

By the end of 2010. members of the Initiative board consisted of: Women to women from Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Center for feminine and peace education Anima from Kotor (Montenegro), Center for Women Studies and Center for Women victims of war from Zagreb (Croatia), Kosovo Women Network, Women Studies and Women in Black from Belgrade, initiated organizing of Women`s Court in the region of former Yugoslavia.

Women in Black are holders of program activities in organizing of Women`s Court, arrange and coordinate all the activities with the organizations which make up the Initiative board.

About Working Process



During 2011. the active support in organizing of Women`s Court provided 104 organizations of civil society from 100 cities from the states of ex Yugoslavia.

Around 2000 participants gave its contribution in various segments of activities. Over 250 activists were directly involved in the process of design, preparation, execution of organizing of Women`s Court for the ex Yugoslavia.

Time Frame of the Women`s Court?



During one year of terrain work, the activists consider it is necessary to organize Women`s Court for the ex Yugoslavia. Through collegiate work and reflection, the idea of Women`s Court for the ex Yugoslavia, which stems from the experience, knowledge and needs of women from the former Yugoslavia. Within the activities to organize Women`s Court, by acclamation has argued that the Court should deal with violence committed during 90-and after the wars of nineties of XX century, it is difficult to distinguish what are the causes and the consequences of wars, because they are closely interrelated.

The activists do consider that there is a continuity of injustice and violence and that it is more difficult to make the difference between the violence suffered during wars and the post war violence.

Shortly, it is the continuity of war by other means because we live in false and fragile peace full of injustice, humiliation and all kinds of discrimination...

Forms of Violence of the Women`s Court

Based on so far expressed attitudes and testimonies, it is all about numerous injustice suffered through war as well as afterwards. We list them in accordance with the frequency of their appearance:



Violence based on ethnicity: prosecution, ethnic cleansing, segregation, isolation, discrimination by the side of the institutions and the environment, humiliation, harassment, ejection from work,...In almost all of the areas and in the most of the testimonies, the violence is manifold and interdependent and intertwined:

mixed families/marriages/communities- repression on societal level: ethnically rooted threats-as a kind of ethnic cleansing, life threats due to ethnicity, exclusion from the community due to mixed ethnicity, rejection, ethnically based harassment,

institutional violence based on ethnicity- harassment during crossing the border by the side of the police due to ethnicity, ejection from work due to belonging to ethnic minorities, ethnic segregation, threatens to freedom of movement, changes of identities due to ethnicity, expulsion from their homes, ect. (Participants from all the areas testified upon above mentioned kinds of violence, mostly in Serbia and Croatia).



Military violence: unrecognized war crimes, forced mobilization, draining away male relatives to the war, repression over women for supporting their male relatives and other men not to go to the war:

forced mobilization-repression by the side of the state and society over women of male relatives who were mobilized during nineties, because they antagonized in various forms to mobilization, threats to women who were rebellious due to draining away male relatives to the war and deprivation of the information by the side of military authorities, living in isolation and constant fear of mobilization, humiliation and denial of right on humanitarian aid-regarding this kind of violence mostly witnessed women from Serbia.

repression due to resistance to force mobilization-the antiwar activists, supporters of the deserters and conscientious objectors:the repression and persecution for resistance to the regime and the support of deserters, psychological war through the media, the projection of the enemy and development of hatred towards different-this kind of testimony was mostly from women of Serbia.

war against civilians-military terror on the border, police terror during NATO bombing, ect.

consequences of the force mobilization-psychological consequences of traumatic experience, first of all forced mobilization of family members, PTSP, disability, poverty (Serbia), violence of war participants-violence of men war participants who commit unpunishable and unpunished violence (Croatia and Serbia).



The continuity of gender rooted violence: crimes in war and peace time:war crimes (war rape), in the peace time (sexual crimes, rape, physical and psychological family violence, sexual harassment, sexual blackmails, harassment in the workplace):

war rape crimes-stigmatization of women who provide their testimony,

male violence against women-physical, psychological and sexual violence in marriage and partner relationships by returnees from the battlefield.

 **Economical violence over women:**

privatization as a crime over women-abolition of labor rights, gender, economical ones;

sexual blackmails and harassment on the working place,

blackmails and abuse due to poverty,

life in constant economical scarcity-deprivation, constant threat of poverty, living in constant fear, ect.

 **Political violence:**

institutional violence – arrogant and degrading treatment of people in institutions (police, health service, social services) - in all areas;

repression of the institutions over human rights defenders-because of resistance to the regime, support for deserters;

police harassment: limited freedom of movement, arrests, detention,

inability to obtain citizenship-mostly due to belonging to the minority, ethnic or political;

abuse of suffering by the side of the representatives of international elites.

 **Elementary physical jeopardy:**

war actions, siege, bombardment;

exhaustion for hunger;

health problems due to traumatic experiences.

What is the impact of the Women's Court for the ex Yugoslavia?

Participants expressed the following expectations:

recognition of suffering of victims, moral satisfaction for victims,
dignity of victims, public condemnation of the crimes;

appointment of crime and establishing the facts: executors and their instigators (especially those that the system does not recognize, who are neglected and justified), determining the causes, nature, consequences of war and injustice;

putting the pressure on institutions: the institutional system / judiciary, the impact of penal policy;

empowering of women and strengthening of international networks of support and solidarity;

impact on society / community: changing cultural and customary matrix which glorifies war and is building a culture of peace.

In numerous activities during 2011. related to organizing of Women's Court for the ex Yugoslavia participated:

104 civil society organizations which actively gave their support;

100 cities in the former Yugoslavia;

About **2000** participants of the various segments of the activities;

Over **250** activists who took an active role in the proces of design, preparation, realization of the activities for Women's Court for the ex Yugoslavia.



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Women's Court for the ex Yugoslavia