



## **Women's Court – feminist approach**

*Report of activities in 2017.*

### **Activities in the continuation of the W'sC process – 2017**

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 witnesses, but also an expression of our responsibility to the enormous burden of the recent past and its consequences on women's everyday lives on the economic, social, political and cultural plan.

Women in Black, Belgrade coordinate the continuation of the **Women's Court** process (program and other activities) with the support of the following organizations: Anima, Kotor (Montenegro), Center for Women Victims of War, Zagreb (Croatia), Foundation 'Cure'. The process of continuation of the Women's Court involves a whole range of methods of work, such as:

**I Regional meetings of Women's Court** – Regional meetings are part of the continuing process of the Women's Court, in this period we organized three (3) meetings of witnesses, organizers, therapists, associates, activists:

#### **1. Regional meeting of Women's Court - Vrnjačka banja/Serbia, May 19<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup>**

This meeting was attended by **32** people from the following countries:

Witness at the W'sC:

*Bosnia and Herzegovina:* Nura Mustafić, Suvada Selimović, Šaha Hrustić, Šehida Abdurahmanović i Rejha Avdić

*Montenegro:* Roksanda Peković i Sabina Talović

*Croatia:* Jovanka Carević, Milica Miladinović i Marica Šeatović

*Macedonia:* Marijonka Anastasovska

*Slovenia:* Mirjana Učakar

*Serbia:* Nadežda Kostić, Mirjana Mijailović, Marija Kovačev i Binasa Džigal

*Organizers, therapists of W'sC:* Ljupka Kovačević, Nela Pamuković, Staša Zajović, Mira Vilušić

*Activists, associates W'sC:* Snežana Obrenović (WIB, Kraljevo), Refija Hadibulić (Bajramovići/Srebrenica), Ljiljana Radovanović, Violeta Đikanović, Senka Knežević, WIB, Belgrade; Senka Rastoder, Bar; Milica Lupšor, 'Roza', Zrenjanin, Božana Ivanović, Kruševac, Mubera Maslić Ždralović, Women Victims of War, Zagreb, Ljiljana Čantrak, NORAS 381, Belgrade, Valentina Luketa, Split

The program of this meeting consisted of the following:  
Activities related to the process of the Women's Court in the previous period (from December 2016 to May 2017)

*Witnesses = activists* (participation of witnesses in network actions ... (WIB, Anima, Center for Women Victims of War, CURE ...): on the activities of witnesses within the Women in Black network, more detailed further in this report.

Witnesses and organizers from Montenegro talked about the socio-political context of the women's uprising in Montenegro (March - June 2017), the motives for participation in the nonviolent rebellion, the resistance of mothers to the unfair reduction of benefits for mothers with three or more children. They talked about continuous protests, a ten-day women's hunger strike they participated in.

*Binasa Džigal*, Women of Polimlje, Prijepolje spoke about activities against the abuse of religion, customs in Sandzak, which they started, together with Women in Black from Belgrade, the educational program "*We will not reverse our rights*".

Witnesses from Srebrenica talked about a solidarity visit to Belgrade organized by the WIB on March 24th, 2017, etc.

*She left a trace in us* – In memoriam to Zumra Šehomerović (1951 - 2017), a witness on W'sC who passed away in February 2017.

*How long have we went? Where do we go?* - During this, but also previous regional meetings, the witnesses expressed:

- *Satisfaction with the continuation of the W'sC process*: („It is very important to me that we continued on", very frequent testimony of the witnesses);

- *The expectations of witnesses from the W'sC* regarding the continuation of the process are large, in an emotional, political view ("to preserve our family "; „to continue to educate ourselves“, „to take on obligations ...“);

- *Readiness of the participants in the process to foster emotional connection and political principles*: ("A community of women has been created, connected not only with pain but also with strength ...");

- *The determination to create a place for the testimony of other women*: on the violence that they survived in order to further develop justice from a feminist perspective;

- *The feminist ethics of responsibility* is also expressed in the witnesses as a takeover of concrete obligations to continue the process in the form of organizing the "mini W'sC " (on specific issues, putting pressure on the institutional legal system, and feminist concern is expressed in providing mutual emotional and moral support ...)

Suggestions were submitted for the maintenance of "mini W'sC " and other activities in the continuation of the W'sC process:

- *Organizing „mini“ women's courts* on specific problems faced by women: Among the proposals for the „mini W'sC“ frequently referred were: violence / discrimination on ethnic grounds, including persecution, as well as issues related to

violations of labor rights of women, violence of the state, militarization at the level of society and the state ... We can conclude that this is a multi-layered violence, that various forms of violence are intertwined (ethnic / class / gender / militaristic violence).

It is also agreed that if there are no conditions for organizing the „mini W'sC“, it is necessary to create spaces for women to speak publicly about injuries, repressed traumas, in the form of workshops, circles, meetings ...

In the continuation of the debate *"The Feminist Ethics of Responsibility"*, the witnesses and organizers spoke about the concrete obligations that will be undertaken in the continuation of the W'sC process (preparation of 'mini' „mini W'sC“, public presentations, debates, workshops ...).

*Peace action "We remember the brave resistance of women"*, homage to courageous women who in 1999 in Krusevac rebelled against forced mobilization of men for war in Kosovo. About **50** women from all the countries of the former Yugoslavia participated in this action (witnesses, W'sC organizers, as well as local activists).

*Solidarity is our strength* - on actions of solidarity support and assistance to war refugees from the Middle East and Africa ... In this panel spoke:

*Mubera Maslić-Ždralović*, orientalist (translator from Arabic), activist

*Ljiljana Čantrak*, NORAS 381, Beograd

*Violeta Đikanović*, WIB activist in solidarity actions with refugees

*Binasa Džigal*, witness at the W'sC, NGO "Women of Polimlje", Prijepolje, activist in refugee camp in Sjenica

*Sabina Talović*, witness at the W'sC, NGO "Bonafide", Pljevlja, activist in refugee camp in Sjenica

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

*Joint reflection on current socio-political issues in the region and in the world*: mostly the talk was about strengthening ultraviolet forces throughout the region, the revision of BH's verdict against Serbia before the International Court of Justice; About "blocking" the dealing with the past process in the region, about the elections in Serbia, about student protests in Serbia ...

Screening of the documentaries of the group for video activism of WIB and related organizations

At the end of the regional meeting, a comprehensive plan of activities was drawn up for the upcoming period.

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

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

The program of this meeting consisted of several topics:

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

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

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

- *Creation of a space for disclosure of war trauma*, satisfaction of justice in courts, women proposed various forms of restorative / healing justice (recognition of suffering, condemnation of war crimes ...); women suggested maintaining W'sC in the local environment.
- *Violation of the labor rights of women* due to robbery privatization, proposed by a large number of participants, primarily from Macedonia and Serbia;
- *Violence against women in the family* - women from Macedonia, while women from Serbia point out to increased violence against women by returnees from the battlefield;

- *Political repression against women who think differently from the ruling regime* - suggested by women from Serbia, which points to the high level of vulnerability of free public speech and expression in Serbia;
- *Ethnic violence* - in Croatia and Kosovo etc.

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

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

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

## **2. Regional meeting of Women’s Court , November 10, 11 and 12, 2017**

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

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

*Montenegro:* Sabina Talović, Pljevlja

*Croatia:* Milica Miladinović, Zagreb i Marica Šeatović, Novska

*Slovenia:* Mirjana Učakar, Ptuj

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

**Organizers, feminist therapists, associates W’sC:** Ljupka Kovačević, Kotor, Nela Pamuković, Zagreb, Mira Vilušić, Tuzla, Refija Hadibulić, Bajramovići, Milka Rosić, Leskovac, Anđelija Vučurević, Novi Sad, Staša Zajović i Ljiljana Radovanović i Violeta Đikanović, Belgrade.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Women's Fight for Just Peace** - the documentary **Women Make Change** (Score Card Rwanda) - a film directed by Alistair Waterson (duration of 24:59 minutes); speaks about the experience of Felisit Niyitegek, founder and director of the AKWOS Women's Sports Organization, from Kigali, Rwanda. The film talks about the

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

**Solidarity is our strength** – debate on actions of solidarity support and assistance to war

refugees from the Middle East and Africa ...

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

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

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

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

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

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

Post-war profiteering, robbery privatization, brutal exploitation of workers, and especially the female workers, is one of the biggest injustices and the causes of



women's unsafe in Serbia. On the other hand, the fear of women to publicly speak about it prevails, because of fear of loss of work, blackmail, pressure.

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

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

5. **Booklet on women's labour rights** – Women in Black are preparing a booklet that covers a variety of segments (History Review, Women's Position on the Labour Market, Labour Legislation, etc.). Booklet will be prepared in early 2018. Booklet is an integral part of educational activities, i.e. practices of joint knowledge production.
6. **Planing of future activities** – the participation of potential witnesses at the WiB Network meeting (February 2018), the continuation of workshops at the local level, joint workshops of potential witnesses from all over Serbia, the participation of potential witnesses at the WsC meeting, May 2018, etc. It was suggested that this mWsC should be held by the end of 2018.

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

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

**IV Public presentations of W'sC** are consisted of following segments:

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

In this period we organized **14** public presentations of WsC in six (6) states in former Yugoslavia (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Serbia) in which participated **350** persons (95% women):

1. **Ljubljana, February 25th** - As part of marking the 25th anniversary of the "Erased" workshop was held on February 25th, 2017 in the Social Center "Rog", where about **15** women from the "Erased" community, children of "Erased",

activists from the Social Center Rog, W'sC (Nela Pamuković and Staša Zajović), as well as Marijana Senjak, feminist therapist of the Women's Court were present. Women and children from the "Erased" community testified about the consequences of injustice and violence on emotional, psychological, moral integrity. Namely, this is a multi-layered violence, because various forms of violence are intertwined (ethnic / class / gender violence).

2. **Novi Bečej, March 26th** - Was held in a local community organized by Women in Black, Belgrade, NGO "Women Initiative of Vojvodina / LIVING", Novi Bečej and Women's Association of Women "Roza" from Zrenjanin. This event was attended by **20** people and witnesses participated: Nadežda Kostić, Vesna Đorđević, Marija Kovačev.
3. **Beograd, March 27th** – Humanitarian Law Center, following witnesses participated: Suvada Selimović, Rejha Avdić, Nadežda Kostić, as well as people from Humanitarian Law Center (**19** persons).
4. **Nikšić, March 29th** - held at the hotel Sinčel organized by the Center for Women and Peace Education Anima from Kotor. This event was attended by **20** people. The witnesses participated: Zagorka Matović, Maja Jovović, Roksanda Peković i Binasa Džigal, organizers (Ljupka, Staša, Ervina).
5. **Pula, April 11th** - held at the Faculty of Philosophy in Pula, in the presence of about **25** persons (teaching staff and students, promotion organized by the Civic Initiative Poreč, Center for Women Victims of War, Zagreb and WIB, Belgrade. : Ljubica Anđelković Đukić, Novigrad, Milica Miladinović, Zagreb, Nadezda Kostić, Kruševac, Marica Šeatović, Novska, Jovanka Carević, Zagreb, organizers: Nela Pamuković, Biserka Momčinović and Staša Zajovic.
6. **Sarajevo, May 11th**– held at Kriterion Center in Sarajevo, organized by the CURE Foundation, Sarajevo and WIB, Belgrade, with the participation of witnesses: Nadezda Kostic, Kadefa Rizvanovic, Milica Miladinovic, Sabina Talovic, Sehida Abdurahmanovic; Organizers (Jadranka and Staša); **42** people present.
7. **Podgorica, May 15th** - the organizers of W'sC (Ljupka and Ervina), a witnesses from Montenegro, took part in this event and **24** people attended the event.
8. **Kotor, May 24th** – W'sC (Ljupka) organizer participated, and there were **18** women present. Witnesses from Montenegro participated: Maja Jovović and Sabina Talović.
9. **Belgrade, May 30th** - was held at the Faculty of Political Sciences of the Belgrade University, organized by Women in Black activist and student of the aforementioned faculty Stefan Milosavljević, and with the participation of one of the members of the International Court Council of the Women's Court Latinka Perović, associate of W'sC Snezana Milivojević, as well as the witnesses: Sabina

Talović, Marica Šeatović, Marija Kovačev and Nadezda Kostić, organizers Staša Zajović, Daša Duhaček. At the beginning of this public presentation, about thirty people attempted to prevent the event by shouting, insulting, glorifying war criminals .... However, after this incident, the debate continued with the participation of **40** people.

**10. Zlatar, Serbia, June 18th** - organized by "Women of Polimlje" and WIB, Belgrade and participated by witnesses at W'sC: Binasa Džigal and Sabina Talović, as well as organizers. This event was attended by **17** people.

**11. Belgrade, July 1** - within the "School of Transitional Justice" organized by the Humanitarian Law Center" / HLC - a public presentation of the WoC was held; Staša Zajović and Sabina Talović took part in the event, and about thirty (**30**) participants attended the event, mostly students from the Faculty of Political Sciences and the Faculty of Law in Belgrade.

**12. Bijelo Polje / Montenegro, August 18** - An event organized by Anima from Kotor was held with the participation of witnesses from the WoC from Montenegro in the presence of **25** people.

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

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

#### **V Women's Court promotions - a feminist approach to the justice-international level**

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

**May 11 and 12, Gjakova / Djakovica, Kosovo** - International Conference "Empower Women Now! - Creating a culture of recognition and reconciliation in Kosovo organized by the women's organizations Medica Gjakova and Medica Mondiale. Marijana Senjak, feminist therapist of WoC S talked about the Women's Court and experiences in the implementation of the Law on the Rights of Victims of Sexual Violence in the War in the context of the reconciliation and dealing with the past from a feminist perspectives.

**June 2nd and 3rd, Valencia/Spain** - International Feminist Conference "Feminario Valencia, Feminist Approach to Facing Current Challenges" (Feminario Valencia-

enfoque feminista a los desafíos actuales). Within the "Women in Conflict" session, Stasa Zajovic spoke about the Women's Court - a feminist approach to justice. The conference was organized by the Equality Authority of Valencia (Diputacion de igualdad de Valencia).

**June 8, Brussels/Belgium** - Valentina Andrasek, a spokeswoman for the Women's Network of Croatia, spoke about the Women's Court within the Observatory for the Monitoring of Violence against Women.

**June 7-9, Yerevan, Armenia** - an international conference "Addressing modern challenges in an innovative way - Narratives of women peace builders", Mina Damjanovic, an activist of the WiB, spoke about the feminist approach to justice, as well as the effects of WoC. The conference in Yerevan was organized by the NGO "Democracy Today".

**June 22-24, Sarajevo/BH:** at the conference "Dialogues on the Legacy of the Hague Tribunal", within the framework of the "Needs of Witness After Testimony" session, Nela Pamuković, one of the WoC organizers and activists from the Center for Women War Victims from Zagreb, presented WoC.

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

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

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

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

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

**VI Joint working consultative meetings** - in this period, operational working meetings of organizations, experts, activists participating in the continuation of the W'sC process in Zagreb, Belgrade, Podgorica, Lubiana, Sarajevo, Skopje were held.

**VII Working meetings of Women in Black:** As holders of program activities in the continuation of the W'sC process, they held working meetings (reporting activities, preparation of publications, documentation and archives of W'sC, preparation of regional witness meetings, preparation of publications on W'sC etc.

### **VIII Video activism**

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

Documentary films on WsC made during this reporting period:

**Женский суд – феминистский подход к правосудию (52 min.)** - a documentary directed by Filip Markovinovic, in the production of Women in Black (2016) on the Women's Court held in Sarajevo (7th-10th May 2015) in Russian. The film was previously translated and subtitled in: Albanian, English, Italian and Spanish.

*(Also for educational programs Video activism group of WiB prepared a lot of documentaries on street actions of WiB and documentary films about the experiences of nonviolent movements against the impunity of crimes etc. In WiB general activities reports you can find it)*

### **IX Publishing**

In this reporting period, we have arranged the following publications:

**Ženski sud – o događaju u Sarajevu I nastavku procesa/Women's Court:** about the Sarajevo event and the continuation of the process - in local languages  
The book has **280** pages and was edited by Stasa Zajovic and Milos Urosevic. The book was published by Women in Black in 750 copies. The book consists of the following units: Introduction, texts of Latinka Perović, survivors of violence as subjects of justice: history from the bottom - Staša Zajović, witnesses at the Women's Court - actors of justice, five sessions of testimony at the Women's Court in Sarajevo, five articles of associates of W'sC, The recommendations of the International Trial Chamber, and as annexes, the book contains: The structure of the Women's Court, the Rules of the Women's Court, as well as the reviews of the book by Adriana Zaharijević and Dragica Vujadinović.

**Women's Court: about the Sarajevo event and the continuation of the process** (in English - **309** pages).

**She left a mark on us (Ostavila je trag u nama) - Zumra Šehomerović (1951 - 2017)**

Publication in memory of Zumra Šehomerović, one of the founders of the "Mother of the Srebrenica and Žepa enclave" movement, a peace activist, witness at W'sC.

The publication has 32 pages, it was edited by Stasa Zajovic and consists of two parts: in the first part is what Zumra Sheehomerovic spoke during various events organized by Women in Black and in the second part there are memories on Zumra, gathered on the event that took place on April 6<sup>th</sup> 2017 in the WiB premises.

*Transcripts in local languages:*

- Transcript of the regional meeting of the witnesses (Banji Vrujci, December 2016.), **16** pag.
- Public presentations, **75** pages
- Regional meeting of witnesses in Vrnjacka Banja (May 19, 20 and 21 2017) **39** pages.
- Regional meeting of witnesses, Skopje (September 28th-30th 2017), 9 pages
- Regional meeting of witnesses, Andrevlje (November 10th-12th 2017), 17 pages

**X Participation of the witnesses and the organizers of WC in the activities of the Women in Black** (street actions, visiting the crime scenes, the educational programs:

#### **1. Street actions**

- Belgrade, February 27th "*We remember war crime in Štrpci*"
- Belgrade, March 8th "*Rise up, oppressed in the world*"
- Belgrade, *March 21st "Stop Racism Against Refugees"*
- Belgrade, April 6<sup>th</sup> „*25 years since the beginning of the war in BH - We remember*"
- Belgrade, *May 9th, Victory Day*
- *Kruševac, May 20th "We remember the brave resistance of women,"* the homage to courageous women who in 1999 in Krusevac rebelled against forced mobilization of men for the war in Kosovo.
- May 24<sup>th</sup> – International Day of Action for Peace and Disarmament - Stop cluster munitions, peace action in Knez Mihailova Street.
- *June 19<sup>th</sup> – International Day Against Sexual Violence in War,* Peace Action at the Republic Square dedicated to women victims of sexual violence in the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- *July 10 - Srebrenica 8372, marking the 22nd anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide in Belgrade*
- *July 17 "No women less, no more dead" - protest against femicide in Belgrade.*
- *October 5th "We will never forget the crime in Topcider"* – in occasion of 13 years since the murder of two soldiers in military barracks in Topcider, Belgrade.
- *October 22nd "We remember - 25 years of crime in Sjeverin"* - on the 25 anniversary of the crime in Sjeverin, where (17) Bosniak was abducted and killed.

- *November 18th „We will never forget crimes in Vukovar“* - On the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the fall of Vukovar.
- *September 21st „Stop the war, not refugees!“* – On the occasion of September 21st - World Peace Day in Belgrade and Women in Black, Belgrade coordinated the action in five countries of the former Yugoslavia.
- *November 9th „Crystal Night – Never Again!“* – antifascist actions on the occasion of the International Day Against Fascism and Anti-Semitism.
- *December 6<sup>th</sup> “Stop femicide”* – protest in Belgrade on the occasion of the Femicide Day
- *December 10th "Stop hatred towards women! Stop the fundamentalist, clerical-fascist attacks on women! "* - Women in Black, in cooperation with the Women's Network of Croatia, Center for Women and Peace Studies - Anima from Kotor and Bona Fide from Pljevlja/Montenegro organized on the International Human Rights Day in Knez Mihailova Street in Belgrade, an anti-clerical feminist protest in Belgrade.

## 2. Visiting places of crimes:

- *Prijepolje, February 27th* - Commemorating the anniversary of the crime in Strpce, attended by witnesses at the W'sC: Binasa Džigal, Prijepolje and Sabina Talović, Pljevlja.
- *May 12th, Bratunac* - 25 years since the crimes committed in the Bratunac area – commemoration and funeral at the Veljaci cemetery, four activists from the WIB and one witness at the W'sC (Marija Kovačev, Novi Becej) attended.
- *June 1st, Zvornik* - 25 years since the crimes committed in the Zvornik area - commemoration and funeral at the cemetery in Kalesija, witnesses at the W'sC: Nadežda Kostić, Krusevac, Marica Šeatović, Novska, as well as activists of WIB Belgrade attended.
- *July 11, Potocari/Srebrenica* - commemoration of the 22nd anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide participated few witnesses from Serbia.
- *July 18, Orlovača/Belgrade* - commemoration of the 19th anniversary of the crime in Orahovac, witnesses Marija Kovačev from Novi Becej, Binasa Džigal from Prijepolje and WiB activists participated.
- *Sjeverin, October 22nd* - at the commemoration in Sjeverin were WiB activists from Prijepolje, Pljevlja, Belgrade, witnesses Sabina Talović and Binasa Džigal.
- *November 19th "Responsibility and solidarity"* - on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the crimes in Vukovar two witnesses (Marija Kovačev and Mirjana Mijailović) from Serbia visited Vukovar together with WiB activists.

## 3. Women's solidarity for the punishment of war crimes: actions of women's solidarity - feminist ethics of care and responsibility, acts of mutual support, exchange and cooperation in the region in order to build a just peace. In this activity participated WC witnesses:

**March 24th, Belgrade** – Eighty-eight (85) women from Srebrenica from Tuzla, Potocari/ Srebrenica, Bratunac and other places from Bosnia and Herzegovina visited Belgrade, within the mutual support and solidarity of Women in Black and Women of Srebrenica.



**April 2nd, Đulići, BH** – Meeting of solidarity support with women from Đulići town in the area of Zvornik; meeting was attended by WC witnesses (Suvada Selimović, Šaha Hrustić and Šehida Abdurahmanović).

**September 18th, Srebrenica** – Solidarity visit of WiB activists and activists from Spain (Charo Nogueira and Selime) to Potočari / Srebrenica Memorial Center. On the same day, they visited the village of Bajramovici in which Nura Mustafić, a witness at the Women's Court and Refija Hadžibulić, who is a participant in the WsC process.

**September 20th, Belgrade** – Women's solidarity meeting was organized by Women in Black, Belgrade and Citizens' Association "Anima" from Đulići. 49 women from the area of Zvornik (Đulići, Klisa, Grbavica, Tojšići, Glumine, Zvornik, Sapna, Šetići ...) and ten women activists from the Women in Black Network Serbia came to visit WiB. Two women were witnesses of the WsC in Sarajevo, many of them at the war crimes courts in Belgrade and Sarajevo.

#### **4. Feminist ethics of care and responsibility**

*Monitoring the trial for the crime in the village of Kravica (genocide in Srebrenica) before the Special War Crimes Chamber in Belgrade.* Witnesses at the W'sC provide emotional and moral support to the relatives of those killed who also follow the trial. In this period, the hearings held on February 13th, March 20<sup>th</sup> and April 13th and were attended by the following witnesses and organizers of the W'sC: Milica Miladinović, Jovanka Carević, Nela Pamuković, Zagreb and Marica Šeatović, Novska; Marija Kovačev, Novi Becej, Snežana Obrenović, Kraljevo, together with activists of WIB.

#### **5. Educational programs**

- **Meetings of Women in Black Network** – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12th February and September (14, 15 and 16) in Vrnjacka Banja attended by witnesses and organizers from Bosnia and Herzegovina: Suvada Selimovic, Saha Hrustic; Croatia: Nela Pamuković, Jovanka Carević, Milica Miladinović, Marica Šeatović; Serbia: Stasa Zajovic, Nadezda Kostić, Binasa Džigal, Marija Kovačev and Montenegro: Ljupka Kovačević, Sabina Talović.

- **"Save Our Rights"**, educational program organized by Women of Polimlje from Prijepolje and Women in Black from Belgrade with the participation of witnesses: Binasa Džigal and Sabina Talović was held on April 27th in Priboj, on May 13th in Sjenica and on June 17th and 18th at Zlatar.

- **Women build peace together** - support of Women in Black, Đulici, May 26th - (Suvada Selimovic, Saha Hrustic, Rejha Avdic, Sehida Abdurahmanovic).

- **"Save Our Rights"**, educational program organized by Women of Polimlje from Prijepolje and Women in Black from Belgrade with the participation of witnesses: Binasa Džigal and Sabina Talović were held on May 13 in Sjenica and on June 16 and 17 at Zlatar near Nova Varos ( Sandzak).

- **From activism to organization** - a seminar held in Belgrade on July 17 and 18 in Belgrade was attended by witnesses Binasa Džigal from Prijepolje, Sabina Talović from Pljevlja and Marija Kovačev from N. Bečej together with activists of the WiB Network.

- **“Growing signs of fundamentalisms - democratic and feminist responses “ – 39** participants from **7** countries (Russia, Great Britain, Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia) took part in this feminist discussion circle (13-15<sup>th</sup> October in Radmilovac, near Belgrade). In this activity participated 8 witnesses from whole region (Serbia, Montenegro, BH, Croatia).

- **"Divergence between normative and factual, international and EU standards - Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro"**; 34 people from 15 cities from three countries participated in this feminist discussion in Radmilovac near Belgrade (8th-10th December 2017) with participation of witnesses from Serbia (Nadežda Kostić, Marija Kovačev, Binasa Džigal), from Montenegro (Sabina Talović) and from Croatia (Milica Miladinović).

**Belgrade, March 2018.**

*(Prepared by Staša Zajović in collaboration with Ljupka Kovačević, Nela Pamuković, Miloš Urošević)*