)

Thematic Week on Sexual Violence in War - organized by the Youth Initiative for Human Rights, with the support of the Autonomous Women's Center and Women in Black

As part of this activity, Women in Black presented:

- **A brief overview of the activities, demands and attitudes of Women in Black regarding the rape of women in war.**
- **Screening of documentaries related to the war crime of rape:**
- **Crimes against women in the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina – We remember (4:39 min.):** Protest vigil dedicated to women victims of the war in BH, May 24, 2012, in Republic Square in Belgrade.

- **Foča - June 19th, 2018 (TV Sarajevo)**
- **We remember women raped in the war - We remember the women of Foča (3 min.)** – a documentary about the street action of the same name in Belgrade, June 17, 2021.

The screening was attended by witnesses at the Women's Court from BH, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, activists of WiB, AWC, etc. After the screening, socializing and the 'birthday' of the WiB organized by the Youth Initiative for Human Rights.



October 9th

October 9th (Saturday)

Always disobedient, and still in the streets – 30 years of resistance
– street action in Republic Square in mourning and silence.

After the street action, the departure of the participants to Radmilovac (7 km from Belgrade) was organized, where the program continued.

On the activities in the previous period – the speakers were the organizers of the W'sC and *the session was moderated by Nela Pamuković, Center for Women Victims of War, Zagreb*

Report on the activities of the Women's Court since the previous regional meeting (June 2021)

Age and gender in time and space: What older women can (not) do in Serbia today?

Margareta Bašaragin, Women's Studies and Research, Subotica

In the course of 2020 and 2021, the Women's Studies had a project "What older women aged 65+ can't do in Serbia today". The project aimed at the following:

- to detect the potential of older women who are invisible in our country today,
- to "list" the ways of discrimination against older women, especially in Vojvodina where there are many religiously and ethnically different minorities.

The book contains six articles by feminist theorists and activists from Vojvodina, Serbia and Slovenia.

In the continuation of the conversation, Margareta referred to *the position of the elderly during the state of emergency in Serbia (March 15-May 6, 2020):* "Elderly persons were deprived of their freedom of movement during the state of emergency under the threat of a fine of 150,000 dinars. They were allowed to go out on weekends from 4 am to 7 am."

Experiences and knowledge were shared by other activists on: *the continuation of the martial system of isolation and imprisonment, fear of contact, abuse by family, society and regime, discrimination against working women 65+, harassment of the elderly by phone offering meaningless services, capitalist treatment of the elderly as useless, written off 'redundant' beings ...*

Joint reflection about dealing with the past, about the current socio-political situation – challenges, problems ...

Bosnia and Herzegovina – in the jaws of Serbia and Croatia

Interference of Croatia and Serbia in the internal affairs of BH: favoring ethnic principles and divisions, territorial pretensions, war-mongering propaganda ...

"The rhetoric of the war from Croatia and Serbia and the policy of 'divide and rule!' (Midheta).

Retrogression in the processes of transitional justice: celebrating and decorating war criminals, denying court-established facts, trying to score political points on the right ...

"The policy of Milanović, the president of Croatia, is the worst policy in relation to BH; he ordains war criminals. There has been a change in policy towards war criminals who committed crimes in central BH. It is crazy politics, trying to get allies in the ranks of the right "(Nela).

Ethno-national leaders cover up crimes and looting with nationalist rhetoric and 'defending national interests'; worrying strengthening of right-wing tendencies among young people ...

"With such rhetoric, they only cover up the committed crimes. They avert the public eye from their criminal and prohibited activities. That is their main goal"(Halida).

"Young people are told the falsehood about the past, everywhere in the region" (Ifeta, Snežana).

Manipulation of victims of war on ethnic grounds, purchase of "ethnic" votes before the elections ...

"Sometimes I have a feeling that national leaders agree on all these things nicely so that everyone gets votes" (Midheta).

Members of the ethnic minority in the Republika Srpska / RS are exposed to discrimination in the RS, and the Federation completely neglects them and does not provide any assistance ...

"When there are elections, they do not address us Bosniaks, because there are not many of us in RS, and those from the Federation are simply lying." (Suvada).

Complete disappointment in the European Union, which is guided by ethnic principles and divisions, which suits the ethno-national leaders, primarily in Serbia and Croatia ...

'The EU is completely lost, so it does not react to anything'; "Some people think that the international community has given up on BH. Now there are other hotspots, Syria, Afghanistan ... "; "Expectations from the international community are absolutely unrealistic" (Nela, Nastasja, Marija).

Serbia – "The Serbian World" – continuation of the war by other means

The idea of creating a "Greater Serbia", uniting Serbs into one state, is now called the "The Serbian world". This policy of the Serbian regime causes fear in the entire region, primarily in BH, because it is connected with crimes, ethnic cleansing and genocide. This policy is enshrined in the "National Security Strategy of the Republic of Serbia" (adopted in 2019), in the "Charter on the Serbian cultural space". The basic starting points of the concept of the 'Serbian world' are: 'We do not recognize the genocide in Srebrenica, we do not recognize any mass crimes, we do not recognize the verdicts of the Hague Tribunal, we do not recognize responsibility for anything, there was no joint criminal enterprise, we deny all the atrocities we committed, but we would gladly commit them again. In the name of the integrated Serbian cultural space, which was once called "Greater Serbia", and today the "Serbian world", as stated in the analysis of *Tomislav Marković*, a poet and writer from Belgrade, whose texts were used for this conversation.

Montenegro – where is it going?

– Ljupka Kovačević and Sabina Talović, Bona Fide, Pljevlja

Ljupka referred to **the 30th anniversary of the crime in Morinj, the silence, voluntary ignorance of society, and the representatives of the state participate in the protocol, exclusively for pragmatic motives; it is reported by the state media, while the statements and testimonies of detainees are invisible; only NGOs, primarily 'Anima', mark the anniversary of this crime, demanding justice for the victims ...**

Ljupka also spoke about other crimes during the 1990s:

- Deportation of Muslim / Bosniak refugees from Herceg Novi to the RS authorities (1992);

- Expulsion of Bosniaks from Bukovica near Pljevlja (1992);
- Killing of Albanian refugees fleeing Kosovo conflict by YNA in Kaludjerski Laz (1999)



In 7 trials for these war crimes, 30 people were indicted, of which 26 were acquitted, only 4 were convicted. The accused were exclusively perpetrators of the lowest rank, and the sentences coincided with the time spent in detention, so they are at large, except for one who was on the run throughout the trial. In all war crimes, except in the case of Kaluđerški Laz, the state of Montenegro paid reparations to the victims and the families of the victims, thus acknowledging the crimes. These are significant funds for one country, but nothing is known about that," Ljupka emphasized.



Ljupka also referred to the current situation in Montenegro: "Clero-nationalists, of extremely pro-Serbian orientation, whose ideologue is Vučić, came to power in the elections (August 2020)." There is chaos in Montenegro. If there are elections, there is little hope that a reshuffle will happen.'

Sabina: "We forget that until 1997, everyone was supporting crimes. Then all the wars were over. Most of those who rule now are parts of the DPS.'

On some positive steps in the field of transitional justice at the institutional level ...

- The Law on Civilian Victims of War was passed in Croatia; (*Marica*)
- Cooperation with state organizations dealing with the investigation of war crimes. The courts are working on those cases that have been transferred from the Hague Tribunal to 78 cases for BH, of which 31 cases are related to Foča only (*Midheta*).

Continuity of joint work, mutual support and solidarity

– this was emphasized by all participants, and we convey only some of the statements:

“There are no words to show what the support of the WiB means to us. I really believe that despite all these adversities we live with, we will succeed in achieving something. Even if we fail, we will be the winners after all. We have preserved dignity, honor, humanity, pride, togetherness’ (*Halida*), etc.

October 10th



10th October (Sunday)

Reading circle:

– **We remember the anti-war resistance – Vera Vebele Tatić and the Center for Anti-War Action Ada - WiB publication, September 2021.** Vera Vebele Tatić (1943-2020) was the initiator and organizer of a large number of anti-war protests in Ada and in Potisje and Vojvodina in general. Vera Vebele Tatić’s contribution is huge in helping rebels against the war (deserters, conscientious objectors, refugees and all others who refused to take part in the war), victims of ethnic cleansing not only in Vojvodina, but also in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. Vera established bridges of peace and solidarity among citizens of all ethnic and state affiliations. - *Presented by Staša Zajović, Anđelija Vučurović, Novi Sad, Ljilja Spasić, Pančevo.*

– **Daughter of the East** (La hija del Este) – by Spanish author **Clara Uson**, published by V/B/Z, Zagreb, 2021. Clara Uson writes about the fate of the daughter of war criminal R. Mladić; Disappointment with her father leads her to suicide ... Activists from BH, Montenegro, and WiB spoke about the book that was previously distributed.

During **the evaluation**, the most powerful impressions were expressed about:

Participation in activities on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of WiB – continuity of the joint struggle for truth and justice, street action, socializing, joy, solidarity ...

Findings presented in the book ‘Daughter of the East’ – a mixture of documentary and fictional novel; author Clara Uson, conducted a very extensive and systematic research on the war in BH, with outstanding political insight, a clear anti-war and anti-nationalist approach. Participants said they wanted to read the book, that they knew almost nothing but the nationalist version of events, but that Clara Uson had opened up new insights.

Most of the participants think that it is necessary to continue the conversation about aging ...

In the final session, joint activities in the coming period were agreed.

ARTISTIC ENGAGEMENT IN DEALING WITH THE PAST / TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

During this period, the practice of joint work and cooperation between art collectives, professional theaters, artists engaged in artistic design of resistance to war, war crimes, repression, human rights violations has continued. In this reporting period we organized following few working meetings with art collectives: Škart – preparation of street actions etc.

We also organized or participated in the following events:

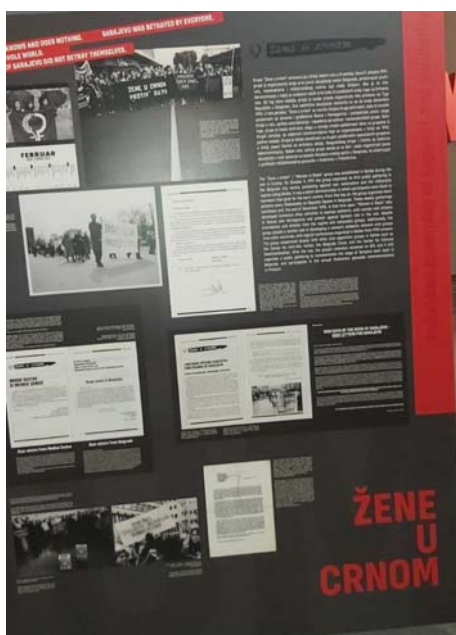
October 2-8th

Belgrade, October 2-8 “Progovarajmo / Let’s speak out” exhibition organized by the Youth Initiative for Human Rights, with the support of AWC and WiB. The exhibition, organized by the Museum of War Childhood in Sarajevo, is dedicated to the experiences of people who survived war sexual violence as children and young people, as well as the experiences of children born as a consequence of the war in BH. The exhibition also presents the works of survivors created in a body mapping workshop that uses the language of art as a medium for transmitting various life experiences and in the process contributes to strengthening the individual strengths and values of each person.

November 8th

Belgrade, November 8 “CPY and Vukovar – from creation to disappearance”, a 57-minute documentary (2021), directed by *Milan Paun*, produced by the **Humanitarian and Cultural Center Association**. The screening was held at the Kolarac Art Cinema as part of the international festival “Free Zone”, at the suggestion of the mentioned association and WiB. This documentary shows the formation of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia in Vukovar in 1920 and follows the relationship 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. About 40 people attended the screening.

Sarajevo, November “Wake up Europe! Mobilizing support and solidarity for Bosnia and Herzegovina and its citizens during the 1992-1995 war” at the History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This exhibition, which opened in November 2021, also included photographs of the actions of WiB in solidarity with the citizens of Sarajevo during the war.



DEALING WITH THE PAST – JOINT REFLECTION

(book promotions, online conferences, lectures...) organized by WiB or other organizations:

In this period, we highlight the following activities:

“We remember anti-war resistance” – as part of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of anti-war resistance in Serbia (1992-2021), remembrance of important acts and dates in the history of anti-war resistance in Serbia, initiatives and acts that are mostly silenced, suppressed or marginalized. WiB organized the following activities:



We remember anti-war resistance – Vera Veibel Tatić and the Center for Anti-War Action Ada - promotion of the publication of the same name about Vera Veibel Tatić (1943-2020), initiator of the Center for Anti-War Action / CAA in Ada, organizer of many anti-war protests in Ada and Pottisje in general and in Vojvodina. The contribution of the CAA and Vera Veibel Tatic is enormous in helping rebels against the war (deserters, conscientious objectors, refugees and all others who refused to take part in the war), victims of ethnic cleansing not only in Vojvodina, but also in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. Vera established bridges of peace and solidarity among citizens of all ethnic and state affiliations.



Eleven (**11**) promotions were held in which activists from the 1990s spoke; about **300** people participated in these promotions:

- **September 13, Ada:** present **26** people from Ada, Belgrade, Pančevo, Novi Pazar, Senta, Novi Sad, Sombor, Bečej, Zagreb, Berlin / Germany; talked about the book: Ištvan Vebel, Staša Zajović, Ljilja Spasić, Svenka Savić, Manda Prišing, Karoly Vicei, Julija Teleki ...
- **September 18, meeting of the Women in Black Network, Vrnjačka Banja:** **50** people from the countries of the former Yugoslavia (BH, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia), Germany, the Netherlands, Austria.
- **September 27, Đulići, BH** - 20 women from the Zvornik area were present, Staša spoke about the book.
- **October 5, Belgrade** - in the premises of the Youth Initiative for Human Rights; 25 people present (speakers: Gizela Tot Štanjo, Anđelija Vučurević, Ljilja Spasić and Staša Zajović)
- **October 10, Regional Meeting of the Women's Court** - **35** women from BH, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia present; Ljilja Spasic, Anđelija Vučurević and Staša Zajović spoke about the book.
- **October 21, Leskovac;** **20** people present, from Leskovac, Vlasotince, Niš, Belgrade; Lino Veljak and Staša Z. spoke about the book.
- **October 23, Kotor / Montenegro:** at the discussion circle of activists from Montenegro and Serbia, in the presence of **15** people; Staša Z. spoke about the book.
- **November 5, Senta:** **25** people present, mostly from Senta, but also Ada, Novi Sad, Totovo selo / Trešnjevac, and the speakers were: Ištvan Vebel, Gizela Štanjo Tot, Karoly Vicei, Lino Veljak, Staša Zajović; the meeting was also dedicated to the **30th anniversary of the anti-war resistance in Senta, on November 5th and 6th**, when municipal authorities decided to call a referendum against the war. The Republic authorities did not allow the organization of a referendum and initiated criminal proceedings against five participants in the demonstrations. This is the beginning of the criminal prosecution of insurgents against the war in Vojvodina and Serbia.
- **December 7, Novi Sad** - in the premises of CK13, **25** people present; The following spoke about the book: Ištvan Vebel, Staša Zajović, Svenka Savić, Anđelija Vučurević, Duško Radosavljević, Lino Veljak.
- **December 13, Belgrade** - press conference in the premises of WiB was attended by journalists from the Fonet and Beta agencies (**3** people).
- **December 14, Pančevo** - people present; spoke about the book: Ljilja Spasić, Vjera Ruljić, Nenad Živković, Ildiko Erdei, Staša Z. and Lino V.





A discussion followed some of the mentioned promotions: *“The war continued with other means. And where is the anti-war resistance today?”*

Map of anti-war resistance 1991/92 - promotion of Women in Black - remembrance of numerous civil anti-war actions, rebellions of reservists, deserters, their parents, as well as women’s anti-war initiatives, art activist events, anti-war concerts, media...

The map was promoted as part of the above events, as well as in all WiB activities.

Belgrade, September 7, 8 and 9 “European citizens United in FREEdom and human rights / EUFREE” - International conference within the project “Europe Yesterday”. The following workshops were held within this conference: **“Stories of Europe”:** comparative analysis of school textbooks on specific historical topics - *EUFREE was presented by a scientific team of historians, with a discussion on the content of the workshop;* **“What went wrong after the end of World War II and the Cold War?”** - discussion. In the continuation of the program (September 10-13), an “Intergenerational journey through remembrance at crime scenes in the former Yugoslavia during the 90s (Vukovar) and in the Second World War” was organized) Jasenovac, Memorial in Kampor / Rab, Trieste. This program was attended by young people from WiB Network of Serbia, as well as activists from BH and Italy.

**October 28th, 29th
December 13th, 14th,**

October, 28th – October, 29th; December 13 and 14: “Amplifying Voices of Women affected by war-related SGBV in the Western Balkans- For a Culture of Recognition and Reconciliation”, working meetings within the regional project were attended by partner activists from Kosovo, BH, Serbia (Autonomous Women’s Center, Youth Initiative for Human Rights and Women in Black), as well as representatives of the Medica Mondiale Foundation, Germany, who support the project.

October, 28th

October, 28th – online conference about the current status of transitional justice processes in your country, organized by *Dunja Mijatović*, Commissioner for Human Rights of Council of Europe). Beside Dunja Mijatović, in this conference participated:

Ivan Đurić, Youth Initiative for Human Rights;

Goran Sandić, Belgrade Centre for Human Rights; *Jovana Spremo*, Lawyers’ Committee for Human Rights (YUCOM); *Aida Ćorović*, activist for human rights; *Staća Zajović*, Women in Black and *Ivana Zanić*, Humanitarian Law Centre.

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:

WOMEN IN BLACK NETWORK MEETING TOOK PLACE BY 18TH TO 20TH SEPTEMBER 2021 IN VRNJAČKA BANJA

This meeting was attended by **50** activists from ex Yugoslavia countries: Bosnian and Herzegovina (Tuzla, Konjević Polje, Srebrenica, Zvornik); Montenegro (Kotor Pljevlja i Podgorica); Croatia (Zagreb); Kosovo (Prizren); Serbia (Niš, Novi Pazar, Pančevo, Vlasotince, Zaječar, Leskovac, Kruševac, Kraljevo, Prijepolje, Novi Sad), as well as four activists from Austria, Germany and the Netherlands.



Friday 18th

Friday, 18th

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

In pictures and words – about the activities of the Network of Women in Black Serbia, in the previous period (since the meetings of the Network - March 2021)

WiB Network activities in the previous period – information and analysis.

In the first part of this session were presented WiB Belgrade activities and joint activities of WiB Network:

- *Dealing with the Past* – street actions, visiting places of crimes committed in our names, trials at Special Court for war crimes in Belgrade: Miloš Urošević, Belgrade, Ljupka Kovačević, Montenegro and Ramiz Berbić, Tuzla/BH.
- *Feminist ethic of care and responsibility* - acts of mutual support, exchange and cooperation in the region in order to build a just peace – spoke Violeta Đikanović i Suvada Selimović (Violeta Đikanović, Suvada Selimović)
- *About Women's Court* – feminist approach to Justice and Women Peace Activism informed (Staća Zajović and Nela Pamuković)
- *Solidarity is our strength* – about the trial in Court of Ivanjica (workers Milomir Milojević and Miloško Ignjatović died in

a gunpowder explosion in the factory “Milan Blagojević-Namenska” from Lucani on July 14, 2017. The Milivojević family has been asking the state authorities to shed light on the circumstances of the tragedy in the factory etc.); about solidarity actions during pandemic Covid 19; solidarity actions with victims of sexual harassment; solidarity actions with refugees (*Miloš Urošević, Nastasja Radović, Violeta Đikanović, Ramiz Berbić, Sabina Talović*);

- *Women’s Peace activism, feminist discussion circles, educational peace gathering* (Suvada Selimović, Staša Zajović)
- *Active women’s holiday in Seka House, Brač island/Croatia* (Reiha Avdić, Anđelija Vučurović, Milka Rosić, Snežana Obrenović, Suvada Selimović...).

In second part were presented **activities of groups of WIB Network** – important in their local community, region:

- *Prisoners of the Pandemic* - field experiences on the gender dimension (**Milka Rosić**, NENA - Group for Peace and Women’s Rights, Leskovac)
- *Regime repression of the Children’s Center, Zaječar* - (**Selena Ristić Vitomirović**)
- *Women’s League for Peace and Freedom* (WILPF - reported by WILPF representatives from Germany, the Netherlands, Austria).

Think global - act local - About activism in the local community - a place of resistance and alternatives? - panel discussion

Participants: *Suvada Selimović, Association ‘Anima’, Đulići / BH; Branka Ćurčić, Conceptual Policy Group, Novi Sad; Selena Ristić Vitomirović, Children’s Center, Zaječar; Bratislav Stamenković, NGO ‘I wonder too’, Leskovac; Djokica Jovanovic, sociologist Niš; Fahrudin Kladnicanin, Academic Initiative Forum 10, Novi Pazar; Violeta Đikanović, Women in Black*

Moderator: **Stefan Milosavljević**

Diversity of initiatives: women’s empowerment (Đulići); housing and urban self-government, encouraging citizens to get involved in local initiatives (Novi Sad); initiating public debates on spending public funds, exerting pressure on local government through concrete proposals (Leskovac); organizing a protest of citizens after a car accident in which a boy was killed (Belgrade); providing support to women and children through the Children’s Center (Zaječar); organizing around social issues (e.g. heating, Niš), etc.

Problems pointed out by:

- *Total co-optation of local communities by the regime, except in the case of ‘Anima’ from Đulić where there is support;*

- Attacks on local initiatives by the regime, but also by the opposition, which causes citizens to fear 'politics' and engagement in local initiatives: "People have lost their vision, because the authorities do not allow any vision or goals" / ca);
- The parties in the local are consciously stifling any civic initiative that they recognize that it can cause some political damage (Novi Pazar);
- The local self-government deprived people of all public spaces (Kraljevo, Pančevo), ranging from the inability to use public spaces for work (Leskovac) to the ban on work and the expulsion and filing of a lawsuit by the mayor (Zaječar);
- Paternalistic attitude or "Belgradeization" stifles any local initiative: "Civil society organizations from Belgrade visit Novi Pazar when a problem occurs in order to "help and explain what needs to be done and how to do it "(Fahrudin);
- Blackmail by the family, community, regime hinders any civic initiative (Novi Pazar);
- Demonization of civil society organizations (Zaječar, Leskovac, Novi Sad);
- Closing off of local media due to the ban of the municipal government (Zaječar).

Some effects:

- The campaign for the involvement of citizens in local initiatives contributed to the candidacy of 80 citizens for the election process - local community councils (Novi Sad);
- The protests in Leskovac encouraged citizens to rebel against the government;
- After the protest of the citizens, the judge who released the person responsible for the murder of the boy was dismissed (Belgrade),
- The petition 'Go-Change' in January 2021, due to eviction, was signed by 6,000 people and 158 civil society organizations, although it did not bring about the change the position of the municipal authorities, it showed the strength of solidarity (Zaječar);
- Using social networks to inform and sensitize the public, etc.

Movie screening: **For Those Who Can't Speak'** (2013) by director Jasmila Žbanić from BH, which tells the story about the rape of women in Vilina Vlas Hotel in Višegrad/BH in 1992.

Saturday, 18th September

Continuity of sexual violence against women - both in war and at peacetime... – The central topic that consists of lectures, panels, screenings of documentary films, dynamic exercises...

September 18th

First session: **Problems in (non) processing of sexual violence in the war before the courts in Serbia and legal regulation concerning the war crime of rape**

Ivana Žanić, Humanitarian Law Fund

On war crimes trials before the Special Court in Belgrade: War crimes proceedings are being conducted before courts in Serbia, and there has been a specialized War Crimes Prosecutor's Office in Serbia since 2002. The Prosecution has an exclusive mandate to investigate and prosecute crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia, BH, Croatia and Kosovo. Since the beginning of their work, they have had modest results, only **80** cases, and these cases were mostly against the direct perpetrators of criminal acts, and not against the most responsible ones, i.e., not against Serbian generals, military and police officers. Some proceedings last for **18** years and very few have been indicted.

- **Indictments and trials for sexual violence against women in war**

The total number of indictments for rape and sexual violence committed against women during the wars is **12** cases. Only **one** case (Brčko) related to rape, while the other **11** cases concerned murder and rape.

The main problems in prosecuting sexual violence before national courts:

- There are no such procedures;
- The number of investigated crimes is small, and the number of prosecuted crimes is even smaller,
- There are no indictments for systematic rapes committed during the wars.
- In some proceedings, which last up to ten years, the accused and the victims, as well as family members and witnesses have died: *"With all this in mind, I do not expect that in the future there will be more proceedings for rape and sexual violence in war";*

Extremely inadequate attitude of the court towards women who suffered rape in the war:

- Lack of psychological and medical assistance to women victims of war rape, provided only by NGOs, in this case the Humanitarian Law Fund;
- Degrading attitude of the defense and the accused towards the victims – accusing the victims in the form of issues related to earlier sexual life;
- Absence of good practice of the Hague Tribunal, according to which the testimony of the victim is sufficient, which does not need to be supported by some other evidence, and the ban on asking questions about the victim's previous sexual life, etc.

On the Law on the Rights of Veterans, War Invalids, Civilian War Invalids and Members of Their Families

In Serbia, the Law on the Status of Civilian Victims of War was adopted in 1996, and we have noticed a discriminatory provision from the beginning:

Firstly, women survivors of war rape could not obtain that status under that Act because it recognized only bodily injuries as valid and in the amount of 50%. It is well known that women who have survived rape, predominantly, did not sustain bodily harm; however, their damage is emotional in nature, so no woman has achieved that status.

Secondly, the Law requires that rape be committed against a citizen of Serbia, in the territory of Serbia, and by the enemy army.

Thirdly, under the new Law (adopted in 2020), women victims of sexual violence could not even obtain this administrative reparation in the form of that minimum monthly allowance. That is no more than 10,000 dinars a month, the equivalent of about 80 euros. These are women who have been living in trauma for so long, who are poor, who do not have adequate legal or psychological help, who often probably suffer from domestic violence, that they are really still victims, because there is no systemic support from the state or society.

Finally, Ivana emphasized the contribution of the women's movement: "If it hadn't been for the women's movement, we wouldn't have heard anything about women and their injuries." I am very much in favor of women's courts, because they are a place and space for women to freely tell their story and for it to be a kind of satisfaction, a place where women have a voice, because they don't have one in court'.

Second Session, On the International Context of War Rape Crimes; sexual violence during the wars in the former Yugoslavia (facts about the scale of crimes, patterns of commission, realization of the rights of victims of sexual violence in war, etc.)

Marijana Senjak and Nela Pamuković spoke in this session, and it was moderated by **Ljupka Kovačević**.

In the first part, they talked about ***their activities during the war:***

Marijana: (worked in the therapeutic center for support of women Medica Zenica, and currently works in the Center for Victims of Sexual Violence Women's Room in Zagreb)

Medica Zenica was launched in 1992, when they started by working with women and children, victims of war rape and sexual violence, and since the end of the armed conflict, they have been dedicated to supporting women victims of "peacetime" rape and other forms of domestic and community violence.

Types and places of sexual crimes; differences in women's reactions to the traumatic experience

- *Women from all parts of BH: sexually abused, most often in camps, organized camps, under house arrest, in occupied villages ...*
- *Rape with genocidal intent: in Vareš, 40 women were raped in seven houses, where they were held in slavery from three, up to six months, and most often this resulted in pregnancy;*
- *Medica also provided gynecological assistance, in cooperation with the local hospital, along with the medical boards that approved the termination of pregnancy in those circumstances, and helped women to terminate an advanced pregnancy, if possible. For some women, not even this was possible;*
- *Of 150 women who survived the war rape, and stayed in the shelter Medica Zenica, in the period 1992-1995, 25 pregnancies resulted in 12 births and in most cases these children were given up for adoption;*
- *Children born as a result of war rapes have formed their own organizations: they have raised their voices publicly, and they continue the struggle that their mothers began for the realization of their rights ...*
- *Assistance and support to the women who testified before the Hague Tribunal on the war crime of rape (crimes in the Lašva Valley - the case of Ante Furundzija).*

Marijana explained the way / methodology of work - creating models in accordance with the context ...

- *Autonomous creation of a work model: We choose the methods ourselves, without formalization and excessive standardization, which in the end in a drawback, which becomes a framework that limits you, instead of helping you. We were busily searching for literature';*
- *Multidisciplinary approach: our team consisted of psychologists, sociologists, theologians, it was important for us to enter families;*
- *Building relations based on trust: at the refugee checkpoints we built a relationship, visited several times, built a relationship of security and trust;*
- *Providing specific assistance: general medical assistance, gynecological assistance, psychological / psychiatric assistance, development assistance for children; we established a kindergarten for our clients' children and for those of women refugees;*
- *Documentation and archives: we started an Infotheque, which began documenting our work, presenting it abroad and documenting what is happening and what interventions are being provided, etc.*

Demystification and democratization of professional knowledge - creation of useful knowledge

'We read, made diagrams and educated women in a private home in a simple language they could understand. It was important for us to demystify that knowledge, make it usable and convey it to others to help them. Those models have grown, changed, adapted ...'

Nela spoke about the experience of the *Center for Women Victims of War in Zagreb* (1992):

- *The topic of the war crime of rape was tackled globally through rape in BH;*
- *We worked in refugee centers - in self-help groups because this was the method we used in refugee centers, i.e., self-organized refugee centers;*
- *Large numbers of feminists from around the world kept coming over, because they wanted to transfer their experiences in working with women who survived rape to the Balkans;*
- *Women from BH were in transit in Croatia, going to third countries; and when Croatia started the aggression on BH, women were directly endangered in refugee camps, the police used to come and deport some of them...*

• On our activities in the aftermath of war

Marijana Senjak

BH: Struggle for recognition of the status of civilian victims of war to women who survived the war crime of rape ...

- *Women survivors of war rape lived in total poverty - basic needs could not be met, women did not have the means to buy clothes or shoes in order to travel The Hague to testify;*
- *We launched a broad campaign for the recognition of the status of civilian victims of war – it was supported by over 50 organizations and 50,000 signatures of support were collected with the screening of the film *Grbavica*;*
- *In 2006, the status of women survivors of war rape as civilian victims of war was recognized for the first time in BH - by law they received a small monthly allowance of some 250 - 300 euros, which can cover the cost of medication or basic necessities;*
- *Against the media abuse of rape in war –we built a platform for working with the media, so that the terms be signed, and if they violate the agreements they can be prosecuted. What is important to us is the confidentiality and anonymity of the story, to avoid sensationalism, that identity cannot be revealed*

Nela Pamuković – In 2015, the Law on the Rights of Victims of Sexual Violence in War was passed in Croatia

In the introductory part, she referred to the preparations for the adoption of the Law from 2013, when an estimate of 1,500 to 2,500 was reached, which is a figure made on the basis of a survey of all those who worked with rape victims until then.

The Law on the Rights of Victims of Sexual Violence in War prescribes the following:

- The right to psychosocial and legal assistance, supplementary health insurance, physical rehabilitation, one-time and monthly benefits, and increased cash benefits in cases where survivors of sexual violence were minors or sexual violence resulted in pregnancy, abortion or childbirth.
- One-time cash benefit is HRK **100,000**, and increased HRK **150,000**. The monthly cash benefit is HRK **2,340.00**.
- From the beginning of the application of the Act in November 2015 until the end of 2020, **272** requests were submitted, of which 256 requests were resolved, of which **173** were positive, **78** were negative (one third were negative and one third were men), **6** were suspended / rejected, and **16** are still pending.
- Of the estimated victims, 12% applied for status.
- Assumptions are that maybe 10% of men are victims of rape, etc.

Nela went on to talk about the obstacles faced by women survivors of war rape:

- *More than 20 years have passed, many women are ill, in poor economic conditions, also, many women cannot obtain the status; and those who have dared to speak up and utter it after so many years, are being rejected;*
- *As for the men who were in the camps, if they were beaten on the genitals, it is classified as sexual violence, but we know that they were beaten all over their bodies and tortured, but this is not;*
- *We represent the women who have been rejected before the European Court of Human Rights, but this is a long procedure;*
- *The largest number of rejected women are of Serbian ethnicity;*
- *The abuse of women who survived rape in the war by nationalist organizations and associations (Sunčica and veterans' associations), etc.*

• *On the importance of the continuity of activities during and after the wars*

'Women's organizations played a key role in providing support, while the state used rape in the war exclusively for daily political purposes' (Nela);
"We created safe women's spaces, and we created a method of working with women who survived war rapes" (Marijana).

The third session **“The End of Impunity: Sexual Violence before the Tribunal”** - a documentary film showing the testimonies of victims of sexual violence in the war in BH; a film produced by the ICTY (The Hague Tribunal) (2011) and is 40 minutes long.

The fourth session **“Myths and Facts about Sexual Violence”** – a dynamic exercise.

Fifth session **‘On the continuity of impunity – rape in war and rape in peace’**

Speakers:

Ljupka Kovačević and Stasa Zajović, WiB, Belgrade

Ljupka Kovačević:

In Montenegro, wartime rapes are covered by a veil of silence: no one questions that, not even NGOs. The only thing I know is that an indictment was filed in BH against *Ranko Radulović*, a member of the Army of the Republika Srpska. He took part in attacks, rapes and taking hostages in 1992 in Foča. In August 2019, he was questioned by Prosecutor L.V. due to two cases of rape, he denied his involvement and the case was declared **classified!**

In Montenegro in general, the story of the crimes of the 1990s is completely marginalized and is mentioned only in EU reports. Almost no one is interested in this topic, except NGOs.

Continuum of violence: domestic violence – trafficking – rape in peace time - new forms of violence

Since 2000, sexual abuse has had a different goal: men's weapons are no longer in the service of the nation (enslavement and humiliation); instead, gender-based violence is a demonstration of power and misogyny.

Correlation between men's participation in war and increased domestic violence

The Women's Safe House survey conducted in the period 1999-2004 on a sample of 1,500 women showed that violence intensified after returning from the battlefield: 27% of victims stated that the perpetrator had taken part in the war and possessed a weapon.

From conversations with activists of the SOS hotline Nikšić and the Center for Women's Rights I learned that women generally do not link the increase in violence with the presence of men on the battlefield, while previously there were more cases of women talking about increasing violence', stressed Ljupka.

Sex trafficking in Montenegro – the case of S.Č.

The topic was opened on December 12, 2002 with the case of Moldovan woman S.Č.; in January 2003, S.Č. entered the Safe Women's House, which the public learned. Four men were arrested: Irfan Kurpejović, Ekrem Jasović, Bajram Orahovac and Zoran Piperović, and Andrija Jovičević, the Deputy State

Prosecutor, was dismissed. The prosecutor was Bobo Vukčević, the investigating judge Ana Vuković, the Head of the Special Team Milan Paunović. However, the trial was never initiated in court. It is believed that politicians in responsible positions, including the state leadership, were involved in this crime. The OSCE intervened.

Late in January 2003, S.Č. left Montenegro. In 2011, the trial of S.Č. for 'false testimony'. In 2013, she was released, and in 2014 she was released on parole for false testimony.

The Penal Code of Montenegro (2020) – sentences for rape: the maximum sentence is 15 years in prison, but the average sentence for rape is four years and three months.

In the last 5 years, 'only' 18 cases of rape have been reported, so it can be concluded:

Social norms and attitudes contribute to gender inequality and violence against women

1. Violence against women is not sufficiently reported and there is mistrust in institutions
2. The legal framework is good, but it needs to be upgraded and fully implemented
3. There are gaps in the provision of quality support services and the capacity of women's shelters and other support services, especially for vulnerable groups, such as ethnic minorities and women with disabilities.

A new form of violence: In recent years, the following tendencies have been observed: bullies are young, mostly rich people, who treat women like slaves –they expect them to fulfill all their whims and absolutely want to manage their time and lives.

Stasa Zajović

"War always returns home" or on the continuity of sexual violence in war and in peace...

Summary

Sexual violence in wars was generally treated as an incidental occurrence or 'collateral damage'. Invisibility and impunity for sexual crimes dominate peace agreements - justice for victims of sexual violence (mainly through sanctions and prosecutions) has not been included in peace agreements.

UN Resolution 1325 (Women, Peace, Security, 2000) did not make progress in terms of women's participation in peace processes and agreements. Subsequent UN resolutions on sexual violence in war did not affect the reduction of sexual crimes in war zones. 'Blue helmets' (the so-called UN humanitarian armies in war affected areas) enjoyed immunity and committed sexual crimes with impunity; owing to pressure by feminist networks, immunity to 'blue helmets' was lifted (2016), but this did not bring justice to victims of sexual crimes (BH, etc.).

Impunity for sexual crimes committed during the war continued

in Serbia in the so-called peacetime: The Law on Civilian Victims of War does not recognize or acknowledge victims of the war crime of rape; the efforts of civil society organizations to amend the law have been in vain. Before the Special Court for War Crimes in Serbia, cases related to the war crime of rape were mostly processed along the way! The state of Serbia uses Resolution 1325 to create a false image of a 'leader in the region' in the application of R1325 and does not recognize the war crime of rape. Warriors of Serbian name raped with impunity in Vukovar, throughout BH, Kosovo, and at the same time they did the same with impunity in Belgrade and throughout Serbia. The war is returning home - both during the war and in peace, there is an increase, normalization and brutalization of violence against women in the private and public spheres, and especially violence by participants in the war who suffer from PTSD.

The practice of impunity for violence and war crimes is perpetuated through impunity in the sphere of domestic violence, non-recognition of victims of rape crimes both in war and in peace.

Sexual crimes in the so-called peacetime in Serbia unequivocally point to the connection between war and post-war sexual violence against women - former warriors, fans of war criminals (Mika Aleksić and D.M. Palma cases) and current sexual abusers - pimps in cooperation with the regime or with the complicity of the regime take advantage of women's poverty for all forms of sexual exploitation. Sexual violence against women, especially if it takes on the dimensions of a mass crime, as is happening in Serbia, should be recognized as a crime against humanity and sanctioned as a gender-based crime.

(Integral lectures in Serbian can be found in the report from the Network meeting on the WiB website).

The sixth session (Ab)use of victims of sexual violence for political ends—by the state, political parties, the media (on cases of Milena Radulović, Danijela Štajnfeld, Jagodina, Petnica)

The session was moderated by Mina Damjanović and Nastasja Radović.

*Asked whether these cases of sexual violence could contribute to changes in legislation in Serbia, **Tanja Ignjatović**, Autonomous Women's Center, stressed that even before that, "feminists have done a lot to revise the legal definition of rape and there were significant expansions in four places: extension of forms of rape; the marriage exemption was revoked, because marital rape was not recognized by the law in Serbia until 2009; criminal acts of rape are conducted ex officio and in accordance with the Convention on the Prevention of Violence against Women (Council of Europe), the crime of rape is defined as an non-consensual act, etc. However, in practice, this is not respected primarily due to the irresponsible behavior of the Prosecutor's Office.*

Milena Vasić, Jukom, 'stressed that in these cases, the perpetrators / sexual abusers are political actors, mostly close to the regime, and secondly, these cases have come to light 'because women who are victims of a young actress, who belong to a privileged circle of women who have had both legal and psychological support, and who, despite belonging to a privileged minority, continue to suffer media torture for being victims'. Vasic warned of the disastrous influence of the executive on the judicial system 'Allegedly, we live in a state governed by the rule of law, yet waiting for the President to decide whether there was rape or not ?!' The positive effects of the fact that women have spoken out about sexual violence is 'I see optimism that change is coming. We can be horrified by the sentence given to Jutka (Mayor Bruce convicted of sexual harassment of Marija Lukić) of three months in prison, but he is the only official convicted of sexual violence. The limits have been pushed. Victims get the message. Women are reporting more and more. Less privileged women also call us to ask what their rights are. The most important thing is the message sent to the perpetrators that the victims are no longer silent.'

Marinika Tepic, an official of the opposition Justice and Freedom Party, disclosed the "Palma case" and Vasic believes that serious mistakes were made: "The problem is that Marinika did it on her own."The story was made public so that the Prosecution would react and that they would convict him. They knew it wasn't going to happen and they did it consciously, and maybe potentially ruined a victim's chance to go public and testify. The victims were abused in this case, because you don't see that anyone cares about the victim.'

Hristina Piskulidis, Astrastated that the '**Palma case**' (mayor of Jagodina accused in April 2021 of procurement of women and girls, pedophilia, trafficking in women) was '*monstrous*', that a huge number of people were involved in crimes and that '*the indictment should also include accomplices in the crime of trafficking in human beings and sexual violence*'. Despite continuous public pressure, primarily from feminist organizations, the "Palma case" did not receive a court epilogue, no indictment was filed against Palma, because the perpetrators enjoy the support and protection of the regime and regime tabloids, but also of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

Snežana Jakovljević, Peščanik, Kruševac pointed out that the impunity of sexual violence, both at the level of the state and society, leads to the "*normalization of violence and sexual violence*." *The media, and especially the tabloids, normalize violence with sensationalist writing and discourage women from reporting violence.*

September 20th

Sunday, 20th September

'We remember the anti-war resistance –Vera Vebel Tatić and the Center for anti-war action Ada'

Presentation of the publication issued by **Women in Black, 2021** (print: **Most Art Jugoslavija, Zemun**).

Evaluation: Ljupka: What have we found out/learned?

- **New information, knowledge about sexual crimes, both in war and peace, on social stigmatization of victims of sexual violence** – as all participants agreed;
- **Feminist activities with women victims of war rapes – admiration for the concrete support given to these women, developing of new models of work** (the experience of Medica Zenica during the war and Marijana's experience);
- **(Not)processing of sexual crimes, obstructions in the judicial system, irresponsibility of the state of Serbia** ('It confirmed what I already knew –the criminal policy of this state' (*Snežana*);
- **Building the movement by learning and reflecting together, solidarity and trust** ('I learned a great deal about building the movement' Marieke; 'I learned how important it is for us to work together and learn from one another' (*Mirjana*);
- **New info about the situation in Serbia, on the anti-war resistance in Vojvodina** ('I have learned about the real state of things in Serbia, and also is important to create safe spaces where the most gruesome topics can be addressed (*Esad, Ursula, Ramiz...*) etc.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

in addition to the aforementioned, were realized within the Network (feminist discussion circles, educational activities on war related sexual based violence in war; women's peace activism...):

Feminist approach to sexual based violence in war in ex Yugoslavia - For a culture of Memory and accountability – seminars organized by WIB, Autonomous Women's Center and Youth Initiative for Human Rights from Belgrade.

The first seminar took place in Jastrebac, near Kruševac/central Serbia, November 26, 27 and 28, attended by **23** women from following places: Belgrade, Kruševac, Aleksandrovac, Brus, Trstenik, Čičevac, Varvarin.

The second seminar took place in Radmilovac, near Belgrade, December 4, 5 and 6; attended by **23** women from: Belgrade, Leskovac, Vlasotince, Kraljevo, Prijepolje, Pljevlja (Montenegro) and dozen of places Zvornik municipaliy (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

The third seminar took place in Novi Sad, Decembar 11 – one day long seminar, organized together with Women's Studies and research and association 'Circle Vojvodina'. This meeting was attended by **15** persons from Novi Sad, Subotica, Belgrade.

Program of these seminars:

First day:

- Transitional justice – feminist approach (Staša Zajović)
- Problem of court proceedings of war-time sexual violence in Serbia (Ivana Žanić)
- „*The end of impunity*” about proceedings on crimes of sexual violence in war at Hague tribunal – documentary movie

Second day:

- Sexual violence as an act of male violence against women and creation of caring society (Sanja Pavlović);
- From ‘soldiers’ rewards to ‘crime against humanity’ – how the feminist movement changed the meaning and international regulations on war-related sexual violence (Mina Damnjanović)
- Sexual violence during the wars in Yugoslavia – facts on scope of the problem, mechanisms of violence and achieving the rights of survivors
- Legal recognition of war-time sexual violence survivors and the fight against stigma – case study Kosovo – power point presentation
- „*Return*” (21 min.) on rape in wartime in Kosovo;
- Women’s Court – Feminist approach to justice – documentary on W’sC in Sarajevo, 2015.

Third day – evaluation.

Here are just some of the findings and impressions –

The seminar at Jastrebac:

In Serbia, the war crime of rape in the war is neither recognized nor recognized, and the perpetrators of these crimes - men who were in the war in Kosovo, live among us, some with deeply repressed trauma, some continue to commit violence against women with impunity (‘In Serbia we have not dealt with it, even though women with such experience live here, and those men are among us ...’).



women survivors of rape war crimes have a sense of shame and guilt, and are condemned by their families and social environment”).

On ways to deal with the war crime of rape, women stated: make the crime visible, create space for testimony and support; showing films about the war crime of rape, etc.)

All participants stated that they had gained new knowledge about rape in the war, about the position of victims of sexual crimes, as well as the awareness of responsibility for crimes “committed in my name”; consequences of impunity for crimes - war against women, return to power of those who committed crimes ... 'etc.

The seminar in Radmilovac -

– the structure of participants was significantly different than in Jastrebac because women from the community of victims of eastern Bosnia (direct victims of war suffering, who suffered mass killings of male relatives, ethnic cleansing, refugees ...) and women from Serbia, from communities of perpetrators who were in a different position (psychological trauma, sense of responsibility, etc.).

Therefore, a good part of the discussion was dedicated to transitional justice, obstacles to justice, and the participants explained it as follows:



Non-recognition of victims of the 'other' side; hierarchy among victims - on ethnic, gender grounds ... ('All victims should be attributed the same weight. We all love when others are tried for the crime that happened to us. It would be fair for everyone to be convicted in the same way, not to look who did it, but that all should come before the court and answer for their deeds' (Suvada).

Manipulation of the victims of their own nation ... "States play with their own victims. Victims are puppets in the hands of states" (Snežana).

Impunity even amnesty for crimes in the name of geostrategic interests - the case of Montenegro: ('Montenegro has never looked at its face in the



mirror and never faced its wartime criminal past. If many or few 20,000 people headed from Serbia to kill people in Srebrenica "Montenegro refueled them, so there is no less guilt or responsibility. Montenegro absolutely acted as if it didn't matter, it took care of itself. We had a regime for 30 years that was created on that wave" (Sabina), etc.

- After a lecture on transitional justice processes (including criminal and non-criminal sanctions), the most famous of which is denazification, she encouraged participants to propose non-criminal sanctions in our region:
- *Changing the educational system - programs related to the 90's* because it is important who educates children, because they may hear one thing at school and another at home;
- *Organizing visits to the scenes of crimes committed in our name:* by schools at the state level, with explanations to students about what happened; it is important that e.g., students from Serbia go to Vukovar and not 'only students from Croatia';
- *To show films (about the 90's) in schools,* for young people to think for themselves about how to take responsibility;
- *To show documentaries on facts on the public service RTS;*
- *Networking of mothers of fallen soldiers:* 'Why did the mother's son from Belgrade die in Sarajevo? He was not defending his house. Who sent him there?' (Suvada), etc.

The following proposals were made regarding criminal sanctions: *information on trials at the international and national levels; monitoring of war crimes trials, Information on judgments in international courts related to the Srebrenica genocide.*

Recognition of genocide is important from a political, moral, emotional point of view: "If the state had recognized the genocide, reconciliation and non-repetition would be easier" (participants from Serbia).

Reparations (material and symbolic – public apologies, public commemorations, erection of monuments ...) are an important mechanism and pillar of transitional justice, much more as respect for the dignity of victims, recognition of crimes and much less as material gain: "Victims from BH should be receiving reparations from Serbia"; a woman from Serbia).

During the talks on **institutional reforms**, the participants mostly opted for **lustration** (ban on holding public office for a limited period of time by persons who have participated in human rights violations in the past), which includes: *banning political parties involved in incitement to war in the 1990s ;); In 2000, officials of the former regime were to be banned from engaging in politics; responsibility of the intellectual elite, responsibility of SANU (Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts), SOC (Serbian Orthodox Church), media ...*

Participants from Serbia-Montenegro consider "complete obstruction of transitional justice and confrontation with the past where representatives of the former criminal regime have returned to power and where the culture of impunity and glorification of war criminals dominates."

The Missing – dilemmas and questions: *women from Eastern Bosnia are still looking for the remains of their loved ones, there has been a lot of talk about this problem, which reflects the different positions of women during the war ...*

Confession of crimes in exchange for reduction of prison sentences must not reduce criminal responsibility and in no way imply amnesty - activists from Serbia believe, while activists from Bosnia believe that confession about mass graves can be 'rewarded' with release, but can encourage others to speak (out) about mass graves.

"For me, it would mean much more to find the bones of my father, brother, husband than for him (the perpetrator) to go to prison" (Bosnian women). Experience has shown that (persons) who are willing to disclose mass graves face retaliation in their own community and it is therefore necessary to find mechanisms to protect these persons, hampered by the experience of inadequate protection of 'protected witnesses' by the state ... '.

(Figures testify to the drama facing the families of the missing: 9969 missing are still wanted: most in BH - 6371; Croatia - 1968; Kosovo - 1630. In 2020, only 46 people were found and identified, while in 2021, to date only 43 persons identified, August 2021).

Women are far more willing to support restorative / restorative / healing than retributive / criminal justice: the right to truth, responsibility, respect for victims, etc.

*Regarding **rape in the war**, the participants agree that "women who have survived the war crime of rape face rejection and even condemnation from their immediate environment, and therefore most often do not testify about the crime."*

"Women who survived rape in the war generally do not talk about it, renouncing material reparations, although most live in poverty," said the women from Bosnia, etc.

During the evaluation, most of the participants emphasized the importance of acquiring knowledge in an atmosphere of intimacy, compassion, belonging, socializing, new acquaintances...

Women's Peace Activism, Đulici, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Educational program that the civic association "Anima" from Đulić 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 the work of "Anima" and WiB.

In this reporting period, one meeting was organized:

“Be creative together” – two cycles (**September 27 and 28 and October 24 and 25**)

First part – educational activities ‘From traditional women’s handikrafts to women’s struggle for peace and justice’ – lectures and movie projections on women’s experiences and practice of struggle against injustice (Chilean Arpilleras, Guatemala – history of quilting against dictatorship-women’s art memory);

Cooks-Deconstruction of Kitchen Space – Deconstruction of Patriarchal Tradition and Cultural Heritage in Serbia – of women’s handcraft into engagement for women’s human rights, against war, clerical-nationalist propaganda of the cultural heritage of Serbia;

‘I remember...’ about WiB art engaged work in refugee camps in Serbia during Nineties and documentary movie “Return’ etc. Women were impressed by the political and artistic struggle of women in Latin America, which they had never heard of before, as well as with the artistic and activist work of WiB in refugee camps in Serbia during the 1990’s.

The second part – Making patchwork together – women knit / weave a web of peace and solidarity

Women from Anima, together with Goran Lazin and Violeta Đikanović (WiB) through combined techniques (embroidery, knitting, drawing...) completed the selected message ‘Women build peace together’, etc. Patchwork Women Build Peace Together was ‘exhibited’ on Republic Square during the action dedicated to the International Day against Feminide - December 6, 2021.

The meetings showed the importance of artistic engagement for women.

Women’s Peace Meeting, Leskovac, October 21st

The Women’s Peace Meeting was organized by: NENA - Group for Peace and Women’s Rights and Women in Black, Belgrade, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the death of **Nevena Kostić - Nena** (August 1, 1968-October 21, 2011), civic activist from the late 1990s, pacifist, feminists and women’s human rights activists.

She’s left a mark on us – in the introductory part the following activists talked about Nevena Nena Kostić: *Milka Rosić*, Leskovac, *Jelena Cakić*, Leskovac / Niš and *Staša Zajović*, Belgrade.

We reminded you of Nena’s activist biography: **Nevena Nena Kostić** was born on August 1, 1968. in Leskovac. She became involved in activism in July 1999 during the civil resistance in Leskovac against the regime of S. Milosevic. From that moment until her death (October 21, 2011), Nena participated in the activities of numerous local initiatives: People’s Parliament, Women’s Center; activist of the Women in Black Network since 1999; founder and coordinator of the women’s peace group “Women for Peace” (2004) in Leskovac; Nena was also one of the coordinators of the activities of the Women’s Court. As a sign of respect for Nevena Kostić and the continuity of common feminist peace values and principles, an association named

after Nevena Nena Kostić “NENA – Group for Peace and Women’s Rights” was founded.

The following are the documentaries of the Women in Black Video Activism Group:

Homage to Nevena Nena Kostić (11 min.) and *She left a trace in us - Nevena Nena Kostić (37 min.)* - the films are dedicated to Nena’s activist engagement and showed the actions in which Nena participated, her public attitudes, passion, solidarity and knowledge.

In the second part of the meeting, the book “*Remembering Anti-War Resistance - Vera Veibel Tatic and the Center for Anti-War Action Ada*” was promoted. The participants in the discussion, “*The war continued by other means. And where is the anti-war resistance today?*” were: *Svetlana Šarić*, Vlasotince (SOS Hotline for Women and Children and the Women in Black Network); *Jelena Cakić*, lawyer, Leskovac / Niš; *Violeta Đikanović* and *Ljiljana Radovanović*, WiB, Belgrade; *Bratislav Bata Stamenković*, Leskovac, civic activist, *Vladimir Joić* and *Milka Rosić*, NENA - group for peace and women’s rights, Leskovac.

About twenty (20) people from: Leskovac, Niš, Vlasotince, Belgrade participated in the *Women’s Peace Meeting*.

During this period, the following events were held (discussion circles, lectures, book promotions):

Belgrade, October 1st – a roundtable discussion on “*State-building myths among Serbs*” with the participation of 12 people from Belgrade, Nis and Novi Pazar.



Kotor / Montenegro, October 23 and 24 – Where is Montenegro going? – A roundtable discussion of activists from Montenegro and Serbia was held in the House of Free Thought, Kavač, near Kotor, and organized by ‘Anima’ Kotor, Academic Initiative Forum 10, Novi Pazar and WiB, Belgrade. This is the third (since October 2020) meeting of civil society organizations, media, political scene, independent intellectuals from Montenegro and Serbia (from Kotor, Herceg Novi, Pljevlja, Podgorica, Budva, Bajina Bašta, Belgrade, Novi Pazar).



Belgrade, December 4th, 'Serbia and War Criminals' – debate organized by the Civic Democratic Forum / GDF, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Women in Black and the Alliance of Antifascists of Serbia in which activists of the following organizations participated: Zoran Vuletić, Sonja Biserko, Aleksandar Kraus and Staša Zajović. About twenty (20) people attended the debate, held at the GDF premises.

Vrnjačka Banja, October 30th – 'On Civil Society and Women's Peace Networks', interactive lectures given by *Staša Zajović*, and within the project of the association 'Peščanik' (from Kruševac 'Women, Peace, Security - Towards Good Neighborly Relations between Serbia and Kosovo / Women, Peace and Security - towards good neighborly relations between Serbia and Kosovo). Thirty participants from Serbia and Kosovo were present.



December 9th, Novi Pazar 'Peča' – promotion of the book by Fahrudin Kladnicanin, published by the Academic Initiative Forum 10 from Novi Pazar. *Peča* presents a series of interviews with women from Sandžak, who witnessed the adoption of the Law on the Prohibition of Wearing Zari and Veils, which was passed in 1951. During 15 years (since 2005), the author talked to 40 women, and the book included conversations with 20. Speakers at the promotion were: Prof. Dr. *Lino Veljak*, Enes Nikšić, writer, prof. Dr. *Redžep Škrijelj*, *Staša Zajović*, Women in Black and *Rizah Gruda*, professor. The promotion was held in the City Library 'Dositej Obradović', and was attended by over 100 people.

Novi Pazar, December 10th – interactive workshop at the High School on the occasion of December 10, International Human Rights Day; Participants: Radojica Bunčić, activist, *Staša Zajović*, WiB, Belgrade, Teo Taraniš, Academic Initiative Forum 10, Novi Pazar; the interview was conducted in a class of about thirty students.



December 16th – Meeting on civic activism and freedom of assembly organized by the Committee of Lawyers for Human Rights / Yukom and the Belgrade Center for Security Policy. The meeting was held at the Evnoy Conference Center; The meeting discussed the problems facing human rights defenders in Serbia with a focus

on abuses by institutions and their representatives, leading to daily violations of the right to freedom of assembly and creating a social atmosphere in which civic activism has become a form of undesirable and dangerous behaviors. Activists from Belgrade, Vojvodina, western Serbia participated; Staša Z. participated on behalf of the WiB.

Belgrade, December 24th “Greetings from the black list” – a debate on the repression of civil society organizations, organized by the Crocodile Cultural Center. *Miloš Urošević* participated on behalf of the WiB.

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 in Serbia: 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, 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) – October 25 – 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 few thousands of refugees / migrants passed through this center. In this place, they can get food, clothing and shoes, and a large number remains to sleep, while some stay for a longer period of time. WIB network activists provided humanitarian aid (food and hygienic articles etc.) and WIB used to support solidarity activities to Bona Fide center.

II Solidarity with activists during pandemic (COVID 19)

Since the pandemic started, we established various ways of mutual support and solidarity within WiB Network: Since the beginning of pandemic Wib established different forms of mutual support and solidarity among WiB Networks activists – we already informed in previous reports. In this period, we organized:

Solidarity support – distribution of modest humanitarian aid for the most socially vulnerable activists in WiB Network.

Visits/gatherings with activists - beside already mentioned contacts with WiB Networks activists, in this reporting period we

visited activists in following places: Leskovac (*October, 21*); Ada and Novi Bečej (*December 27*) and Pančevo, *December, 29*).

III Solidarity Assistance to Vietnamese Workers in Zrenjanin / Vojvodina – In November 2021, the situation of hundreds of Vietnamese workers employed in the construction of the Chinese tire factory *Linglong* in Zrenjanin, who spent several months living in camp conditions - without hot water, freedom of movement and wages, was revealed. In mid-November, the public learned of a workers' strike in Linglong. With the help of journalists and activists from Zrenjanin, one of the workers, who was fired for alerting the public, was rescued from the camp accommodation. Thanks to public pressure, the workers were later relocated to several locations, but still in extremely poor conditions. NGOs Astra and A11 from Belgrade accused Chinese companies of 'human trafficking, labor exploitation', etc. The competent institutions of Serbia rejected the allegations of the NGO, accusing them of "leading a campaign against Linglong and against every Chinese company".

WiB joined the actions of solidarity aid to Vietnamese workers organized by the Social Center Oktobar from Belgrade (*humanitarian aid in clothes and food*), and on December 10, several NGO collectives visited workers in Zrenjanin, organized a *rally in support of insurgent workers*. Goran Lazin was in Zrenjanin on behalf of WiB.

IV 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 Milojevic and Miloško Ignjatovic were killed after a gunpowder explosion.

In this reporting period, only one hearing was held before the Basic Court in Ivanjica:

September 2th

2nd September – The examination of witness **Marko Mitrović**, who was fired from the factory due to his testimony, continued because he claimed that the explosion occurred due to the lack of basic protection measures. **Milovan Milivojević**, who has worked in a military factory for more than 35 years, the father of the deceased Milomir, testified at the same hearing about the blackmail of director Milovanović, who offered him a job for his daughter and wife in exchange of no longer speaking publicly about the tragedy / death and blaming him for the accident', etc.

October 18th

M. Milivojević's testimony continued on **October 18**, and **December 1**. At the hearing on December 1, the lawyer of the Milivojevic family demanded that the trial be postponed because "the court in Ivanjica does not have the capacity to bring this judicial procedure to an end," and that proposal was accepted by the judge of the court in Ivanjica. However, the Basic Prosecutor's Office in Čačak rejected the proposal

to postpone the trial. Borivoje Borović, the lawyer of the Milivojević family, believes that “the court in Ivanjica withdrew its own decision, under political pressure, and was forced to continue the trial in the same way as before.” It is also influenced by the omnipotence of the director, who is very important to the executive because of the arms trade with African and Asian countries. “ The trial was accompanied by constant obstructions - a harangue against the Milivojević family in the regime media, postponement of the hearing due to false medical certificates of the first indictee, denying permission to WiB activists to attend the trial despite requests made in advance, etc.

V Trial for the murder of journalist Ćuruvija – Slavko Ćuruvija, editor of the opposition *Dnevni Telegraph*, was killed on April 11, 1999, in front of the entrance to his building in the center of Belgrade. The trial for this crime began in 2015 and lasted for 4 years. In April 2019, the defendants were found guilty: Radomir Marković, former head of DB (State Security), and Milan Radonjić, former head of the Belgrade DB center, were sentenced to 30 years in prison. Ratko Romić and Miroslav Kurak, as organizers, were sentenced to 20 years. In September 2020, the Court of Appeals in Belgrade revoked the verdict, emphasizing that the first instance panel exceeded the indictment. During this reporting period, the following hearings were held:

On October 25 (closing arguments) and *December 2*, when the High Court in Belgrade handed down a verdict to four defendants, sentenced to a total of 100 years in prison for participating in the murder of journalist Slavko Ćuruvija - the sentences are identical to those in the first instance.

VI Trial for setting journalist Milan Jovanović’s house on fire

Former President of the Municipality of Grocka, Gragoljub Simonović, has been accused of inciting the burning of the house of journalist M. Jovanović. Žig Info. On 12/12/2018 somebody set a 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. Commenting the revoked verdict, M. Jovanović stated ‘there is no justice in this country ...’

(You can find in Serbian integral reports 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 **280** persons.



15th September “Stumbling blocks” – remembrance of the victims of the Third Reich – by speaker **Ursula Renner** from Germany, in the presence of **13** people.

22nd September “Legal position of women in prostitution” Dr. Dragana Pejović, Novi Sad, within the cycle “Disputes in Feminism”, **10** people participated.



29th September “Anti-bureaucratic revolution” – promotion of the book by prof. Dr. Nebojša Vladislavljević (Faculty of Political Sciences, Belgrade; the book published by Archipelago (2020) was presented by Lino Veljak, Aleksandar Kraus, Vesna Pešić; the discussion, moderated by Stefan Milosavljević, was attended by **23** people.



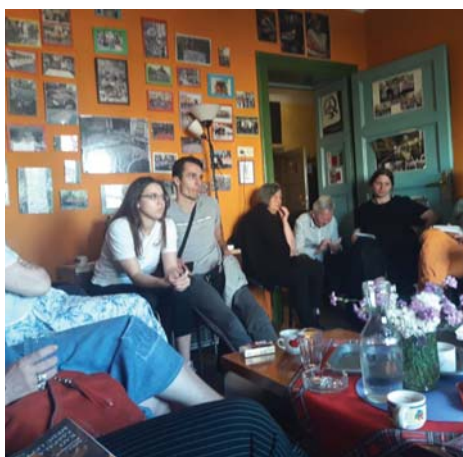
6th October “On the elections in Russia, the outcome, repercussions ... Is there a different Russia?”, the speakers were Dr. Jelica Kurjak, former Serbian Ambassador to Russia and Elena Vilenskaya, St. Petersburg, civil activist and activist of the International Network of WiB (via zoom); The discussion that took place within the cycle *International Politics – Challenges, Dilemmas, Controversies ...* was attended by **14** people.

13th October ‘Invisible Woman and Other Stories’, discussion of Slavenka Drakulić’s book as part of the *Feminist Approach to Health* cycle; the book was commented by activists - **15** people.

20th October – Nagorno Karabakh – Despair, suffering, destruction ... Natasa Ivanovski, journalist and associate of the WiB, who visited Nagorno Karabakh in September 2021, spoke about the consequences of the war and the current situation in this region. The discussion was held as part of the cycle *International politics – challenges, dilemmas, controversies*; **21** people attended.

27th October “What have we heard about the situation in Montenegro?” – the participants spoke about their impressions and knowledge acquired during the roundtable discussion in Kotor / Kavač, in October 2021 spoke, in the presence of **14** people.

20th October – Nagorno Karabakh – Despair, suffering, destruction ... Nataša Ivanovski, journalist and associate of WiB,



who visited Nagorno Karabakh in September 2021, spoke about the consequences of the war and the current situation in this region. The discussion was held within the cycle *International Politics - Challenges, Dilemmas, Controversies*; **21** people attended the discussion.

3rd November “On civil disobedience - principles and practices” joint reflection – introductory speaker **Stefan Milosavljević**, **13** people participated.

10th November “The Sandzak Trial” (2020), a documentary film directed by Aleksandar Reljic, shows the circumstances of the trials of Bosniaks in Serbia (25) and Montenegro (21) during the 1990s for allegedly organizing a riot seeking the creation of the State of Sandžak. They have been sentenced to long sentences and are still fighting for justice. After the screening of the film, the convicts in those trials testified: **Fadil Ugljanin, Šefcet Gračanin, Ahmedin-Dino Škrijelj, Mirza Hajdinović from Novi Pazar**. The conversation, moderated by Nastasja Radović, was attended by **24** people.

17th November “The identity drama of femininity and the drama of the generational mother-daughter relationship”, on the examples of the novels: *Blacks in Florence*, by **Vedrana Rudan** and *Baba Jaga laid an Egg* by **Dubravka Ugrešić**; discussion on mother-daughter relations through psychoanalytic-feminist theory (Sigmund Freud, Lacan, Simone de Beauvoir, Lucie Irigaray; led by **Azra Šeta Hadžić**, Master of Comparative Literature Sarajevo / Belgrade; **13** people present).

24th November “Yellow Star, Red Star” (published by Clio, Belgrade, 2021) - remembrance of the Holocaust after communism, author Jelena Subotić; The author analyzes contemporary Holocaust remembrance in three countries: Serbia, Croatia and Lithuania. The book was presented by **Mariana Stojčić**, sociologist and activist, in the presence of **15** people.



29th November “Republic Day” – an informal gathering on the occasion of the 78th anniversary of AVNOJ was organized by Women in Black, in cooperation with anti-fascist activists, cultural workers.



On Republic Day, November 29, a debate was held on one forgotten dimension of the People's Liberation Struggle 1941-1945, which is manifested in the participation of religious officials in the partisan movement. More than **50** people took part in the gathering. After the keynote speech by *Staša Zajović*, who explained the importance of the topic, *Dragan Stojković*, *Lino Veljak* and *Fahrudin Kladničanin* spoke about the participation of religious officials of the three most important denominations. The antifa choir "Our Song" also took part in this event.



8th December – Identity drama of femininity and drama of the mother-daughter generational relationship – continuation of the discussion led by Azra Šeta Hadžić, Sarajevo / Belgrade; attended by **13** participants; in addition to activists from Belgrade, there were also activists from Croatia.

15th December "Daily memories of women from the Yugoslav diaspora" - on sociological and feminist research conducted with women from the former Yugoslavia in the US and Canada, on the relationship between migration, memory, identity and belonging after the breakup of Yugoslavia - presented by **Nikoleta Sremac**, PhD student in Sociology, University of Minnesota / USA; **14** people attended.

17th December "Psychodrama workshop – How we are and where to go next – reflections" – moderator Biljana Slavković, psychotherapist; **13** WiB activists participated in this workshop.

(Extensive reports from these debates can be found on the WiB website)

PUBLISHING ACTIVITIES

In this period, we published:

"We remember anti-war resistance – Vera Vebel and the Center for Anti-War Action Ada" – the publication is a homage to Vera Vebel Tatić (1943-2020), founder and leader of the Center for Anti-War Action Ada and other anti-war activists in Ada and Potisje / Vojvodina.

The first part of the publication presents the activities of the Center for Anti-War Action - Ada Branch, founded on November 7, 1991, after mass demonstrations of citizens against forced mobilization in Ada, in the north of Bačka - in Vojvodina. CAA Ada has developed many activities, including: organizing anti-war protests and demonstrations in Ada and elsewhere; assistance and support to conscripts, deserters, conscientious objectors; women's resistance to forced mobilization; establishing contacts with peace organizations in the country, in the countries of the former Yugoslavia, especially in Croatia and BH; active participation in local, regional, international anti-war networks, rallies, campaigns; gathering information on human rights violations; interethnic solidarity initiatives, humanitarian activities, ecumenical meetings, etc. The second part of the publication contains articles by *Gizela Stanyo Toth*, *journalist Magyar Szo* and *anti-war activist Vera Vebel* and the *Ada Anti-War Action Center*.

The publication has **50** pages; prepared by: *Staša Zajović*, in collaboration with *Gizella Stanyo Toth*, *Istvan Vebel*, *Miloš Urošević*, *Svenka Savić*, *Violeta Djikanović* and *Zorica Trifunović*. Cover design: *Škart*; design and technical arrangement: Graphic studio *Kaligram*.

Map of anti-war resistance 1991/92 – a reminder of civil anti-war actions, revolts of Army reservists, deserters, their parents, women's anti-war initiatives, artistic-activist events, anti-war concerts, the media... The *Map* was edited by: *Staša Zajović*, in collaboration with *Anđelija Vučurević*, *Miloš Urošević* and *Stefan Milosavljević*; desing and layout: *Škart*, print: Artprint, Novi Sad.

Women, Peace, Security – feminist – antimilitarist approach

– publication about WiB activities related to security during the period 2005 – 2021.

Publication in Serbian and English has **183** pages and nine (**9**) chapters: *Resolution 1325 "Women, Peace, Security"*; Independent monitoring of the implementation of NAP in Serbia in view of Resolution 1325 (2010); Independent Monitoring of the Implementation of Resolution 1325 – Women in Black experience 2011/2021/2013; Independent Monitoring of the Implementation of Resolution 1325 "Women, Peace and Security", 2017; Research activities; Feminist-antimilitarist concept of security; Campaigning, lobbying, legislative initiatives (2005-2021); Publishing activities: security topics from the gender perspective (selection) and Activist-artistic engagement in creating a feminist-antimilitaristic security concept (street actions, video production). This publication was edited by *Staša Zajović*, consultant was *Maja Bjeloš*; desing and layout: *Zinaida Marjanović*.

Always disobedient, and still in the streets... Women in Black –30 years of resistance

The publication presents WiB activities: Basic ethical principles of Women in Black peace policy; Aesthetics of resistance – symbols of Women in Black; On the activities of Women in Black – a short survey – street actions; Dealing with the past/transitional justice – a feminist

approach; Women's Court – feminist approach; Women's Peace Networks;

Antimilitaristic/antifascist/internationalist antiwar networks and coalitions; Women, peace, security - Resolution 1325 - feminist-anti-militarist approach to security; Solidarity is our strength - actions of solidarity; Alternative history (on publishing activities); WiB group for video activism; Educational programs; Wednesdays at WiB – roundtable discussions, lectures, debates; Prizes and awards. This publication has in Serbian **32** pages and in English **44** pages; edited by: Staša Z, desing and layout: Škart and Zinaida Marjanović.

Women's Peace Agenda 2022 – *Women's Peace Agenda 2022* addresses the war crime of rape; the agenda outlines the historical trajectory of legislative initiatives related to the crime of rape; war rape verdicts in international courts, with a focus on Hague tribunal verdicts; achievements of women's courts and women's tribunals on sexual crimes in war, with special reference to the Women's Court - a feminist approach to justice in the former Yugoslavia. *The dates* shown in the 2022 Agenda refer to war crimes convictions of rape in international and national courts, as well as to the significant effects of alternative / feminist courts, tribunals and initiatives. *The photos* show the street actions of Women in Black and related organizations in connection with the war crime of rape. *The Women's Peace Agenda for 2022* is dedicated to women victims of rape in the war, both in the former Yugoslavia and around the world. *Women's Peace Agenda 2022*; edited by: Miloš Urošević and Staša Zajović, the agenda has 168 pages, the layout and design were done by Studio Čavka.

Women in Black Calendar for 2022 – Calendar made of photographs of street actions of Women in Black during 2021 (art photograph *Srdjan Veljović*); the Calendar has 26 pages.

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.

Discover the killers of the guards! – on the occasion of the seventeenth anniversary of the murder of the guards in Topčider (*October 5, 2004 - October 5, 2021*), WiB warned that the investigation is still in the pre-criminal phase'. Requests were repeated to the state leadership (primarily the Ministries of Police, Defense and Justice) to immediately stop obstructing the investigation into the murders of **Dragan Jakovljević** and **Dražan Milovanović**; to finally tell the real truth about the murder of soldiers, as well as about hiding Ratko Mladić in the facilities of the Serbian Army; that the competent institutions punish all those who ordered and committed the crimes

in Topčider and that justice is provided for the families of the victims!“ The following NGOs joined the announcement: NENA – Group for Peace and Women’s Rights, Leskovac; Civil action, Pančevo; Alliance of Antifascists of Vojvodina, Novi Sad; Academic Initiative Forum 10, Novi Pazar; Peščanik, Kruševac; Conceptual Policy Group, Novi Sad; Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Belgrade.

Lynch is always preceded by the language of lynch! – Women in Black strongly condemn the actions of the fascist organization *People’s Patrol*, which plastered Sombor with posters on October 10, calling for the lynching of those people (especially those with non-Serbian names) who help refugees and migrants by offering them accommodation. Women in Black reminded that the members of the *People’s Patrol* are just a bludgeon in the hands of the ruling regime in the confrontation with political dissidents or refugees and migrants. We also reminded that this group is responsible for spreading false news, misinformation against migrants and refugees, which are aimed at spreading anti-immigrant policy, “it is emphasized in the announcement on October 11, 2021.

Shameful Arms Fair – In addition to Conference of Non-Aligned Countries, held at the Belgrade Fair, the organizer also staged an arms and military equipment fair. “There is no doubt that this is a seemingly pragmatic move by the Serbian government: manufacturers of weapons and military equipment, and especially privileged arms dealers, have a unique opportunity to offer delegations of non-aligned countries participating in the conference products aimed at killing people and destroying material goods.” In that way, the income from the sale of weapons and equipment is increasing, intended not so much for the state budget as for the private profit of arms dealers in Serbia. However, we should not be surprised if the number of refugees from importing countries increases, who will look for a way through Serbia to security, which in their home countries, among other things, threatens the use of products exhibited at the fair. What else can such products be used for?’, It is stated in the announcement on October 12, 2021.

“Remember the crime in Sjeverin” – on the occasion of the 29th anniversary of the abduction and murder of 17 Bosniak citizens of Serbia from the village of Sjeverin near Priboj, carried out by members of the Republika Srpska Army (VRS), WiB repeated that justice for the victims Sjeverin is not satisfied because “the courts have concealed the responsibility of the state of Serbia, even though it was established during the trial”, “In the name of justice, on behalf of the dignity of the victims, we ask Serbia to arrest the perpetrators and their commanders. Until Serbia faces these and all other crimes committed on our behalf, it will continue to be a safe house for convicted war criminals and an oasis of impunity,” the statement said.

Appeals related to the genocide in Srebrenica – in this period, there was an intensification of genocide denial, attacks on NGOs and journalists who advocate for the incrimination of war crimes...

Continuity of denial of genocide in Srebrenica – On October 19, 2021, the Assembly of the Republic of Serbia rejected the proposal of a group of deputies (United Valley and SDA Sandžak) to recognize the genocide committed in 1995 in Srebrenica and to ban genocide denial. We remind you: The genocide in Srebrenica is the most massive war crime after the Second World War in Europe. The regime of S. Milošević is complicit in the genocide by providing enormous political, military and logistical and financial assistance to the Army of the Republika Srpska.

A statement by WiB on October 20 emphasized that *“the absolute parliamentary majority consists of representatives of parties that directly participated in the wars and in the organization of war crimes in the 1990s, including the Srebrenica genocide.”* Those parties still have war-mongering rhetoric, and for them, war criminals are the most prominent members of society. With the mentioned rejection, the Assembly once again confirmed that Serbia continues to deny genocide. In that way, all citizens of Serbia are kept in the position of accomplices in the genocide, which will have long-term consequences in the moral collapse of society, opening space for the downfall of society in every respect. Therefore, we will continue to demand that the state of Serbia respect the decisions of international courts and court-established facts, that genocide be recognized and that denying genocide be qualified as a crime. These are the necessary preconditions for Serbia to get rid of the burden of its criminal past”, etc.

Attack at the premises of Women in Black

During the night between Friday, Oct. 22, and Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021, unidentified perpetrators spray-painted in black the following, on the front door of the Women in Black premises: **Whores in black; Ratko Mladić; Five pieces of the sign Only unity saves a Serb.**

During 30 years of work, Women in Black have been exposed to both verbal and physical attacks. Women in Black activists, as well as Women in Black premises, have often been the target of physical attacks by various fascist groups and individuals, which always ended with impunity.

Those attacks, most often backed by the so-called non-state actors, who have always been and continue to be under the control of parts of the disbanded secret services, which remained as a legacy of Milosevic’s criminal regime, have always taken place with the tacit consent of the ruling political establishment.

The current political regime in Serbia, led by Aleksandar Vučić, uses fascist groups and individuals as a scourge in their hands in order to settle accounts with all free-thinking groups and individuals, and above all with those who with their opinions and actions demand a radical break-away from crimes committed in the past, in which the above-mentioned individual was not only a silent observer, but also a very active participant.

We ask the competent institutions of the state of Serbia to put an end to the climate of unsanctioned and condoned violence, by finding

those responsible for this attack and punishing them adequately' (Statement October, 25).

In solidarity against the attack on Women in Black – The Youth Initiative for Human Rights expressed solidarity with Women in Black, inviting everyone to join in the joint cleansing of hate graffiti on Wednesday, October 27, at 1 pm, at the WiB premises.

'We demand the urgent prosecution of the persons who, during the night between 22 and 23 October 2021, wrote graffiti of hatred and insults on the premises of Women in Black in Belgrade. We also consider the condemnation of the attack by the representatives of the executive and legislative authorities necessary, because the members of the ruling coalition, as well as the pro-government media, often slandered this organization and its members as traitors. This attack is a direct consequence of the denial of the genocide in Srebrenica and the impunity of hooligans who use every opportunity to celebrate Ratko Mladić and insult members of the Bosniak people', the statement said. Dozens of activists took part in the action "cleaning the graffiti of hatred".

Calls for lynching continue with impunity – a prominent journalist of the daily *Danas*, Snežana Čongradin (who writes mostly about crimes committed in our name, and above all about the genocide in Srebrenica), was threatened with death by an official of the Football Association of Serbia. The FAS has hypocritically distanced itself from its employees, which can be explained by the fact that the FAS has never faced hooligan and criminal gangs that portray themselves as football fans and which, often with the open support of some state institutions and at the instigation of leading regime figures, they have been sowing fear and chaos on the streets of Belgrade and other cities for years (whose predecessors in the 1990s participated in crimes committed in neighboring countries), *it was emphasized in the announcement on November 3, 2021.*

The regime defends Ratko Mladic even from whitewashing! – The Youth Initiative for Human Rights reported to the competent police administration a public gathering to be held on November 9 this year, which was supposed to commemorate the day dedicated to the memory of Nazi atrocities, with the removal of a mural with Ratko Mladic on the corner of Alekse Nenadovića and Njegoševa streets in Belgrade.

'We admire this brave and responsible act. Activists of the Youth Initiative were not even born or were children at the time when the most horrific crimes were committed on behalf of the Serbian people against those who were considered members of lower races (including the Srebrenica genocide). We also express our solidarity with these young people who show the highest degree of responsibility for the crimes committed in our name.' With a clear condemnation of the ban on public gatherings for the removal of murals with the image of war criminal Ratko Mladic, WiB warns that the regime "persists in defending one of the worst criminals in the history of the Serbian

people and Europe.” It is common knowledge that the police have the power to effectively prevent any violence, but they refuse to intervene against those who resort to violence. It is obvious that this is exactly what the neo-Nazi groups that announced the prevention of the removal of murals share the worship of war criminals with the current top authorities. In that way, they confirm their determination to persevere in the defense of the character and deeds of Ratko Mladić; it was stated in the announcement on November 8, 2021.

Another attack on Women in Black - after the gathering on Cvetni trg in Belgrade (November 13), the banner ‘We will never forget the genocide in Srebrenica’ was forcibly stolen and publicly burned by Women in Black tonight. Messages of non-violence, solidarity and anti-fascism were sent from the gathering, and when the citizens dispersed, hooligans, who act as rulers of this city - accompanied the WiB activists on their way home, stole a banner and set it on fire in public. This is a direct consequence of A. Vulin, the Minister of the Interior, and his equalization of hooligans and human rights activists, and this is a signal to the perpetrators that they can do whatever they want. In words and deeds, the police stand on the side of hooligans, not the law, and do not guarantee the safety of citizens. The Human Rights Initiative always stands in solidarity with Women in Black’, it is stated in the announcement from November 13, 2021.

Women in Black premises attacked again! – On the night between November 28 and 29, 2021, the following graffiti painted in red spray appeared on the front door of the apartment where the Women in Black rooms are located: **Staća Ustasha, Ratko Mladić, Ratko Mladić Hero, Whores in Black, Fuck antifa**, four nationalist graffiti ‘**Only unity saves a Serb**’.

This attack is a continuation of an organized, systematic, continuous campaign of intimidation, calls for lynching and chases against Women in Black. This is not an incident, but a policy directly backed by the state, as it has done nothing to find the perpetrators of previous attacks. We believe that the state is obliged to protect all those individuals, groups and organizations that fight for the protection of human rights. It is important to note that the attack took place on the International Day of Human Rights Defenders!’, stated the announcement of WiB, on November 29.

We will never forget the crimes in Vukovar! – in a statement on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the crimes in Vukovar, WiB reiterated the request to the competent institutions of the State of Serbia to:

- establish the responsibility of the leadership of former Yugoslav Popular Army for the armed attack on Croatia and to initiate legal proceedings for the crime of uricide in Vukovar;
- establish the full truth about the missing by opening the archives of the Serbian Armed Forces and discovering the graves of Croatian victims in Serbia;

- initiate court proceedings for the establishment of camps and for the killing and torture of Croatian civilians and soldiers in camps in Stajićevo, Begejci, Sremska Mitrovica, Aleksinac, Niš and Belgrade;
- acknowledges the request of Women in Black and the Art Clinic, signed by more than 30 civil society organizations, to erect memorial plaques at camps in Stajićevo and Begejci and to support other forms of symbolic reparations to victims and their families;
- initiate a legal ban on glorification and rehabilitation of war crimes convicts committed in Vukovar and all other places” (WiB statement November, 18).

“DUBROVNIK 1991 – 2021– We remember the killing of the city and the people”- in a statement from December 6, 2021. Women in Black, Belgrade and Anima, Kotor / Montenegro reminded that the ‘Directive of the General Staff of the aggressor YNA ordered the blockade of Dubrovnik, a UNESCO heritage site, demilitarized, within a radius of 30 km. In the “War for Peace”, the combined forces of the YNA, Montenegrin territorial defense and paramilitary formations of Montenegro and Eastern Herzegovina, established a total blockade on September 17, 1991. The population was left without water and electricity and without the possibility of receiving humanitarian aid. From October 1 to November 20, the villages of Konavle and Primorje were systematically shelled, looted and burned. 50,000 residents were expelled from their homes and tortured by shelling, starvation, cold and interrogation. The captured people were tortured in the camps in Bileća and Morinj. The fiercest attack on the Old Town was on December 6 and lasted for 12 hours. In that attack, over 5,000 projectiles, cluster and sulfur bombs were fired, which are prohibited by international conventions. 30% of the Old Town was destroyed, and by the end of the siege, a large number of citizens had died. The siege from the air, from land and sea lasted until May 1992. The intention of the political leaders from Podgorica and Belgrade was to create a “Dubrovnik Republic” by force, which would be annexed to “Greater Serbia”. General Pavle Strugar and Vice Admiral Miodrag Jokić were convicted at the Hague Tribunal for crimes in Dubrovnik. The Republic of Serbia refused to try the wartime mayor of Trebinje, Božidar Vučurević. Montenegro has convicted several direct perpetrators of crimes in the Morinj camp, and no investigation has been launched into the urbicide in Dubrovnik. The prosecutor’s offices of Serbia and Montenegro have not accused the planners, organizers and commanders of the shelling of Dubrovnik even thirty years after the crime, it is emphasized in the announcement.

“Against Vulin’s racist hate talk” - The ruling of the High Court in Belgrade acquitted the current Minister of the Interior of Serbia, Aleksandar Vulin, of accusations of discrimination, insults and hate talk against Albanians. Such a ruling raises serious concerns about the ability of the Serbian judiciary to responsibly apply the Law

on the Prohibition of Racial and Religious Discrimination, which sanctions “inciting or sustaining inequality, hatred and intolerance based on racial, national, religious, sexual or other affiliation.”

“Assessing the accusation against Vulin as unfounded, the court also gave legal and institutional power to hate speech, intolerance and xenophobia against Albanians, especially those living in Serbia.” This legalizes chauvinistic and racist hate talk, which is expressed in the use of the derogatory term “Shiptars” for Kosovo Albanians. It is an expression that contains contempt for members of a second-rate people, of human beings labeled as inferior ‘, it was stated in the announcement of WiB of *December 21, 2021*.

Initiative for naming a street in Belgrade after Dejan Nebrigic - December 29th, 2020, 22 years have passed since the death of Dejan Nebrigic (1970-1999), gay activists, pacifists and antifascists. Dejan was killed in 1999. As the declared anti-fascist, anti-nationalist and antimilitarist, he refused a military obligation, publicly reproving him as being a homosexual, which at the time was treated as a disease for which he was permanently released from military duties. In early 1992, he joined Women in Black, and gave a very significant contribution to the anti-militarist and feminist engagement of Women in Black. He participated in launching of a network of conscientious objection. We demand that, “one of many streets in Belgrade to be named after Dejan Nebrigić, one of the first fighters for human rights of LGBT people, feminists, antifascists and antimilitarists”. The relevant institutions have not yet answered on this many-year request.

Report prepared by: Staša Zajović in collaboration with Goran Lazin, Miloš Urošević, Nastasja Radović, Nataša Milanović, Stefan Milosavljević and Violeta Đikanović.

Women in Black, February 2022

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