

# THE CURE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

July/August/September 2022

## Third edition in 2022

Welcome to the new CURE Foundation Newsletter highlighting events and news from our community during the period July - September 2022.

Enjoy reading and let's stay in touch!

## Women Human Rights Advocates



\*A three-day EU training in Neum for five local organizations, August 24-26, 2022, Sunce hotel

Women Human Rights Advocates is a project funded by the European Union and implemented by the CURE Foundation and the Foundation for Women's Empowerment (FWE). In 2022, we cooperate with the following local organizations: the Association of Women "Nera" from Konjic, the Association "Sara-Srebrenica" from Srebrenica, the Association of Women "Vrba" from Mostar, the Association of Citizens "Psychological Center Sense" from Banja Luka and the Association of Women "Srce i Duša" from Prokosovići.

As part of the Project, the CURE Foundation (CURE) and the Foundation for Women's Empowerment (FWE) organized a multi-day training for women's rights defenders and activists on the topic of "Women's Rights, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment".

The participants in the training were representatives of five associations from Mostar, Konjic, Prokosovići, Banja Luka and Srebrenica for which advocacy plans were prepared in the previous period. They discussed the state of advocacy plans and the process of their implementation in five local communities, as well as the creation of strategies and plans at the municipal level that concern minority and marginalized groups of women. Furthermore, they discussed how to present themselves to the public, how to organize a campaign on social networks, how to achieve cooperation with institutions, and what is the role of the non-governmental sector in society.

# Advocacy for Women's Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina



\* Digital advocacy - PW festival announcement, September 7, 2022  
\*Advocating for women's rights, KtK workshop in Mostar, August 5, 2022  
\*Meeting with Johan Sattler, September 6, 2022

In our advocacy efforts to improve the position of women and girls, we learn from the best! Our cooperation with the donor partner organization Kvinna till Kvinna from Sweden includes networking with great women as well as learning about other cultures and political systems.

## Digital Advocacy

We continue with a new series of online digital advocacy events, which we realize as part of the "Advocacy for Women's Rights" Project, which is supported by the Swedish feminist foundation "Kvinna till Kvinna"! On Wednesdays, from 6:00 p.m., from the digital studio of the CURE Foundation, with the prior announcements on social networks, you can follow us on our social media as we talk to experts in the field of gender equality, violence against women, economic empowerment of women, self-care and many other current topics important for the position of women and girls in Bosnia and Herzegovina!

## KtK workshop, Mostar

At the beginning of August 2022, we held a great workshop in Mostar on advocating for the improvement of the position of women and girls in local communities. It was our pleasure to talk about local initiatives, activism and topics that are important for women in the local community. We talked about women's solidarity and ideas for joint actions in the coming period.

## Women's Advocacy Group - visit to the EU delegation

In September 2022, the Women's Advocacy Group of BiH, in which the CURE Foundation actively participates, presented to Ambassador Johann Sattler recommendations for the next annual report of the European Commission on BiH, which he will present to the competent EU institutions in Brussels in November. The recommendations are the result of the continuous work of defenders of women's rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina and our joint efforts to improve the position of women and girls in our country. Together with other women's groups from Bosnia and Herzegovina, we continue to advocate for strengthening the position of women and girls in our country!

# Feminism did not wage wars



\*A Woman with a Political Mandate

\*Promotion of the publication in Tuzla, September 24, 2022

\*Promotion of the publication in Sarajevo, September 26, 2022

\*Promotion of the publication in Banja Luka, September 27, 2022

\*Promotion of the publication in Brčko, September 28, 2022

\*Promotion of the publication in Mostar, September 29, 2022

The CURE Foundation implements the project "Feminism Did Not Wage Wars" with the financial support of the HBS Bosnia and Herzegovina Foundation. The goal of the project is to point out the various challenges faced by women who wanted to be politically active and to contribute to building a better future of Bosnia and Herzegovina. By implementing this project, we want to help and support all women who want to, regardless of the obstacles and problems they encounter, take a step forward and be active participants in political and social life.

As part of the project activities, the publication "A Woman with a Political Mandate - Experience Guidebook with blank pages to be written" was written. It contains testimonies of women who were active politicians about the problems they

encountered during their work, as well as about who supported them. The challenges they were exposed to during the election campaigns left physical and psychological consequences on their bodies and their souls, and one of the goals of the project is to shed light on various aspects of these consequences.

On this occasion, five promotions of the publication were organized in Sarajevo, Tuzla, Banja Luka, Brčko and Mostar in order to provide women who are politically engaged with support and mechanisms so that they do not give up politics and therefore understand the importance of their active political activity for all citizens of BiH.

# Economic Empowerment

Since 2021, the CURE Foundation has been implementing the Advocacy for Women's Rights project in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is supported by the Swedish Kvinna Till Kvinna Foundation. "Feminist advocacy activities for economic empowerment and socio-economic support measures for most marginalized groups of women" form a separate part of the Project. The goal of the project is the development of adequate strategies and the adoption of institutional measures for the economic empowerment of marginalized groups of women, with a special emphasis on women who survived domestic violence in the FBiH.

In the previous period, we contributed to the writing of the 2021 Alternative Report on Bosnia

and Herzegovina's Progress on the Road to the European Union Membership: Political Criteria ([https://eu-monitoring.ba/site/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/BHS\\_FINAL\\_WEB-1.pdf](https://eu-monitoring.ba/site/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/BHS_FINAL_WEB-1.pdf)) in the Social Policy and Employment Chapter - " Women's Participation in the Labour Market – Employment and Gender Equality".

On August 11, 2022, we held a meeting with Dino Pehlić and Emina Dizdarević from the Danish Refugee Council (DRC BiH) on the economic empowerment of women and institutional mechanisms. We got acquainted with the further steps that the DRC will take when designing work activities with women including the topics of economic independence and competitiveness on the labor market.

## Movement-Led Approach, Gender Justice



The CURE Foundation carrying out the Movement-Led Approach (MLA) launched by Global Fund for Women in the Western Balkans region to support the Gender Justice Movement in responding to the rise of the anti-gender movement in the region. CURE Foundation for Global Fund for Women is conducting a study about the current state of organizing for Balkan's feminist and activist collective actions and movements with a focus on Gender Justice

which will show current state of feminist movements mobilizing against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and anti-gender justice movements in eight (8) countries: the Western Balkans countries (the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, the Republic of North Macedonia, the Republic of Montenegro, the Republic of Serbia), the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Slovenia.

# Women and Peacebuilding in Bosnia and Herzegovina



\*Women and Peacebuilding, workshop in Mostar, August 6, 2022

\*Women and Peacebuilding, workshop in Lipnica/Tuzla, August 28, 2022

\* PANEL The Fearless Heroines of Peace, September 9, 2022

The project "Women and Peacebuilding in Bosnia and Herzegovina" aims to raise awareness of citizens about the need to include women in all phases of peace negotiations and peacebuilding.

The project is based on the recommendations of the research "Dealing with Restlessness and Peacebuilding from the Perspective of a Post-Dayton Woman" and provides an opportunity to include young women, middle-aged and elderly women, members of minority and marginalized groups, returnees, women survivors of violence and discrimination, asylum seekers, children born of wartime rape and all persons recognized as agents of positive change in the context of peace building in BiH.

In the past period, two workshops were held on the topic "Women and peace building in Bosnia and Herzegovina". The first workshop was held on August 6, 2022 in Mostar in cooperation with the "Home of the Open Heart" Day Center for women from Mostar and its surroundings. At the workshop, Štefica Galić, editor of the Tačno.net portal, Dražana Krezić, a fighter for women's rights, Sadeta Sefić from the Home of Open Heart Day Center and Jadranka Miličević, an activist from the CURE Foundation, spoke about their life experiences.

The second workshop was held in Tuzla in the local community of Lipnica in the premises of the Lipnica Solidarity House, at the Tuzla Culture Center. At the workshop, Amela Hajvaz, journalist and president of the "Women's Vision" Association, Mira Vilušić, a psychologist from "HO Horizonti" Tuzla, and Jadranka Miličević spoke about their life experiences. Both workshops were

very motivating, considering that all the participants had enough space to share their experiences with other women, and that their words/voices were heard. We are especially happy because we were joined by great women from Tešanj and Konjević Polje (Bratunac), for whom the kilometers and hours spent driving did not present any obstacle to participate in this activity.

At the PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism, a panel "Fearless Heroines of Peace" was organized as part of the WWDP. Delila Islamović, Aldijana Delić Musli, Ranka Katalinski and Tanja Mandić Đokić spoke on the panel, and Jasna Pekić moderated. The panel emerged as a result of the publication entitled "The Fearless Heroines of Peace" which focused on the individual contribution of women in building peace in the wider context of the implementation of the concept of Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Bearing in mind all the challenges faced by the society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as every woman, fighter for human rights, the panel, like the publication, had the purpose of illustrating the power of individuals who survived various forms of social torture and discrimination, and who managed to find strength to become leaders of the social change. Although the legacy of war often emphasizes the victimization of women, we should not lose focus from the great success that individual women have achieved and with which they have made a personal contribution to improving the status of women (or groups of people) within our society, but also to the development of society in general. The panel can be accessed on the FB page of the CURE Foundation at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AyBZehxntuU>

# Capacity Building of the Women's Network of BiH

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](http://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 two candidates for a state-level working body to discuss the perspectives of the new generations through the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

## Gender Sensitive Local Policies of the Municipality of Centar Sarajevo in the EU Accession Process

As part of the project "Gender Sensitive Local Policies of the Municipality of Centar Sarajevo in the EU Accession Process" implemented by the CURE Foundation and supported by Reactor - Research in Action and its partners through the Action "Furthering Gender Equality through the EU Accession Process" financed by the European Union and co-financed by the Swedish Agency for International Development and Cooperation, an Analysis of the Implementation of Gender Action Plan of the Municipality Centar Sarajevo for the period 2016-2018 with recommendations was prepared by the authors Brahim

Kajević and Sanja Petrović, and editor Joško Mandić. The main goal of an in-depth analysis of the LGAP is to evaluate the success of its implementation in the municipality of Centar Sarajevo with a special emphasis on the inclusion of socially vulnerable and marginalized groups of women, as well as the preparation and presentation of recommendations for a new LGAP with an incorporated gender perspective to relevant local actors. The Analysis is available at: [https://fondacijacure.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Reactor2022\\_analiza\\_final\\_web.pdf](https://fondacijacure.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Reactor2022_analiza_final_web.pdf)

*\* The contents of this post are the sole responsibility of the Cure Foundation and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union or the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.*

### **\*Public reaction of the CURE Foundation in order to show full support for the protest for the protection of young women and girls from sexual violence in Pristina (Kosovo)**

Protests by citizens of Kosovo have been going on for days in Pristina in order to express their revolt against sexual violence after the rape of an eleven-year-old girl in a park in Pristina. Protests were followed by demands to the Kosovo authorities. The song "Un violador en tu camino" was inspired by the work of anthropologist Rita Segato, who claims that sexual violence is a political, not a moral problem. The text of the song describes how the institutions - the police, the judiciary and the political structures of the government - support systematic violations of women's rights.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCs68cbLv44>

### **\*A public statement**

The CURE Foundation strongly condemns the sexist comments and personal insults publicly uttered during the 54th working session of the Sarajevo Canton Assembly, as well as during the working session of the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The statement is available at the link: <https://fondacijacure.org/fondacija-cure-ostro-osuduje-seksisticke-istupe-zastupnika-u-zakonodavnim-tijeli-ma-bosne-i-hercegovine-usmjerene-prema-zastupnicama/?fbclid=IwAR1hR1KUYvXzUDboBlzPZS97TGZmNzCLFKdLAS-0vu7RABoyl1prc31FLdc>

## CURE - NETWORKS

### **EFI network**



The CURE Foundation is a member of the EuroMed Feminist Initiative EFI - an advocacy network that includes women's rights organizations from both sides of the Mediterranean and advocates gender equality and women's rights as inseparable from building democracy and citizenship, political solutions to all conflicts and the right of peoples to self-determination. In the previous period, we had preparatory meetings for the strategic planning of the network. A member of the CURE Foundation currently holds the position of president of the network board.



# Women Citizens for Constitutional Reform Initiative



The Women Citizens for Constitutional Reform Initiative launched a promotional campaign to raise public awareness of the defects of the BiH Constitution and the importance of gender equality in all segments of life. "What Gender is the Constitution?" is the question posed by this campaign. For the purposes of the campaign, interesting video content, announcements and messages were created, and published on the Initiative's social networks in order to raise society's awareness of this very important topic.

On September 28, 2022, the members of the Initiative, the Association "HO Horizonti" and the CURE Foundation held a round table in Brčko with the aim of promoting the project "Women's Political Activism in the Tuzla Canton" and the

publication "A Woman with a Political Mandate - Experience Guidebook with blank pages to be written". Also, this was a great opportunity to present the Women Citizens for Constitutional Reform Initiative to the citizens of Brčko District.

A survey entitled "What do citizens think about the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina?"

More information on the activities of the Women Citizens for Constitutional Reform Initiative can be found at <https://gradjankezaustavnepromjene.wordpress.com/>

## Cooperation with ISCOS Emilia Romagna



\*ISCOS and networking with our dear friends from Italy, July 12, 2022

Our long-term cooperation with friends and partners from Reggio Emilia (Italy) was marked in July this year with an institutional partnership between the municipality of Centar Sarajevo and the municipality of Reggio Emilia from Italy.

On this occasion, we hosted the mayor and the delegation of the municipality of Reggio Emilia and thanked them for the many years of fruitful cooperation in protecting and improving the position of marginalized women and girls!

## CURE - SUPPORT

### Promotion of the autobiography "The Apology" by Eve Ensler



\*Eve Ensler and Rada Borić in Sarajevo, July 8, 2022

It was our pleasure to express solidarity and meet again with the icon of the feminist movement in the world and the initiator of the V-Day movement Eve Ensler and Rada Borić. We talk with them about solidarity within the feminist movement, the growth of right-wing policies in the world and our region, our life paths and freedom!



\*Solidarity with the members of the BiH Women's Network - distribution of food, Mravinjci, July 9, 2022

\*Srebrenica - Solidarity with Genocide Survivors, July 11, 2022

\*Elle and Morgan with members of the CURE Foundation Team, July 13, 2022

\*Sanna and Benjamin, August 23, 2022

\*Member of the German Bundestag Jasmina Hostert, August 18, 2022.

\*Mediterranean Women's Fund meeting, Paris, September 30, 2022

\*As every year, the activists and volunteers of the CURE Foundation responded to the invitation of UŽ JADAR from Konjević Polje and attended the distribution of food and refreshments for the participants of the Peace March 2022.

\*Nurturing the culture of memory, activists and volunteers of the CURE Foundation attend the commemoration of July 11 in Srebrenica as a sign of reverence for the innocent victims and solidarity with the survivors.

\*During the summer of 2022, two American students, Elle and Morgan, spent a month supporting the activities of the CURE Foundation. We are always happy to give young women the opportunity to learn from the experiences of more experienced activists. Solidarity and networking know no limits!

\*Solidarity with women and girls from Western Sahara  
Sanna and Benjamin, who will travel tens of thousands of kilometers by bicycle in the next two years to raise public awareness of the plight of women and girls in Western Sahara, came to visit the CURE Foundation. It was a pleasure to talk to them and express our solidarity!  
#bike4westernsahara #solidarityrising

\*The CURE Foundation together with the representative of the Sarajevo Open Center hosted the member of the German Bundestag Jasmina Hostert. We would like to thank her for her companionship and interest in the work of non-governmental organizations dealing with women's rights.

\*We attended the meeting of the Mediterranean Women's Fund in Paris. The purpose of this meeting was to start a collective reflection in the light of the development of the situation in the Mediterranean region and the strategies that need to be implemented, and to analyze the state of the women's movement in local and regional frameworks.

# PitchWise

Festival of Women's Art  
and Activism 2022



The CURE Foundation organized the seventeenth PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism, which began on Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., and ended on September 11, 2022 in the afternoon. The entire program was held in the premises of the BiH Historical Museum in Sarajevo, except for the theater performance, which took place in the Sarajevo War Theater SARTR.

We are very proud and happy that this year we hosted about 300 people (registered during the four days of the Festival) and an additional 200 people who came to the PW night program. The participants were from the local community, all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the region (Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia) and the world (Italy, France, Sweden). As part of this year's program, around 60 artists, theoreticians, activists and feminists participated in the Festival.





This year's central theme of the PitchWise Festival was:  
**FEMINISM DID NOT WAGE WARS – the Patriarchy did!**

We, the organizers of the PitchWise, are primarily peace activists who work wholeheartedly to build peace in BiH and around the world. We consider a political action to share our own experiences and the experiences of our sisters, friends and comrades in the war, post-conflict, and in the process of dealing with the past and building peace. We believe that women are the ones most affected by wars and the post-war period, although we never choose war ourselves. We are happy that we gathered a large team of volunteers who dedicated their time to us all, that we had media support as well as the support of sister organizations, and we are especially grateful to the donors who have realized how important it is to provide support to such unique feminist events.

Thanks to technology, people who couldn't participate to the PitchWise were still able to attend the Festival, as all panels and most festival events were covered by live streaming. Therefore, you can still watch the panels and book promotion:

PANEL **The Fearless Heroines of Peace** can be accessed on the FB page of the CURE Foundation at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AyBZehxntuU>

PANEL **Feminist Peace Movements in the World - Resistance to Patriarchy** can be accessed on the FB page of the CURE Foundation at this link:  
<https://www.facebook.com/fondacijacure/videos/386742146795764>

PANEL **How Patriarchy Works in War and in the Process of Building Peace - Stories of the Disenfranchised** can be accessed on the FB page of the CURE Foundation at this link:  
<https://www.facebook.com/fondacijacure/videos/482404173898391>

PANEL **Academic-activist, Peace and Feminist Approach with the promotion of the book Stories of Women Behind the Conflict and Crisis in the Western Balkans** can be accessed on the FB page of the CURE Foundation at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/fondacijacure/videos/572457087989182>

PANEL **Women Journalists on the Front Line** can be accessed on the FB page of the CURE Foundation at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/fondacijacure/videos/630277098701007>

## **PitchWise EXHIBITIONS**

In the period from September 8 to 11, 2022, the BiH Historical Museum exhibited artworks as part of the exhibition **We did not choose the war - Notes on women's battles in the wars waged by the patriarchy**, curated by Elma Hodžić.

The works of Ferida Duraković, Šejla Šehabović, Arma Tanović Branković, Aida Pašić, Adna Muslija and Rebeka Abdagić were exhibited.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**\*The publication/book "Fearless Heroines of Peace"** prepared by Jasna Pekić and Tajma Kapić and video materials produced by the CURE Foundation, authored by Sanel Hadžić.

**\*16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence** - The CURE Foundation, like every year, invites citizens, formal/informal groups and the media to join us in the street action that we are organizing on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on November 25, 2022. More information about this year's central theme and street action is available on the website and social networks of the CURE Foundation.



## Follow us! Join us!

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We would like to thank the donors in 2022!

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