



Women's court – feminist approach to justice Interim report for period April, May, June 2014

This is a brief report on Women in Black activities regarding organization of the Women's Court – feminist approach to justice in the reporting period. The report is mainly related to the activities in Serbia, as well as to joint activities of partner organizations. Activities implemented in other states of former Yugoslavia are represented in the extent in which Women in Black, as the main leader of program activities, received information from other members of the Organizing Board of the Women's Court.

If you are interested in more detailed information, you can look up on our websites www.zeneucrnom.org and www.zenskisud.org or by contacting us via email: zeneucrnom@gmail.com and office@zeneucrnom.org

Thank you in solidarity

In late 2010, the members of the Initiative Board (IB), consisting of: *Women to Women*, Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), *the Center for Women and Peace Education Anima* from Kotor (Montenegro), *the Center for Women's Studies* and *the Center for Women War Victims*, from Zagreb (Croatia), *the Kosovo Women's Network* (Kosovo), and *Women's Studies* and *Women in Black*, Belgrade, started an initiative to organize the Women's Court on the former Yugoslavia. Initiative Board is now consisted of 11 organizations from all states of former Yugoslavia. At the meeting held in the beginning of February 2013, Initiative Board changed into Organising Board of the Women's Court. Women in Black are the main organization for implementation of program activities, arrangements and coordination of all activities with other members of Organizing Board.

Following activities have been implemented during tis reporting period:

I Educational activities – seminars, forums, pic presentations, conferences within the process of organizing Women's Court: feminist approach to justice

- **Public presentations** –

Public presentations/ PP Initiatives for organizing Women's Court which represent integral part of the process of research and activism in order to gather information, proposals, suggestions regarding the idea and vision of justice and choice of topics for Women's Court.

In this period following public presentations have been held:

Bosnia and Herzegovina – 10 public presentations
- 2 workshops in Tuzla,
- 2 in Gorazde,

- 2 in Bijeljina,
- 1 workshop in Jajce
- 1 workshop in Zvornik

We managed, through these workshops, to strengthen our network of Women's Court supporters. After the presentation, a large number of women want to learn more about ways to contribute to the work of Women's Court in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the future.

- **Conferences – promoting Women's Court**

- June 12th 2014 – Sarajevo – Press conference has been organized towards introducing public to the existence of the process of Women's Court in Bosnia and Herzegovina, hence of the current position of women survivors and their needs.

- **June 12th 2014 – Sarajevo – Conference “Obligations of Bosnia and Herzegovina towards women survivors of rapes in war, sexual violence and other forms of torture”** was held in hotel Hollywood, and 41 persons attended. Besides NGOS and individuals, conference was attended by representatives from: Ministry of Labor, War Veterans and Disabled Person's Protection in Republic of Srpska, Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Policies, Federal Ministry of Justice, Gender Center in Federation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republic of Srpska, Agency for Gender Equality, OSCE, EU Delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, ICTY.

During conference three key issues regarding introductory renditions have been singled out for working in groups.

First group worked on creating safe space in public for women who want/can speak publically about what they survived.

Second group questioned possibilities to strengthen lobbying and advocacy activities towards adopting necessary legal acts (Law of protecting victims of torture in the state level) which would improve social and economic position of women survivors of rape in war.

Third group worked on the draft model of integration of women who survived rape in war.

Conclusions of working groups:

- Working on additional destigmatisation is crucial,
- Problem is “projectisation” of this (but also other) issues regarding position of women.
- Sensitization of public is necessary

II - Feminist Discussion Circles

Feminist discussion circles are joint consideration of important issues that we deal with, they foster critical thinking, and questioning, in order to strengthen women's autonomy and expand the collective power and political power of the feminist movement.

Feminist discussion circles are a combination of workshops, debates, interactive lectures, movie screenings, etc.

In this reporting period, following feminist discussion circles were organized:

- **21/23/24 May: Sremski Karlovci – Feminist ethics of care and economy of care.** 26 persons from these cities attended: Zagreb, Novi Sad, Beograd, Niš, Kruševac, Sombor, Pančevo, Leskovac, Novi Bečej.

FDC was consisted of following interactive lectures and discussions:

- Selma Sevenhuijsen: Values that maintain life – ethics of care, on vulnerability and protection – comments: Janja Bec and Milos Urosevic.
- Sara Radik: Notes towards feminist maternal politics of peace – comments: Stasa Zajovic and Ana Vilenica
- M.V Lee Badger, N. Folbre: Caring for others – gender norms and economic consequences – comments: Vesna Djordjevic and Olivera Babic
- Eva Kaminer: Feminist ethics of care – lecture and discussion with author of the essay
- Sandra Lee Bartky: Breadwinners of ego and comforters: subjugation and alienation of women's emotional work - comments: Biljana Brankovic, Tanja Markovic, Masa Malesevic, Sasa Kovacevic and Milos Urosevic
- Marija Perkovic: Economy of care – short historic survey – lecture and discussion with author of the essay
- Maja Hrgovic: When women leave to the West, families pay the price – comments: Svenka Savic and Maja Sedlarevic
- Marija Babovic: Gender inequalities from the perspective of feminist economy – lecture and discussion with author of the essay
- Activism and ethics of care – workshop – coordinators Milka Rosic and Stasa Zajovic
- Alpar Losonc: Biopolitics of pride and Lino Veljak: Tong Rosemary and Nancy Williams: Feminist ethics
- Aintzane Saitua and Maruha Sarasola: Care for others as a choice – comments: Slobodan Sadzakov and Milka Rosic

Thematic reader was prepared for this FDC, same as for previous ones, called „Feminist ethics of care“. Reader is consisted of fifteen (15) essays of local and international authors from the region and the word who are working on the issues of feminist ethics of care and economy of care. Those are at the same time titles of the two parts of this reader.

June 13/14/15: Avala, Belgrade – Alternative models of justice – practice of justice in the community.

There were 40 participants from the following cities from Serbia: Leskovac, Kruševac, Niš, Dimitrovgrad, Beograd, Šabac, Bela Reka, Novi Bečej, Sarajevo, and guest and lecturer Carlos M. Beristain from Bilbao/Basque Country, Spain.

Program of FDC consisted of following parts:

- **From institutional to alternative models of justice** – lecture and video presentation by Stasa Zajovic and Ivana Vitas
 - „**Deceptively simple – healing of the memory**“ – discussion about the essay from the book From Victim to Victor by Michael Lapsley
 - **Legal practice in communities – historic experiences in Balkans**
 - „**Reconciliation of blood in Kosovo**“ – people's initiative began in the beginning of 90s towards elimination of blood vengeance – comments by Masa Malesevic, ethnologist, Belgrade
 - Ethics of reconciliation in the work of Marko Miljanov – comments by Marija Perkovic, Women in Black, Belgrade
- Women's approach to justice – I know justice- experiences from Africa, Women's initiative for justice, experience from Guatemala, Umoja women's village – experience from Kenya, City of Joy – experience from Congo – Milos Urosevic from Women in Black presented work of these groups through video presentations.

-Pray the Devil Back to Hell – screening of the documentary about struggle for peace of Liberian women, after civil war that lasted twenty years.

- Informal education for dealing with the past – lecture by Marianne Toma, from Fund for Humanitarian Law

-Activist and art women's initiatives in fighting for peace and justice

- **Chile** – Arpillera – memory/reminiscence as art – presented by Milos Urosevic

- Serbia – artistic engagement in dealing with past – experience of Women in Black – presented by Marija Perkovic

Work with Carlos M Beristain consisted of following parts:

- What am I doing and why am I doing it? – introduction with Carlos M. Beristain (doctor, antimilitarist activist, mental health expert, more than 20 years continuously works with victims of political violence and human rights groups in Peru, Guatemala, Salvador, Columbia, Mexico, Basque Country; he is also active in Interamerican court for human rights; participated in four commissions for truth in Latin America: in Guatemala, Ecuador, Peru and Paraguay, he now works on initiating the Commission for truth in Columbia. He has been working in Columbia from 2009 -2013 in Women's commission for truth, justice and reparation together with feminist network Ruta Pacifica/ Women's peace route; authored numerous books and papers on political violence in crisis areas, mental health of victims/survivors. In the past couple of years Carlos expanded his work to Africa where he works in Western Sahara and Congo).

-Trauma and Recovery – how to heal and renovate societies stricken by war tribulations, natural disasters? Experiences from Latin America, Europe, etc.

- Truth justice, reconciliation – workshop

- Experiences on building peace and justice in Latin America

- Guatemala – Reconstruction of historic memory/ *Reconstruccion de la Memoria Historica/REMHI*-Commission for Historic Clarification

- Columbia – Women's Commission for truth, justice and reparation

-“Garden filled with women's hopes” – screening of the movie about Women's Commission for Truth in Columbia

- Resistance – empowering and mutual support – in the community, organizations of civil society in the situation of political repression and violence – international experiences, lessons...

Same as for previous, short thematic reader was prepared for this FDC called “Alternative models of justice – practice of justice in community”. Short reader is consisted of fourteen (14) short reviews, divided into two chapters: I – Practice of justice in the community and II – Together women are building peace and justice.

2.Meeting of feminist and peace activists – 24/27 – Porec. Gathering is organized by Center for civil initiatives Porec and Women in Black from Belgrade towards mutual deliberation of important political events in Croatia and in Serbia which are relevant for the process of organizing Women's Court – feminist approach to justice.

27 activists from Serbia and Croatia, from following cities attended the meeting: Zagreb, Belgrade, Poreč, Pirot, Leskovac, Priboj, Vlasotince, Kruševac, Split.

Program of the meeting consisted of following parts:

- Controversy of International Court for Former Yugoslavia (Hague Tribunal) in the light of the last verdicts – from November 2012 to May 2013: Reactions of the public, impact of verdicts on international criminal law, on responsibility of states – command responsibility, on the process of dealing with the past and reconciliation in the region, on civil society.
- Engaged art in dealing with the past: documentaries made by Group for video activism in Women in Black
- Language and nationalism – Snjezana Kordic, linguist, author of the book with the same title (2010)
- Are there any nations on the planet Reebok – experiments on politics of identities by Miroslava Masa Malesevic, ethnologist, associate of the Institute of Ethnography, Belgrade
- Joint deliberation of European Union
- Women’s Court – feminist approach to justice: On process of organising in the region; What it means for feminist movement in the region? Problems, challenges, difficulties...

III Feminist ethics of care – support for potential witnesses

Within providing support for women who testified during feminist discussion circle about militaristic/ethnic/economic/gender violence.

- **Group and individual meetings and discussions:** towards maintaining communication with women who testified on feminist discussion circles and other activities in the process of organizing Women’s Court; following meetings have been held during this reporting period:

Bosnia and Herzegovina:

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

Montenegro:

- **Bar, April 3 – discussion with workers from Primorka. Interviews conducted by Ljupka Kovacevic and Senka Rastoder**
- **April 11 – Meeting with potential witnesses in the House of free thinking, in Kavac, Kotor**
- **Kotor, June 6 and 20 – Individual interview with two women, and later meeting with three women from the factory Livnica. Participants: Ljupka Kovacevic, Ervina Dabizinovic and Senka Rastoder.**

Croatia:

- **16.05 – 18.05 – Meeting and workshop for women potential witnesses from Croatia was held in the Center M.A.R.E in Rovinj, center for victims of landmines, and other persons who survived trauma, and we got the space with the help of Dijana Plestina.**
There were 24 women at the gathering, around half were already activists from organizations of the civil society, and another half was potential witnesses. Marijana Senjak facilitated the workshop.

Serbia:

- **Kraljevo, April 1. 2014:** meeting was held in the office space of Center for persons with disabilities, with participation of 8 activists from following cities: Kraljevo, Krusevac Beograd.

- **Leskovac, April 11:** meeting was held in the space of Women for Peace with the presence of 8 activists from: Leskovac, Vlasotince and Belgrade.

- **Nis, April 18th** – interview with potential witness/ women refugee from Kosovo. Interviewer Olivera Babic, Women's Space, Nis

Krusevac, May 15 – support to the potential witnesses for Women's Court: feminist approach to justice – meeting with participation of 25 activists from the Women in Black Network, from: Krusevac, Trstenik, Kraljevo, Nis, Belgrade, Leskovac, and Vlasotince...

IV Consultative work meetings

In accordance with feminist codex of organization of the Women's Court, with which we are committed to share knowledge, joint processes of deliberation, these meetings are part of the democratic process. Based on those meetings we are analyzing past activities and defining future steps in the process of understanding and creating justice from the feminist aspect. According to feminist ethics of process of organizing Women's Court, besides joint consultative work meetings, lot of other forms of working in the state level have been initiated: regular operational work meetings, workshops, meetings of the legal team, discussion focus groups, discussion circles etc. This report enlists mainly those activities that have been implemented in Serbia, as well as those which we received from partner organizations in each of the former Yugoslav countries:

- April 01- Zagreb: work meeting in the office space of Center for Women's Studies in Zagreb, 14 participants attended

(Stela Šimić, Nela Pamuković, Mira Ličina Jovanović, Marijana Nahod, Maja Dundov – Galli, Marija Herceg, Dijana Pleština, Martina Petrinjak Žekić, Rada Borić, Željka Sartori, Marijana Senjak, Renata Ćuk, Paula Zore, Nada Peratović). Besides other topics, there was a discussion in the meeting about organizing meeting/workshop for potential witnesses from Croatia in Rovinj, at the beginning of May, in the office space of association M.A.R.E, and about proposal of the Law on the rights of victims of rape in war which was subjected to a public debate by Ministry of Defenders till April 30 2014.

-April 26. – Zagreb: Meeting of the organizations that form Initiative for Women's Court from Croatia, held in Center of women victims of war – ROSA. 7 women participated: Rada Borić i Željka Sartori (Center for Women's Studies, Zagreb), Nela Pamuković, Stela Šimić i Đurđica Kolarec (Center for Women Victims of War -ROSA, Zagreb), Marijana Senjak, individual activist of Women's Court, Zagreb, Milena Čalić-Jelić (Documenta, Zagreb).

-April 02. _ Zagreb: Nela and Rada have met with Nicole Davison and Snjezana Vukic , British Embassy – discussion about preparation of the Summit in London, and about Women's Court. We asked for financial support for the meeting with witnesses in Rovinj – and submitted project proposal which would cover travel and accommodation expenses.

- May 13 – Zagreb: Meeting in the Center for Women’s Studies, Rada, Renata and Paula about participation on the panel Feminist Approach to Justice within Subversive Film Festival.

- May 17- Kotor: Joint deliberation of the process of Women’s Court for Montenegro – was held in the House of Free Thinking in Kotor, organized by Center for women’s and peace education from Kotor and Women in Black from Belgrade. There were 10 persons from Niksic, Bar, Bijelo Polje and Kotor, and Stasa Zajovic coordinated the meeting. Coordinators were Stasa Zajovic and Ljupka Kovacevic.

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

April 25 – Kotor – In the House of Free Thinking a workshop was held organized by Anima, with the participation of 11 persons from: DAHTheater, Anima, various women NGOs, and citizens of Kotor. The aim of the workshop was to connect alternative art associations and activists from organizations of the civil society. Workshop consisted of two questions: Who am I and Why are/aren’t we married.

- Bosnia and Herzegovina – Visits: - Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees < Federal Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Work and Social Policies. In the Ministry of Justice we were told that they aren’t included in this topic but they are interested and available for cooperation in the future. In Federal Ministry of work and social policies are informed with the topic, they were actively involved in creating Strategy for transitional justice and Program for improving position of women who survived rape in war.
- June 07 – Zagreb: Rada Boric had held a workshop in Jezercica on discrimination, primarily focusing on ethnic and gender discrimination for young members of Serbian national council. She informed participants and leaders about the initiative for Women’s Court.

May 06 – Zagreb: On the panel “On the threshold of violence” within Subversive Film Festival, along with judge Branka Zigante Zivkovic and Zelimir Ponos, and with moderation of Aleksandar Stankovic, Rada Boric also spoke about Women’s Court.

May 10 – Zagreb: in the Center for Women’s Studies, within Erasmus exchange program, Rada Boric held two-hour lecture (with screening of two short movies) and talked about Women’s Court with students and teachers from Italy and Cyprus. Guests showed great interest for the topic of Women’s Court and then started vivid discussion about feminist responsibility and care.

May 14 – Zagreb – Within 7th Subversive Forum, in Cultural – informative center, there were two panels:

- “Feminism and responsibility” in the morning, speakers were: Rada Boric, Vlasta Jalusic from Peace Institute from Ljubljana and Dasa Duhacek from Belgrade.
- “Feminist approach to justice – activist responses” in the afternoon, with film made by participant Vlasta Jalusic about her work in Rwanda. Two panel discussion “Feminism and responsibility” and “Feminist approach to justice – activist responses” – presentation of Women’s Court, Rada

Boric, Paula Zore, Nela Pamukovic, Renata Cuk. Both panels in the organization of Center for Women Studies in cooperation with other members of the initiative for Women's Court. Around 50 participants attended.

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

V. Video activism

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

In this reporting period following documentaries have been done:

- Shortcut to justice, duration 41 minutes, directed by Daniel Burkholz and Sybille Fezer, Germany, 2008. This documentary movie is about experiences of women in their struggle for justice in the community.
- Pray the Devil Back to Hell

Duration: 82 minutes, Directed by: Gini Reticker, Produced by: Abigale E. Disnei

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

VI Publishing

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

In this reporting period we published following issues:

- Alternative models of justice – practice of justice in the community – short reader created for the FDC with the same name, consists of 65 pages and 14 texts, divided into two chapters: I – *Legal practice in communities*: Deceptively simple – Healing the memory (Michael Lapsley), Ethics of reconciliation in the work of Marko Miljanov (Senka Rastoder), Council for blood reconciliation,

Courts of the Navajo Indians, Gacaca courts and II – *Together women are building peace and justice*: Umoja women's village, I know justice – Women's approach to justice, Arpillera – Memory as art, Liberian initiative for justice, Justice for women, Women's initiative for justice, Common initiative for justice, Women's Court, City of joy.

- *Transcript Meeting of potential witnesses – Andrevlje* – transcript has 15 pages
- *Transcript Feminist ethics of care and economy of care – Sremski Karlovci* – transcript from the feminist discussion circle with the same name – 10 pages
- *Transcript Peace meeting of the activists from Croatia and Serbia – Porec* – transcript has 16 pages
- *Transcript Alternative models of justice – practice of justice in the community – Avala* – transcript from the feminist discussion circle with the same name -49 pages.

VII Art and activist engagement – street actions

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

- *Street actions:*
- April 08 – Montenegro: Protest with women from Livnica, factory from Kotor
- May 15 – Krusevac: *We remember brave resistance of women* – peace action/homage to brave activists who have rebelled in Krusevac, in 1999, against forced mobilization of men for war in Kosovo. Action was organized by Association of Women Sandglass from Krusevac and Women in Black from Belgrade, and over 50 activists participated.
- **Visiting sites of crimes committed in our name**
- **May 12 – Bratunac: We remember!** – Presence of 8 activists of Women in Black at the funeral of the remains of murdered Bosniak civilians, during Serbian aggression on Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992.
- **June 01 – Zvornik: We remember!** – Presence of 8 activists of Women in Black at the funeral of the remains of murdered Bosniak civilians, during Serbian aggression on Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992.
- **May 22/23- Herceg Novi, concentration camp Morinj, Bukovica, Kaludjerski Laz and Murina.** These places have been visited by 24 activists and around 20 locals, family members and witnesses.

- **Art engagement in dealing with the past**
- **April 12 – performance the presence of absence by Dah Theater from Belgrade has been performed in Preserve, in the organization of Dah Theater and WiB, with attendance of 20 women – activists from the women’s group in Presevo Mothers/ Nenat, activists of SOS Vlasotince, and activists from Leskovac and Belgrade.**
- **April 26 – performance the presence of absence by Dah Theater from Belgrade was performed in Center for culture in Kotor. 62 persons from Kotor, Niksic, Bar, Cetinje and Podgorica were present.**

VIII International activity – promoting Women’s court on international level, attending international conferences, work meetings of members of Organization Board of Women’s Court with international supporters.

May 1, Lueven, Belgium: Women’s Court – feminist approach to justice: on European meeting of Women in Black there was a workshop and participants were: Stasa Zajovic and Zorica Trifunovic (Women in Black, Belgrade), Jadranka Milicevic (Foundation Cure, Sarajevo) and Nela Pamukovic, (Center for women victims of war, Zagreb) and there were also around 15 women from different countries. We showed video about the process of Women’s Court, and after that we answered questions from the audience.

June 10 – 15 – London: Global summit on sexual violence in wars/conflicts, and Rada Boric participated in the work and presentation of the Nobel Women’s Initiative, and on June 19 2014, she facilitated representation of Survivors United in Action – network of women who survived sexual violence. Besides four Nobel Prize winners, ministers of foreign affairs of Norway and Netherlands also participated in the representation of women. During the Summit, Rada Boric has met some of our friends and associates, and Monica Hauser and Madeleine Rees showed particular interest in preparation of Women’s Court and offered their support. On the meeting of the advisory committee of the Nobel Women’s Initiative, a great interest has been shown for Women’s Court and its preparations and they are interested in ways to support us, because they would also like to expand the campaign “Stop Rape in Conflict” to entire region.

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