

Why do we want to organize Women's Court?

Because the institutional legal system does not satisfy justice, neither at the international nor national level; this is particularly true for the countries of former Yugoslavia, where political elites invest a huge effort to get around justice, or sacrifice the interests of justice for political interests and maintenance of power;

Because, through the Women's Court, women become subjects of justice, encouraged to create different legal practices and influence institutional legal system.



Because Women's Court is a space for women's voices and women's testimonies about the daily injustices suffered during the war and now, in peace; At Women's Courts, women testify about the violence in the private and public spheres.



Because Women's Court encourages the strengthening of networks of mutual support and solidarity, and the creation of strong autonomous women's movement.

Because Women's Court encourages the creation of different-feminist concepts of responsibility, care and security, in order to build a just peace.

What do we want to achieve by organising Women's Court?

We encourage women to testify about all kinds of structural injustice: poverty, exploitation at the workplace and everywhere, uncontrolled rule of market laws, social and health threats, and abuse of religion for political purposes...



We write alternative history: through publications that inform about the experiences of previous Women's Courts and Tribunals, and that collect our experiences related to the organisation of the Women's Court for the former Yugoslavia;



We strengthen global feminist-pacifist alliances and coalitions: in order to bring punishment to violence and crimes, to influence the international institutions of justice, to start making documents and resolutions based on everyday experiences of injustice against women and all those with diminished social, economic, and political power.

What activities will be organised before the Women's Court?

Educational field work: seminars, workshops, conferences, and round tables...

Interactive field research, in order to gather information and proposals about the concept and the vision of justice, and in order to determine the topics Women's Court should deal with.

Core groups, as support to the Women's Court: coalitions of CSO activists, media representatives, artists, and the members of the art institutions.

Public work meetings, in order to present the initiative for the organisation of the Women's Court for the Former Yugoslavia.

Screenings of the documentaries about women's experiences with similar Courts at the international level, and about the experiences of women's groups and networks related to the feminist approach to justice.

Artistic events: theatrical performances, exhibitions, performances...

Website and newsletter about different experiences related to the organization of the Women's Court.

We will organize Women's Court for the former Yugoslavia (within the next two years) as a space for testifying and for the voices of women, for the autonomy of women, through their active participation in building justice and peace, in order to create new paradigms of justice.

History of the Initiative for organising Women's Court for the former Yugoslavia

Activists of civil society organizations, members of the Initiative Board for Women's Court for the former Yugoslavia, have been most active, from the beginning of the wars (1991), in resisting to war, nationalism, ethnic homogeneity, and militarism. Despite the obstacles and restrictions imposed by nationalist-militarist regimes, activists have continuously maintained cooperation, and have created peace networks, across national and ethnic boundaries and divisions. After the wars, CSO activists - human rights defenders and activists in peace and autonomous women's movement - were the most active against impunity, and in providing help and support to the victims of war crimes, in actions against the denial of war crimes and against the relativisation of the crimes committed in the recent past, as well as in creating feminist models of transitional justice.

At the end of 2010, members of the Initiative Board, organisations Women to Women (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Center for Women's and Peace Education Anima (Montenegro), Center for Women War Victims and Center for Women's Studies (Croatia), Women's Network (Kosovo) and Center for Women's Studies and Women in Black (Serbia), have started the initiative for the Women's Court for the former Yugoslavia.

Women in Black are the partner organisation that coordinates all the activities related to the organisation of Women's Court, in cooperation with abovementioned organisations, members of the Initiative Board.

Women in Black's Feminist approach to Transitional Justice

Since the beginning of Women in Black's work, this issue is one of the most important segments of our peace politics.


Feminist approach to transitional justice do not negate existing models of transitional justice and institutional mechanisms of justice, it rather tends to amend this issue, and include gender dimension in the theory and practice of justice, and above all to create new models of justice.



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**WOMEN'S COURT
FOR THE FORMER
YUGOSLAVIA**

