

The CURE Foundation Newsletter  
"She didn't ask for it!"



First edition

Welcome to the first CURE Foundation Newsletter highlighting events and news from our community during the period January - March 2021

Enjoy reading and stay in touch!

1. CURE - PROJECTS

Global Fund for Women - Integrated securities for women

The aim of the project is to present a new model of creating security, to identify threats that marginalized groups of women (young activists, women's rights activists, women from the Police Network) face on a daily basis, and to map strategies for sustainability and survival. Security risks for activists and marginalized groups of women can be physically, emotionally and spiritually harmful, and permeate every aspect of life (body, mind, spirit, family, community, organization, etc.).

We organized a workshop "Integrated Securities for Women" which was attended by members of the Network of Police Officers. We are delighted that we have managed to create space to determine the organizational and personal strengths necessary to develop the concept of integrated security.



Participants in the workshop "Integrated Securities for Women"

Women Human Rights Advocates

During the project "Women Human Rights Advocates", funded by the European Union and implemented by the CURE Foundation (CURE) and the Women's Empowerment Foundation (FWE), we intend to contribute to the promotion and respect of women's rights through programs that encourage women and

young women to take affirmative action to eradicate all forms of discrimination in BiH with a special focus on minority and marginalized groups of women in ten (10) municipalities. The project lasts two (2) years and within it we will work on strengthening the capacity of ten (10) organizations: Association of Citizens Psychological Center *Sense* from Banja Luka, Association of Women *Maja Kravica* from Bratunac, Association of Citizens *Probudi se* (Wake up) Istočno Sarajevo, Association of Women Roma Women (*Romkinje*) Bijeljina, Women's Association *Pašinke* together with the Association Safe Place (*Sigurno mjesto*) from Zavidovići, Women's Association *Nera Konjic*, Association Women's Vision (*Ženska vizija*) from Tuzla, *Active Women Donje Moštre* from Visoko, Women's Association *Vrba Mostar* and Women's Association *Heart and Soul (Srce i duša)* Prokosovići, Lukavac. We will also make recommendations for a better position of women that will be promoted in institutions at the local level.

In the first year (2021) of the project implementation, we will work with five (5) NGOs in their local communities, and in the second year (2022) with the other five (5), also in their local communities.

Zagovaranje za ženska prava  
Women Human Rights Advocates



The overall objective is to promote and protect women's rights through actions aimed at encouraging women's participation in suppression of all forms of discrimination in BiH.

The specific objective is to strengthen the capacity of women's civil society organizations (WCSO), activists and advocates with a focus on minority and marginalized groups of women in BiH.

### Activist Legacy - Stories of Women Behind the Conflict and Crisis in the Western Balkans

Podcasts dedicated to the stories and promotion of women activists, as well as their joint achievements and successes, will be produced in Belgrade and Sarajevo. This will be a special opportunity to hear the voices and experiences of women about their struggle both in private and public life and during the COVID 19 pandemic.

### Activist IT empowerment of women's associations

Through cooperation with the Women's Empowerment Foundation, the CURE Foundation introduced women's organizations to capacity building in the online sphere of activity and how to present themselves through social networks, as well as which tools can be useful to such associations. As part of the initiative, it is planned to raise awareness of the importance of using online tools and platforms, and how to present basic information about association and its work. Until the end of March, one-day workshops were organized for women's organizations, which the Women's Empowerment Foundation supports through the agenda "Never quit living the life" in Konjic, Mostar, Zavidovići, Lukavac (Prokosovići) and Visoko.



February 23, 2021 - members of the Women's Association NERA, Konjic



February 25, 2021 - members of Active women Donje Moštre, Visoko



March 19 and 20, 2021 - members of the Daily Center for Social Welfare Kuća otvorenog srca and the Women's Association VRBA, Mostar



March 24, 2021 - members of the Women's Association Srce i duša Prokosovići / Lukavac

### Advocating for women's rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina

With the support of the Swedish feminist Foundation Kvinna till Kvinna, the CURE Foundation continues with advocacy activities to improve the position of women and girls in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the next #24 months, our primary focus will be on digital advocacy through the processing of #20 topics that directly relate to issues affecting the position of women in BiH. We will discuss education, employment, eco-feminism, self-care, violence against women, women's rights and other pressing issues. We will have the opportunity to work in the #4 local community where we will support women's rights defenders in defining local advocacy plans. As part of our commitment to

the economic empowerment of women survivors of violence, we will continue our advocacy activities aimed at creating inclusive employment policies, and we will develop a practical handbook on inclusive employment policies.

### Capacity building of the Women's Network of BiH

With the support of the TRAG and OAK Foundation, the CURE Foundation, as a coordinating organization, continues to build the capacity of the organizations which are the members of the BiH Women's Network. Through the award of grants for technical support of the organization, members will have the opportunity to strengthen their internal capacities, and they will be able to participate in a workshop on capacity building. We will organize our annual advocacy conference where the emphasis will be on issues of violence against women and how members of the WNBiH can directly in their local community support women who have survived any form of violence and discrimination. Our website [www.zenskamreza.ba](http://www.zenskamreza.ba) will continue to provide an opportunity and information to all those working to raise awareness about women's rights, and we will promote our answers to burning issues that directly affect the rights of women and girls in BiH.

## 2. CURE INITIATIVE Covid 19 solidarity



**“ZAUSTAVIMO RODNO  
ZASNOVANO NASILJE”**

„Kad dom ne znači sigurnost!“

At a time of global pandemic caused by COVID 19, extraordinary circumstances, increased stress and fear for the future, the CURE

Foundation, through its COVID19 solidarity action, supported invisible and vulnerable women and their families in our society. Through our COVID 19 solidarity action #TiNisiSama (You are not alone), members of the CURE Foundation team visited our beneficiaries in their homes, and donated to them a certain type of material support and hygiene products. Fully aware that the institutions of the system failed to include in protection and support measures those who were pushed to the margins of society even in normal life circumstances, we also supported elderly women, single parents, Roma women, parents of children with disabilities and oncology patients. Here are some of the comments made by women who received support:

"It was Ramadan, the most beautiful month of the year, and I was alone, sad, locked in the house. It was hard for me, really hard. I could hardly eat, I fasted, I worshiped, I mostly watched TV.

No one visited me and I didn't go anywhere. I mostly sat on the terrace, when the weather was nice. The volunteers of the Center for Healthy Aging, whom I had previously called by phone, brought me food products to the door. I communicated with friends by phone and that made me happy. The most important thing is that I was in good health, without psychological problems.

I received one package from the municipality consisting of three kilograms of detergent, one liter of oil, a mask and gloves. I also received a donation from the CURE Foundation, a voucher worth 50,00 KM, a phone card worth 20,00 KM, masks, gloves and sanitary napkins. I am very grateful to the municipality and the CURE Foundation."

\*\*\*\*\*

"In the first days of isolation in the house, I was desperate. Over time, I adjusted, finding more time to write poetry and stories. To get myself out of this trouble, I wrote three poems and a story from the time I was a teenager. I called the story "Platonic Love". In addition to writing, I cleaned the house. I also have a garden so I was doing gardening and tended the flowers. The roses bloomed and I enjoyed watching them. Thanks to my smartphone, I spent a lot of time on FB, Viber and

Messenger so I was in touch with my friends and the grandson I adore."

\*\*\*\*\*

"During the isolation in the house, I felt good. I did exercise every day, painted, played "table" tennis in such a way that I hit the closet with a ball. I made masks, dressed comically and took my various funny photos, which I sent to my friends to boost their morale."

\*\*\*\*\*

### 3.CURE - AClIONES

March 8 standing - The CURE Foundation organized a daily and evening activist standing on the occasion of March 8 - International Women's Day in order to draw attention to the fact that even in times of "peace", in times without natural disasters and pandemics, women's lives are not safe, and with any social or natural disaster, the rights and safety of women and girls are further compromised.



### Online campaign

The CURE Foundation organized an online campaign to draw attention to the violence and problems faced by women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and how much stereotypes,

prejudices and patriarchal heritage have influenced the creation of a society that is tolerant of violence and discrimination.

It is important to understand that:  
#NasiljeSeDešavaSvimŽenama! (Violence happens to all women!)

#NePostojiOpravdanjeZaNasilje! (There is no justification for violence!)

#NasiljeSeTičeSvih! (Violence refers all!)

#ŽenskoTijeloNePripadaMuškarcima! (A woman's body does not belong to men!)

#ŽeneNisuTražile! (Women didn't ask!)

#NijeOdgovornostNaŽeni! (It is not the responsibility of a woman!)

#ŽenaNijeKrivaZaNasilje! (The woman is not to blame for the violence) and #NisiSama - You are not alone because always, wherever there is oppression, there is resistance.

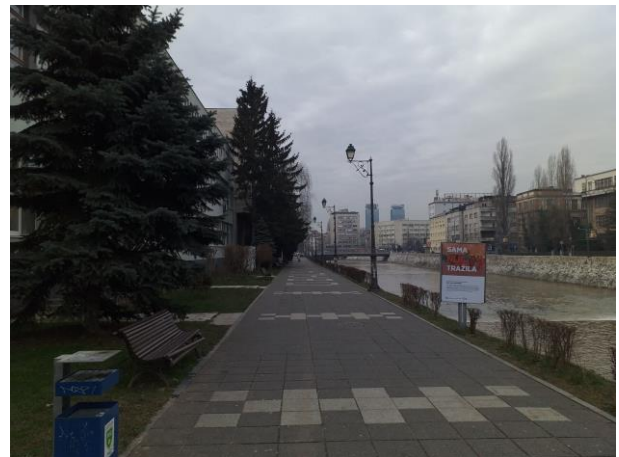
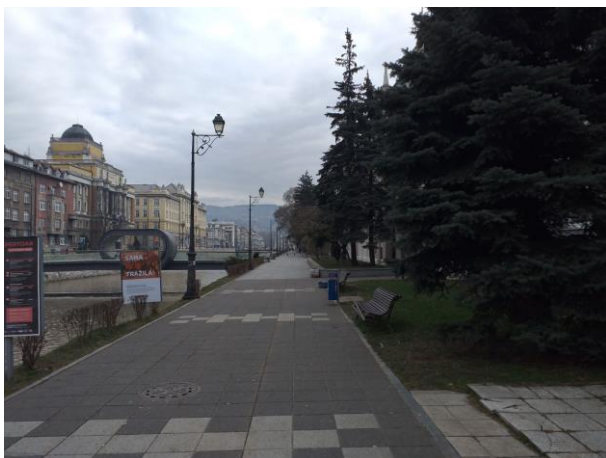
We shall never accept that we ourselves have asked that our lives and bodies be decided by anyone but ourselves. And we are not alone - #NismoSame, our driving energy in the revolution was created due to oppressive traditional policies, fascism, clerical fascism, nationalism and patriarchy.

### Exhibition

The exhibition marking March 8 contained seven posters, placed along Obala Kulina Bana.

The theme of the posters was related to the central message, which reads: "She didn't ask for it!"

By emphasizing the different messages on each poster, the importance of zero tolerance towards violence against women and girls was pointed out separately.



The video is available at:

<https://youtu.be/6dyntJT7rGc>

### Declaration on Zero Tolerance for Violence

The CURE Foundation was established with the aim of creating a society in which violence, discrimination and hatred are not tolerated. Through its fifteen years of work, the CURE Foundation promotes a culture of nonviolence to contribute to a better quality of daily life of women and other minority and marginalized groups. The members of the CURE Foundation, although completely different, are united around a single position, which is that there is no compromise with violence. We are really shocked by the recent statement of actress Milena Radulović, but we are also proud of Milena and all the other women and girls who have come out in public and found the courage to talk about violence, sexual harassment and rape. That is why, due to the support for #NisamTrazila and for the entire movement of women and girls who raised their voices, we decided to make a public declaration on ZERO tolerance for violence.



**REASON FOR VIOLENCE** - The causes of violence are not alcohol, drugs, choice of partner, place and time where the violence took place or is taking place. The reason for violence can be found by discovering its cause. The causes of violence lie in the patriarchal system, which is often a reflection and domination of male power. The essence of all forms of violence is the abuse of power and the need to control women and women's bodies. Patriarchy, sexism and violence survive because of a network of people who allow this to happen by ignoring, not reacting and seeking justification for the perpetrators.

**IT HAPPENS TO ALL WOMEN** - Violence against women is a direct product of patriarchal society and therefore can happen to any woman regardless of age, socio-economic status, level of education, place of residence, personal appearance, way of dressing, and it happens in public, private and virtual space. Violence is perpetrated by known, unknown persons, partners as well as family members.



#FondacijaCURE #8mart #ženskaprava  
**#TAMO GDJE JE OPRESIJA, TU JE I OTPOR**

Koliko god nas ugnjetavali, prigušili, potisnuli, ignorisali, mučili ili/i prozivali ponižavajućim imenima opresivni sistem iznjedrj snažne i hrabre žene, djevojke i djevojčice koje bez obzira na eru, kulturu, politiku pokazuju otpor. Žene koje će javno reći istinu o svom iskustvu nasilja, žene koje će zahtijevati slobodu za sebe i za sve žene. Žene koje kreiraju pokrete solidarnosti i podrške za sve žene. Pokrete koji nastaju iz potrebe da se konačno progovori o seksualnom uznemiravanju i seksualnom zlostavljanju kojeg žene trpe u javnom prostoru.

fondacijacure/curefoundation **CURE**

*Poster from the street exhibition #SamaNijeTražila ("She didn't ask for it") on the occasion of the March 8 activities designed by Tanja Čurić for the CURE Foundation*

**THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR VIOLENCE** - As long as women who experience violence are questioned (why she did not do something, why she was there, why she wore a mini skirt, why she did not shout, etc.), sexism and violence are justified, and there is no social, and often no legal condemnation. The moment when the sentence: "The perpetrator, sexist, bully is guilty and there is no justification for such behavior!" becomes the norm, we will be ready to embark on a new part of history in which women will be primarily encouraged to react publicly, but also not to be blamed for it.

**IT CONCERNS EVERYONE** - Patriarchal attitudes try to place all forms of violence against women in the private sphere. By not talking about violence, we allow and forgive violence. We minimize the consequences of violence against women. We give social permission to perpetrators and rapists to continue the violence. "Personal is political" and that is why the fight against violence should be part of the public sphere. We are going to encourage each other to talk about it, because that is how we oppose violence together.

**VIOLENCE AND SEXISM ARE NOT JOKES** - Sexists, perpetrators and those who support them often use "jokes" to express their sexism, so that sexual harassment and violence are not taken seriously. "Sexist jokes" normalize sexism, violence, discrimination, and violence becomes the norm in society that motivates the perpetrator to continue with violent acts.

**A WOMAN'S BODY DOES NOT BELONG TO MEN)** - The treatment of the female body as a sexual object merged with culture and tradition. A woman's body is the most politicized issue of social order (by which left and right wings politics differ). Women and their bodies are constantly the subject of large political differences. Men decide on behalf of women about their freedoms, lives, bodily autonomy, movement, dress, education, and rights to own themselves! A decision that should be an individual decision, without interference from the state or religious leaders, has led to women having to justify themselves for everything they choose to do with their lives or bodies, and when they are subjected to violence they have to justify themselves to society. Female bodies are an everyday battlefield. These are injured bodies screaming under various forms of violent acts.

#### **Cure - TORs**

TOR for Researcher(s) to conduct a needs assessment of women's rights to support advocacy actions related to the empowerment of marginalized groups of women and gender equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina -  
<https://fondacijacure.org/2021/02/6691/>

RESEARCHER FOR CONDUCTING RESEARCH AND DRAFTING BASELINE STUDY ON WOMEN'S ROLE IN PEACEBUILDING -  
<https://fondacijacure.org/2021/03/6755/>

TOR for Conducting needs assessment for Social research in support of advocacy campaigns related to empowerment of women and gender equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina -  
<https://fondacijacure.org/2021/02/6707/>

#### **4.CURE - ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Online presentation of the documentary "Dealing with the Restlessness and Peacebuilding from the Perspective of a Post-Dayton Woman" -  
<https://fondacijacure.org/2021/03/6738/>

Upcoming event

#### **PITCHWISE FESTIVAL**

**It is our great pleasure to announce the PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism, which will take place from 9 to 12 September 2021.**

**Until then, join us!**

**Follow us!**

Web: [www.fondacijacure.org](http://www.fondacijacure.org)

Instagram: @fondacijacure

Twitter: @Fondacija\_CURE

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/fondacijacure/>

YouTube: Fondacija CURE



#### **We would like to thank the donors in 2021!**

The European Union; Kvinna till Kvinna; Global Fund for Women; Foundation TRAG/Foundation OAK; Die Feministische Friedensorganisation CFD; Mediterranean Women's Fund; Heart and Hand Fund; Sigrid Rausing Trust; CARE International, Balkan Trust for Democracy (BTD); The United States Agency for International Development (USAID); Employment Service of Sarajevo Canton; Women's Empowerment Foundation

Thanks to the girls from Konjic, members of the Women's Association **Nera**, for knitting #pussyhat (hats) for members of the CURE team! You are great! We are ready for new street actions!

[#pussyhat](#) [#solidarno](#) [#nijenamhladno](#) [#feminizam](#) [#aktivizam](#)



Please email us at [info@fondacijacure.org](mailto:info@fondacijacure.org) if you would like us to add you to the CURE list or if you would like more information about our actions and initiatives.

Phone/Fax: +387 33 207 561

Address: Fondacija CURE (Kuća ljudskih prava), Dolina 1  
71000 Sarajevo

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Web: [www.fondacijacure.org](http://www.fondacijacure.org)