

THE CURE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

July/August/September 2021

She didn't ask for it!

Welcome to the third CURE Foundation Newsletter highlighting events and news from our community during the period July - September 2021

Enjoy reading and stay in touch!

THE CURE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 3

CURE - PROJECTS

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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 of 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.).

Women Human Rights Advocates

Monitoring the Implementation of State and International Laws Ensuring Women's Rights and Democracy, Neum, July 2021

The CURE Foundation and the Foundation for Women's Empowerment (FWE) from Sarajevo organized a three-day training entitled "Monitoring the Implementation of State and International Laws Ensuring Women's Rights and Democracy" in Neum as part of the European Union-funded Women Human Rights Advocates project. The training, which was attended by 30 women from ten organizations from ten local communities in BiH, was held in the summer. Participants had the opportunity to receive information about the women's movement in BiH, feminism and activism, networking of women's organizations, domestic and international legal framework for women's rights, institutional mechanisms for exercising women's rights, lobbying and advocacy, developing strategies and plans concerning minority and marginalized groups of women, and modalities of their implementation.

Monitoring the Implementation of State and International Laws Ensuring Women's Rights and Democracy, Neum, July 2021 Reports on advocacy processes in Tuzla were published for the Women's Association "Women's Vision", in Bijeljina for the Women's Association "Roma Women" and in Zavidovići for the Women's Association "Pašinke".

Women's Association "Women's Vision" Tuzla (<https://fondacijacure.org/2021/08/6980/>) The CURE Foundation and the Foundation for Women's Empowerment (FWE) from Sarajevo, in cooperation with the "Women's Vision" Association from Tuzla, and within the European Union-funded Women Human Rights Advocates project, created actions on advocacy processes to contribute to greater respect for women rights in Tuzla. For this purpose, affirmative actions that will be implemented in the coming period, with the aim of eradicating all forms of discrimination in BiH, have been mapped.

The workshop was attended by members of the Association "Women's Vision" from Tuzla and members of the Information Center for Persons with Disabilities Lotos from Tuzla.

Women's Association "Roma Women" Bijeljina (<https://fondacijacure.org/2021/08/6986/>) Advocacy actions in Bijeljina were created during the workshop "Capacity Building of Organizations for Institutional Development in Bijeljina" where participants spoke about the problems faced by women (especially minority and marginalized groups of women - Roma women in Bijeljina) such as gender inequality, early marriage, inadequate health system, inadequate institutional assistance to women, unemployment of women, especially Roma women, the presence of discrimination and violence against women and many other problems. These actions represent very concrete steps that members and representatives of the Association will implement with technical and full logistical assistance from representatives of the CURE Foundation and the FWE.

Women's Association "Pašinke" (<https://fondacijacure.org/2021/09/7037/>) In order to tackling the issues that were mapped at the workshop, advocacy actions were created together with the representatives of the Association "Pašinke" and the Association "Safe Place" from Zavidovići. The actions represent concrete steps that the members of the associations will implement with the technical and logistical assistance of the representatives of the CURE Foundation and the FWE. Affirmative actions that will contribute to greater respect for women's rights in Zavidovići and Hajdarevići will be implemented in the coming period, with a plan to eradicate all forms of discrimination 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.

The question of the achievements of activists from different backgrounds in various turbulent times in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Serbia is raised. We use various forms of communication to expand the audience on the topic of women's achievements during the war and conflict in the Western Balkans, and their transformation from individual activist women's collectives advocating for human rights through various practices: civil society organizations, artistic and cultural practices, academic communities.

Advocating for Women's Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina

With the support of the Swedish feminist Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, the CURE Foundation continues to use new technologies to advocate for women's rights. Our goal is to provide space for the continuous promotion of women's perspectives in relation to current socio-political issues by enabling direct communication with the audience during the live streaming of our digital events.

During this year, our focus is on topics related to self-care, economic empowerment of women and the problem of violence against women and girls. All recordings from our digital events will soon be available to the public on our YouTube channel!

Capacity Building of the Women's Network of BiH

In the past period, the Women's Network of BiH has focused its activities on strengthening the advocacy capacity through the technical improvement of our social platforms. Our website www.zenskamreza.ba continues to broadcast the latest news regarding the quality of life of women and girls in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and is a resource for all those who seek more information.

Our participation in meetings on advancing the position of women has led us to be invited to nominate for Constitutional Reform a state-level working body to discuss the perspectives of the new generations

Through the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Person of Trust

Three members of the CURE Foundation team joined the training for the Person of Trust Institute conducted by our friends from the Zenica Women's Rights Center. Through this training, the CURE Foundation continues to strengthen its capacities by improving the knowledge and competencies of its members in direct work with women.

Speak Up About Violence!

11. oktobar, Međunarodni dan d(ž)ivojčica

The CURE Foundation works to support, strengthen capacity and create a safer environment for a new generation of activists and feminists, for their responsible and active involvement in positive social change through education, research, analysis and public advocacy, improvement of women's media image and raising visibility, local and regional networking, engaged art, activism, and building an inclusive and sustainable women's movement.

The CURE Foundation, in cooperation with the Autonomous Women's Center from Belgrade, implements the project Speak Up About Violence! The goal is to strengthen different women of all ages who will act as bearers of positive social change, create a safe and positive environment to improve the quality of everyday life of women and other socially marginalized groups. The primary focus of the project is to make young girls (18-25 years old) feel safer from sexual and gender-based violence in youth relationships. By educating young people not to tolerate violence, by encouraging young women to be drivers of positive change, we create a safe space and a healthier environment. Moreover, we provide tools for different target groups to take responsibility and use power to stop gender-based violence. Various target groups (women's NGO, Youth Councils, youth associations and young women) that are part of the project's educational program will become initiators of various

activities and workshops with the aim of educating others about the problem of gender-based violence.

Through this project we create a safe space - private and public using various media tools (internet platforms, new media platforms, social networks, etc.) to empower young women to talk about gender-based violence in youth relationships.

The first set of workshops with the aim of educating future peer educators in Bosnia and Herzegovina was held in Belgrade. During the PitchWise Festival, a panel also entitled Mogu da neću (I Can Say No) was held. The panel was focused on the FB page of the CURE Foundation at the link: https://www.facebook.com/watch/permalink/?v=419704096154734&ref=watch_permalink in the period from October 10 to 13, 2021, a four-day Training for Trainers (TOT) was held as the second set of training for peer educators on gender-based violence in youth relationships.

As part of the Mogu da neću (I Can Say No) Campaign, the International Day of the Girl Child was also marked, and a promotional video was recorded with messages from peer educators from BiH and Serbia. The video is available at: <https://www.facebook.com/fondacijacure/videos/1753109823007374/>

Providing Rapid Response, Support and Integration for Asylum Seekers

In the past three months, the CURE Foundation, in cooperation with CARE International Balkans, has implemented an initiative aimed at strengthening the capacity and facilitating the process of integration of young women and girls into BiH society. The project provided them with an opportunity to try to get involved in BiH society by creating work habits and an atmosphere with continued support. The CURE Foundation always works to empower women, and thanks to this project we have created an excellent environment for a healthy, educational and diverse experience.

IT Empowerment of Women's Associations

Through cooperation with the Foundation for Women's Empowerment, 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 an association and its work.

Women Citizens for Constitutional Reform Initiative

The Initiative was launched by activists and organizations from all over BiH, which want to encourage all citizens to use their knowledge, energy and willingness to interact to contribute to meeting the goals of the Initiative.

As an informal group, the Initiative brings together 35 civil society organizations and activists that work continuously to understand the concepts of sex and gender, peace, freedom and human rights. They drafted a document entitled "Platform of Women's Priorities for Constitutional Reform and Amendments to the Constitution of BiH from a Gender Perspective" in which they advocate sensitization and changes to the Constitution from an egalitarian and legal with a vision to achieve gender parity and active participation of women and men in both private and public spheres of life in BiH.

Mission: The Initiative advocates that the BiH Constitution ensure greater protection of human rights and freedoms with a special focus on the gender perspective.

Vision: Gender-just Constitution of BiH for a society of equal rights and opportunities

The members of the Initiative Women Citizens for Constitutional Reform defined five priorities within the reform process of the Constitution of BiH, and drafted gender-sensitive Amendments on this basis.

These priorities are:

1. Application of the gender-sensitive language in the Constitution of BiH;
2. Introduction of affirmative measures in the Constitution of BiH in order to accomplish full sex and gender equality;
3. Amendments to the existing Constitution of Fundamental Rights with provisions regarding unique health, social and family care;
4. Affirmation of a higher level of judicial and legal protection of human rights and freedoms, and
5. Introduction of the principle of direct democracy in the process of constitutional reform.

Members of the Initiative believe that the reform of the Constitution of BiH must represent the consensus of not only political actors but also of all citizens on essential issues that define the future framework for a common life. Having this in mind, the constitutional reform process must include women as much as men.

Initiative for Monitoring the European Integration of BiH

An article written by members of the CURE Foundation Sabina Lizde, Vedrana Frašto and Medina Mujić was published in the Alternative Report on the Application of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the European Union Membership: Political Criteria. The report refers to the political criteria for EU membership and also contains Special Reports on the local elections in Mostar held in 2020 and the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on the protection and respect of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Link: <https://fondacijacure.org/2021/08/6964/>

CURE - ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES



* August 28, 2021 At the invitation of the Stolac City Orchestra, Jadranka Miličević spoke in front of 60 young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina, who were participants in the five-day camp "Sounds of the Future - multi-level capacity building model" held from 25 to 29 August 2021 in Stolac. With her speech, she motivated young people in terms of taking the initiative in building a responsible civil community, regardless of different identities and abilities. She also spoke about the need for a meaningful and creative approach to the protection of human rights.

* From 14 to 16 July 2021, a member of the CURE Foundation Team Denija Hidić participated in a training entitled "Public Advocacy in the Service of Social Change" organized by the Human Rights Support Mechanism (USAID / INSPIRE).

* Denija Hidić also participated in the final conference on the human rights of LGBTI people entitled "Freedom of Assembly in BiH: the current situation and how it should be", organized by the Sarajevo Open Center.

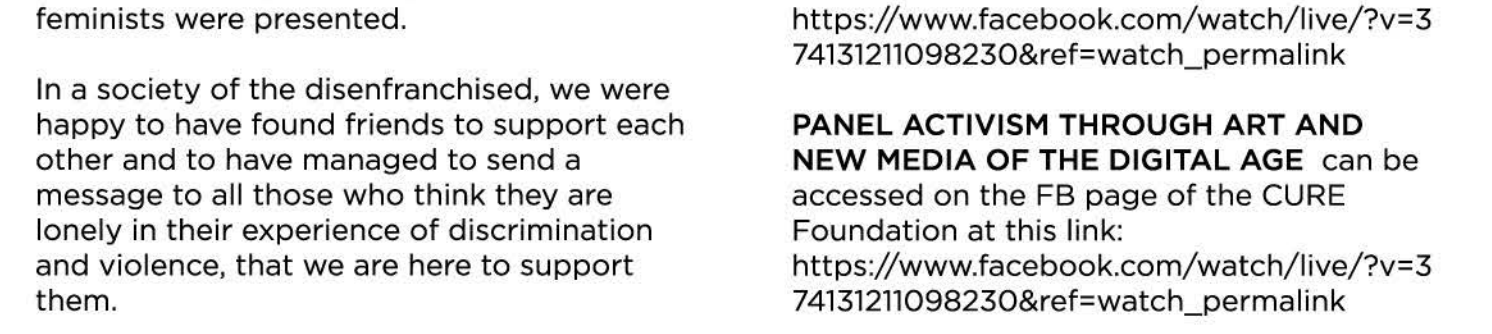
* Prof. dr. Marijana Šećibović and Denija Hidić on behalf of the CURE Foundation Team participate in the network "Contribution of the Academic Community to the Protection of Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina - CAHR Project".

* 02 to 05 August 2021, members of the CURE Foundation Team Jadranka Miličević, Stela Kovačević and Denija Hidić participated in the development of the Strategic Plan of the Foundation for Women's Empowerment.

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* Freedom to the People Festival The FROD EDUJCA team from Banja Luka was not only inspired by the idea of FREEDOM, but also by individuals from society who were guardians of flame, who adhered to ethical norms, who spoke freely even in the environment where freedom of speech was in jeopardy, and who fought for freedom when it was on the verge of signing the capitulation. For that very reason, our Jadranka Miličević, human rights activist, peacemaker and pioneer in the fight for women's rights in BiH and the region, has been honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award in the field of freedom of speech and expression by the Organizing Team.

PITCHWISE 2021 WE ARE NOT ALONE!



The CURE Foundation organized the sixteenth PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism through Feminist Theory and Practice from September 9 to 12, 2021 in Sarajevo.

This year's central theme of the PitchWise Festival was: **WE ARE NOT ALONE!**

We are very proud and delighted that this year we hosted over 300 people (in four days) both from the local community and from the region (Republic of Serbia and Montenegro). As part of this year's program, about 50 artists, theorists, activists and feminists were presented.

In a society of the disenfranchised, we were happy to have found friends to support each other and to have managed to send a message to all those who think they are lonely in their experience of discrimination and violence, that we are here to support them.

Our strength grows out of every woman, no matter how loud or quiet, whether we have just raised our voice or have been doing it for years, no matter how we raise our voice, regardless of experience and motivation - WE ARE NOT ALONE!

We are proud to have gathered a large team of volunteers who have dedicated their time to all of us and that we have had strong media support, support from sister organizations, and donors who have realized how important it is to provide support to such unique feminist events.

Thanks to the technology, people who couldn't come to PitchWise could still attend the festival, as all the panels and most of the events during the Festival were covered by live streaming. Therefore, you are still able to "therefore, you are still able to watch the following content:

PANEL REBEL WRITERS can be accessed on the FB page of the CURE Foundation at this link: https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=318565276705081&ref=watch_permalink

PANEL MOGU DA NEĆU! (I Can Say No) can be accessed on the FB page of the CURE Foundation at this link: https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=419704096154734&ref=watch_permalink

PANEL WE WHO RAISE OUR VOICE! can be accessed on the FB page of the CURE Foundation at this link: https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=3741312110982300&ref=watch_permalink

PANEL ACTIVISM THROUGH ART AND NEW MEDIA OF THE DIGITAL AGE can be accessed on the FB page of the CURE Foundation at this link: https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=3741312110982300&ref=watch_permalink

Promotion of the book **Život bez kompromisa za umetnost i mir** (Life without compromise for art and peace) can be accessed on the FB page of the CURE Foundation at this link: https://www.facebook.com/watch/permalink/?v=383147919950649&ref=watch_permalink

In the period from 9 to 19 September, 2021, works of art were exhibited in the History Museum of BiH as part of the exhibition **The Art of Anti-War** by curator Ana Simona Zelenović. The following artists were presented: Alma Gačanin, Darija S. Radaković, Ivana Ivković, Tomislav Pavelić, Ivana Smiljanić, Lala Raščić, Lana Čmajčanin, Marina Marković, Milica Rakić, Sanja Latinović, Sanja Iveković, Sejla Kamerić, Milica Tomić, Tanja Ostojčić and Alma Suljević.

Podcast: The announcement of the 16th PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism is available on the CURE Foundation's FB page at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBH8PG8k_k4

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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; Foundation for Women's Empowerment