



Women's Court – feminist approach to justice

Report for the period January, February, March 2014

We bring you a brief report on the activities of the Women in Black regarding the organization of the Women's Court - Feminist Approach to Justice, in the reporting period. The report is mainly related to the activities implemented in Serbia, as well as to joint activities of partner organizations. Activities implemented in other states of the former Yugoslavia are represented the extent to which Women in Black, as leading organisation in program implementation, obtained information from other members of the Organizing Board of the Women's Court.

If you are interested in additional information, you can find them on our websites www.zeneucrnom.org and www.zenskisud.org or by contacting us via email: zeneucrnom@gmail.com

We thank you in advance, in solidarity.

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

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

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

- **Public presentations/PP:**

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

In the stated period, following PP have been organized:

- January 15th – Belgrade: the presentation was held in Women in Black offices and it was attended by 9 activists. PP moderators were Ivana Vitas and Marija Perković.

26th of March – Bijeljina: in the premises of Lara foundations a promotion of Women`s Court initiative was held, Women`s Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina – pleading for rights of women who have survived war rape. Initiative to prepare the participation of the representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the work of the Women's Court for the former Yugoslavia led by four women's organizations: `Women`s Forum`- Bratunac, Foundation `Cure`-Sarajevo, Association of citizens `Future` from Modrica and `Horizons` from Tuzla.` The overall activity includes the Center for Legal Assistance for Women from Zenica, Women's Association `Most`-Visegrad and `Lara`-Bijeljina. These seven organizations are signatories of the initiative for the Women's Court as part of a regional initiative of the Women's Court for the former Yugoslavia. The presentation was attended by **20** activists, politicians and journalists.

- **Seminars**

- January 25th Priboj on Lim: the seminar was attended by 15 activists from Priboj, it was organized by Women`s Voice from Priboj, and instructors were Marija Perković, Ivana Vitas and Marijana Stojčić.

- **Feminist discussion circles:**

Feminist discussion circles/FDC represent joint consideration of important issues to deal with, foster critical reflection, review, in order to strengthen the autonomy of women, increasing 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 period we have realized following feminist discussion circles:

Feminist ethics of responsibility, February 21st, 22nd and 23rd : this FDC was held in Sremski Karlovci and attended by 32 activists from all over Serbia (Belgrade, Novi Sad, Sombor, Kraljevo, Pirot, Nis, Krusevac, Vlasotince, Dimitrovgrad, Leskovac) and out of Croatia (Knin, Zagreb).

The program consisted of the following interactive lectures, workshops and screenings:

- History of the concept of accountability-the question of guilt and responsibility for the philosopher Hannah Arendt and the philosopher Karl Jaspers-the question of responsibility in Serbia, lecturer: Dasa Duhacek, philosopher, Belgrade
- `Hannah Arendt` (113 min): Feature film directed by Margareta von Trotta, actress Barbara Sukova, production of 2012 (Germany, Luxembourg, France)
- The common thinking in feminist ethics of responsibility-in theory and in action in essays of reader-`Feminist ethics of responsibility`-(Adriana Zaharijevic, Adrienne Rich, Athena Athanasiou, Dasha Duhacek, Yvonne Deutsch, Stasa Zajovic, Zarana Papic...), moderator Stasa Zajovic
- `The design and construction of collective crime and collective moral responsibility`-the article under the same title, by Nenad Dimitrijevic; commented by: Jasna Sakota, philosopher, Novi Sad

- Ivan Milenkovic: Giorgio Agamben – biopolitics and paradox – the author of essays and Biljana Stojkovic, biologist, Belgrade.
- Primo Levi: `Is this a man` and `The Sank and the saved` - comments by: Milos Urosevic, Women in Black activists and Lino Veljak, philosopher, Zagreb
- Jean- Ameri, `Beyond guilt and reparation` - comments on the essay by Lino Veljak
- Feminist Solidarity-the essays of Igballe Rogova-`Love beyond borders`: `Letter to Lepa, my feminist mentor` and Lepa Mladjenovic: `Letter to Igballe Rogova-our lesbian bodies in our heteronormative states`: Lepa Mladjenovic, Tanja Markovic and other activists.

For this FDC occasion we prepared corresponding reader (195 pages). The Reader has three chapters – more details on this reader can be found in chapter “Publishing activities”.

- **Documentary film projections:**

This educational program is consisted of numerous segments-documentaries regarding experiences of Women`s Court and Tribunals on international level, documentaries and featuring movies on experience of women, women`s groups and networks connected to violence over women, fight of women for peace and justice, feminist approach to justice, documentaries produced by Women in Black-group for video activism for the feminist approach to justice, peace and security. After all screenings we organize discussion, both about the films as well as regarding the initiative for organizing Women's Court-a feminist approach to justice.

In period from February to June 2014, Women in Black have arranged the following program of documentary film screenings:

I Cycle-International experiences of women's groups for peace and justice:

`Joint dreams`, Argentina (25min), produced by Mothers from May square/Madres de plaza de mayo, translation and subtitle of Women in Black, 2013. This documentary was made due to thirty years of work of famous women`s organization for peace and justice in Argentina- Mothers from May square. The movie explains the reasons for the establishment of this organization: searching for missing sons and daughters during military dictatorship in Argentina (1976-1983), fight for the punishment of the crimes, but as well huge efforts Mothers from May square have invest in education, social justice and human rights.

In this period, we held projection of above mentioned movie on:

February 19th – Women in Black premises, Belgrade, attended by **15** activists of Women in Black.

II Feminist ethics of care-support for potential witnesses:

As part of support to women who testified in Feminist discussion circles on militarist/ethnic/economic/gender violence

1. Individual meetings and conversations: to maintain communication with the women who testified on feminist discussion circles and participated in other activities organized for Women`s Court during this reporting period, meetings were held. In this reporting period the encounters we organized were:

- January 15th and March 10th, Bela Reka: meeting with Jakovljevic family, the father and mother of the murdered guardsmen Dragan Jakovljevic and 6 activist of Women in Black. The meeting was organized with the aim of making the archive of articles and all documents related to the murder of guardsmen on October 5th 2004 in a military facility Karas, the Yugoslav Army barracks in Topcider. They have also arranged joint activities to mark the tenth anniversary of the murder of the guardsmen.

2. Second regional meeting with potential witnesses in Women's Court – feminist approach to justice

In the reporting period, 2 meetings were held with potential witnesses for the WC: one was the regional meeting of potential witnesses in Croatia, in Lipik, and another was the meeting of potential witnesses from Serbia in Andrevlje, near Novi Sad.

- January 21st, 22nd and 23rd – Lipik, Croatia: the meeting was attended by 33 women, 19 of whom are potential witnesses, 10 representatives of OB of WC; participants were from following towns:
Bosnia and Herzegovina: 8 women (Sarajevo, Tuzla, Srebrenica and Bratunac)
Montenegro: 3 women (Bijelo Polje, Bar and Kotor)
Croatia: 11 women (Lipik, Lovas, Osijek, Pakrac, Požega, Zagreb)
Macedonia: 3 women (Skopje and Veles)
Slovenia: 2 women (Ljubljana and Maribor)
Serbia: 5 women (Novi Bečej, Leskovac, Zrenjanin and Belgrade)

3. Third joint meeting with potential witnesses in Serbia 21st, 22nd, 23d of March-Andrevlje: the meeting attended **38** women out of: Belgrade, Novi Becej, Dimitrovgrad, Novi Sad, Zagreb, Krusevac, Pirot, Leskovac, Sabac, Bela Reka, Kraljevo, Bar, Nis, Kotor, Priboj, and three of the attendants were from Montenegro (Kotor, Bar).

The program was consisted of three segments:

- Introduction for the process of organizing of Women's Court-projection/video clip of the current process at the regional level – moderator: Ljupka Kovacevic and Stasa Zajovic
- Women's struggle for peace and justice-international experiences – experiences from Guatemala and India-lecturer: Rada Ivekovic, philosopher, Paris, and Goran Fejic, (Yugoslav diplomat until 1991. and retired official of the UN)
- `Shortcuts to Justice` (Shortcut to Justice) lasting 41 minutes, directed by Daniel Burkholz/ Daniela Burkholca and Sibiu Fezer/Sybille Fezer, Germany, 2008. This documentary is about the experience of women in their struggle for justice in the community
- I testify – testimony of a woman on the militaristic, ethnic, racial violence, violations of labor rights of women, gender-sexual assault – in wartime and post-war period – coordinator Ljupka Kovacevic, Anima, Kotor
- Screening of short movies: Women Resistance against forced mobilization (1992: Report of the German Deutsche Welle Television/Deutsche Well (5:30 min) – The resistance to compulsory mobilization in village Tresnjevac/Vojvodina, made in May in 1992. Mostly women of Tresnjevac are speaking-DW report on Women in Black (5:12 min)

- Reportage of German television Deutsche Welle on Women in Black, made in May, 1992. `Stolen Freedom` (5 minutes): documentary about the forced mobilization of refugees in Serbia. Made by Vojvodina Civic Center in 2013. Spoke: Stanetic Zeljko and Jelena Ivanovic – activists of Civic Center Vojvodina
- Europe: what kind of and for whom? – lecturer Goran Fejic, moderator Ivana Vitas, Women in Black
- Women's Court: A view from the outside and from the inside-lecturer Rada Ivekovic, debate moderated by Stasa Zajovic
- The presence in the public space-a workshop on public speaking coordinated by Diana Milosevic, theater director – Dah Theatre-Belgrade. The moderator was Marija Perkovic, Women in Black
- From victims to actors of peace and justice- workshop coordinated by Ljupka Kovacevic
- Agreement on future activities and evaluation

For this meeting we prepared a collection of three articles by Rada Ivekovic.

III Working consultative meetings

In accordance with feminist codex in organizing the Women's Court, with which we have obligated ourselves to distribution of knowledge, processes of joint reflection, those meetings are the part of democratic process. The results of the activities conducted so far are analysed here and future steps in the process of understanding and creating justice from the feminist point of view. In accordance with feminist ethics of organizing process for Women's Court, beside joint working consultative meetings, we have initiated various types of work at the level of states: regular and operational working meetings, workshops, meetings of legal team, focus discussion groups, discussion circles, and so on. This report lists the activities mainly in Serbia, as well as those we were informed by partner organizations in each of the countries of the former Yugoslavia:

1. The meeting of Organizational Board of Women's Court

Regional meeting of the Organizational Board, held in Lipik/Croatia was attended by Stanojka Cana Tesic-Women's Forum from Bratunac, Kada Hotic – Mothers of Srebrenica and Zepa from Sarajevo, Jadranka Milicevic – Cure Foundation from Sarajevo, Ljupka Kovacevic- Anima from Kotor, Rada Boric – Women's Studies from Zagreb, Nela Pamukovic – Center for Women War Victims from Zagreb, Metka Rosandic – Women's Lobby from Ljubljana and Stasa Zajovic – Women in Black from Belgrade.

2. Joint working consultative meetings – between partner organizations of OB WC, as well as other civil society organizations which participate in a process of organizing Women's Court:

- January 14th, Zagreb: Joint consideration of feminist approaches to justice in the process of organizing Women's Court – meeting of coordinators of the Women's Court educational activities – feminist approach to justice in Croatia. This working meeting was attended by 12 activists from Zagreb, Knin, Split, Korenica, and it was moderated by Stasa Zajovic and Nela Pamukovic. The meeting consisted of four parts: part I – exchange of information on WC process; part II – Common points of feminist codex for working in

field with training; part III – Feminist politics, feminist perspective of work in organizing WC; part IV – International experiences – Women’s Commission for Truth in Columbia

- **8ht of March, Belgrade:** working meeting which was attended by 10 activists/organizers of Women's Court in Serbia: Leskovac, Krusevac, Dimitrovgrad, Novi Becej, Vlasotince, Pirot, Nis, Kraljevo. During the meeting we also discussed the educational activities in the future, especially movie screenings in the period March-June 2014 and on this occasion we distributed documentary films within the following program:

I Cycle-International experiences of women's groups for peace and justice: March-June

- Joint Dreams-Mothers from May square/Madres de plaza de mayo, Argentina
- Garden filled with women’s hope-Women's Commission for Truth, Colombia, file: Garden filled with hope, Colombia
- Short Documentary movies of Women in Black-Video Activism Women in Black: (Srebrenica-They left a trace inside of us, crimes against women during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina-We Remember, We will never forget the crimes committed in Vukovar, Stop Femicide, etc.) The workshop was coordinated by Stasa Zajovic.

3. Meetings with other groups/organizations of civil society

- February 8th, Vukovar/Croatia – “Real minority – sustainable society”, conference organized by association Sustainable development (ORAH). Rada Boric, member of OB WC presented the Initiative for the Women’s Court, as well as a draft of the Law on Rights of Victims of Sexual Violence in War.
- February 9th, Sarajevo – “Women organized for change in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Syria”: international conference organized by WILPF. On this conference, Nela Pamuković and Lepa Mladenović led a discussion (12.2.) on the panel “Work with refugees” and in that occasion they presented also the initiative for the Women’s Court.
- February 20th, Zagreb – coordinational meeting in Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Republic of Croatia – Rada Boric, member of OB WC, Vesna Treselic (Documenta) and Marija Sliskovic (Association of Women of Homeland War) participated in the meeting with the representatives of United Kingdom (emissary of British government Long, deputy ambassador Davison), as part of Croatian cooperation in British initiative for suppression of sexual violence in conflicts. Rada Boric introduced them to the initiative for the Women’s Court.
- March 1st to 3rd, Nairobi, Kenya – African regional meeting of the International Campaign STOP Rape and Gender Violence in Conflict: as member of the Advisory Board at Nobel Women’s Initiative, Rada Boric took part in the Strategic Meeting of the mentioned initiative and of the Green Belt Movement. Rada Boric introduced everybody to the Women’s court – feminist approach to justice.
- March 25th, Zagreb – meeting at UNDP: leaders of initiative for the WC in Croatia held a meeting at UNDP and agreed to make new comments on the draft of the Law on Rights of Victims of Sexual Violence in War, in the name of the initiative for the Women’s Court, and to send them to the ministry in charge, as well as to organize meetings with

representatives of institutions to whom they would turn for support for our suggestions regarding the Law.

Two activists, Renata Cuk and Paula Zore, had a conversation with Eurokaz and Film Festival Subverziv on organization of cultural activities related to the Women's court.

4. Regular working meetings: In the premises of Women in Black, Belgrade, in this reporting period, several meetings were held every Thursday. The meetings attended members of Women in Black coordinating team, and sometimes it involves members of Women Studies in Belgrade. During those meetings: we are sharing information, thoughts, dilemmas, analyze the results of the performed activities, define and agree on future actions, and so on. These meetings are attended by five to 10 members of the coordinating team.

VI Video activism:

Video activism includes creation of video material related to feminist approach to justice; it also includes translation and subtitling of documentaries about the experiences of non-violent movement against impunity, regarding crimes of neo-liberal economic globalization, and so on.

In the period covered by this report, following documentaries were created:

- Women's Court – feminist approach to justice (8,33 minutes) – video on process of organizing the Women's court so far;
- We will never forget crimes in Vukovar (3,55 minutes) – peace action of Women in Black on November 18th 2013 in Belgrade, and in occasion of 22nd anniversary of downfall of Vukovar;
- Solodarity with feminists of Spain (2,10 minutes) – film shows the street protest action organized by the Women in Black in Belgrade (on February 12th), in front of the Embassy of Spain, in support to women of Spain in their fight to preserve the right to abortion;
- Solidarity with asylum seekers (6,00 minutes) – film shows the street action organized by Women's Roma Network of Banat, Reconstruction Women's Fond and Women in Black, in occasion of December 10th – Day of Human Rights, as solidarity with the asylum seekers. It also shows the visit to the Center for asylum seekers in Bogovadja (on December 26th 2013).
- Stop femicide (3,34 minute) – performance by Women in Black on December 6th 2013 on Republic Square in Belgrade, in occasion of the Day of Fight against Femicide.

V Publishing activities:

The aim is to deepen the knowledge needed for the process of organizing Women's Court-feminist approach to justice, healing, readers, etc.

In this reporting period the publishing unit, the press came out the following things:

Reader- feminist ethics of responsibility: it is consisted of 195 pages and three chapters: *Not in our name, Do not let them fool us, I am disobedient therefore I am responsible.* The Reader contains the following articles: Stasa Zajovic-always disobedient: Feminist Ethics -resistance of

Women in Black, Adrienne Rich-Notes regarding politics of location, Yvonne Deutch-Can we in the midst of conflict overcome the relationship occupied-occupiers? Reflections of the occupier who resists, Zarana Papic-The war in Kosovo-feminist politics and fascism in Serbia, Athena Athanasiou-Poetics of Resistance and the political courage of Women in Black, Adriana Zaharijevic-Feminism and pacifism in Serbia/the question of responsibility, Nenad Dimitrijevic-The construction of collective crime and moral responsibility, Dasha Duhacek-Responsibility:Hana Arent and Karl Jaspers, Lepa Mladjenovic-A letter to Igballe Rogova:Notes on our lesbian bodies within our heteronormative states, Igballe Rogova:A letter to Lepa, my feminist mentor, Primo Levi-`The sank and the saved` and `Is this a man?`. Jean Ameri - `Beyond guilt and reparation.,` Ivan Milenkovic-`Giorgio Agamben-Biopolitics and the paradox,` Roberto Espozito-`Nazism and We.` The reader is edited by Stasa Zajovic and Milos Urosevic.

Collection of articles by Rada Ivekovic, contains 42 pages. Some of the articles are following: Before and after, Feminism, nation and state in production of knowledge 1989, How to think of violence and how to decipher the knowledge of it: in support of Women's Court, and were prepared for the meeting of potential witnesses for Women's Court in Andrevlje.

- Fascicule Women's Court: a feminist approach to justice
- Fascicule for feminist discussion circle
- Transcript of meeting for potential witnesses for the Women's Court: feminist approach to justice – Lipik – from January 24th to 26th, contains 16 pages
- Transcript of meeting for potential witnesses for the Women's Court: feminist approach to justice – Andrevlje – March 21st to 23rd, contains 32 pages

VIII Artistic and activist engagement-street actions

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

- Street actions:
- **27th of February, Belgrade-`We remember crime in Strpce`** - peace action was organized in occasion of anniversary of crimes committed in Strpce: the abduction of 19 passengers of Bosnian nationality on the Belgrade – Bar railroad, on February 27th in 1993, in the train 671. The action was organized in front of Belgrade's main railway station and approximately forty (**40**) activists took part in it. Along with the Women in Black, the action was attended by representatives of the Humanitarian Law Center and Youth Initiative for Human Rights.
- **8ht of March, Beograd-`Women-work-hunger-get rid of giving us flowers and give us back our companies.`** The marsh was directed against endangering labor rights of women (less paid, first among expelled form their jobs, unemployed...), against neo liberal model of capitalism, as well as the devastating impact of the church and certain laws on reproductive rights of women. Street marsh to mark the International Women's Day. It took place all over city's main streets and was organized by Women in Black, supported by Reconstruction Women's Fund. The marsh ended at the Centre for Cultural Decontamination, where a group of young activists from Vlasotince carried out a

performance. The marsh was attended by **200** people, mostly activists of Women in Black Network, from all over Serbia.

- **21st of March, Belgrade, `Stop racism-solidarity with asylum seekers`:** Peace action on the Republic square due to International Day of fight against racism and antisemitism and it was dedicated to solidarity with asylum seekers in Serbia. The action was attended by approximately twenty (**20**) persons.
- **26th of March, Belgrade-We remember crimes in Kosovo:** Women in Black peace action concerning fifteen years of crimes by Serbian armed formations over Albanian civilian population. It was organized in cooperation with Art Clinics from Novi Sad. The action gathered **35** participants.

This report was prepared by: Stasa Zajovic and Milos Urosevic,
with support of Nela Pamukovic, Rada Boric, Biserka Momcinovic, Stanojka Tesic.

Belgrade, April 2014
Women in Black