

THE CURE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

October/November/December 2021

She didn't ask for it!

Welcome to the fourth CURE Foundation Newsletter highlighting events and news from our community during the period October - December 2021.

Enjoy reading and stay in touch!

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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 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.).

Women Human Rights Advocates

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.

On October 21 and 22, 2021, the CURE Foundation held a two-day training "Women's Rights, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment" in Jahorina for women's rights defenders and activists. The training was intended for active members of the five local organizations, namely the Women's Association "Women's Vision" from Tuzla, the Women's Association "Roma Woman" from Bijeljina, the Citizens' Association "Active Women of Donje Moštre", the Citizens' Association "Wake Up" from Istočno Sarajevo and the Women's Association "Pašinke" from Hajeirovići in cooperation with the Women's Association "Safe Place" from Zavidovići, which are all involved in the implementation of the project Women Human Rights Advocates. The two-day training focused on the following topics: the legal framework through the prism of multiple marginalized groups in BiH, lobbying for changes to the laws and lobbying for strategies and plans at the municipal level concerning minority and marginalized groups of women and their implementation.

The CURE Foundation has also published a Report on Advocacy Processes in Donji Moštre, which is available at the link: <https://fontacijacure.org/2021/10/1066/>

The CURE Foundation and the Foundation for Women's Empowerment (FWE) from Sarajevo, in cooperation with the "Active Women of Donje Moštre" Association from

Visoko, 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 Visoko. 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. There was discussion about gender (in)equality, the importance of improving infrastructure in the local community, strengthening the capacity of members of the Association "Active Women of Donje Moštre", achieving better living conditions for women in rural areas, providing basic living conditions for women in local community, the prevention and suppression of violence against women, and about marginalized groups of women in Visoko. Furthermore, the CURE Foundation, in cooperation with the Foundation for Women's Empowerment, organized five round tables in November and December in four local communities (Tuzla, Bijeljina, Istočno Sarajevo and Visoko).

The aim of the round tables is to establish a dialogue between institutions at the local level and civil society organizations focused on women's rights in order to create preconditions for cooperation and joint work on the implementation of existing mechanisms and legal framework for equal treatment and right to live free from discrimination of all minority and marginalized groups.

On December 13, 2021, the CURE Foundation with five representatives of five organizations with which we cooperate in the implementation of the project Women Human Rights Advocates. The aim of the podcast is that the representatives of civil and governmental organizations present the activities they have carried out in the mentioned project as well as contributions of the project itself for their associations and their local communities.

The podcast was hosted by Adnana Pidro, a journalist and host of various podcasts 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 different 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.

The CURE Foundation has successfully implemented advocacy workshops in Bužim and Derventa, which brought together # 35 socially active women and women's rights defenders from small local communities. We discussed the problems of women and girls

in the local context, referring to specific (non) existing local policies and plans that would improve the position of all citizens, raise awareness of gender-based violence and political participation. Our advocacy efforts are carried out with the support of the Kvinna till Kvinna.

In the past period, we have successfully held the first # 10 online digital advocacy events on women's rights in BiH, which recorded over # 13,960 views! We are preparing material that will soon be available on our YouTube channel as well as advocacy documents that will unite our perspectives on current issues related to violence against women, economic empowerment and self-care. Stay tuned and follow us on our social networks!

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.zenskamereza.ba continues to broadcast the latest news regarding the quality of life and human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and 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.

In the past period, the Women's Network of BiH has participated in several important domestic and international consultations on the state of women's rights in BiH. Instead of consulting political entities in BiH in a public letter in which we expressed our concern about current political developments. We are in the process of planning interesting and attractive events in 2022, such as campaigns to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

Follow our social networks where you can find interesting and important information about women's rights and activism in BiH!

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.

In the period from 22 to 24 November 2021, the module "Mechanisms of Paralegal Support in the Community" was held. In this module we gained information / knowledge on the mechanisms of providing assistance to women victims of violence in exercising their rights in the local community.

From October 4 to 6, 2021, Selma Hadžihalilović, Saša Radulović and Denija Hidić participated in the project "Support to the Local Community to Comprehensive Access to Justice and Protection of Women's Rights" implemented by the Zenica Women's Rights Center and the Women's Association "Roma Woman" Bijeljina - Program training for community helpers, module "Skills and Basic Knowledge of Community Helpers".

Speak Up About Violence!

The CURE Foundation works to support, strengthen capacity and create a safe 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 everyday social change, creating a safe and positive environment, creating a quality of life 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 a gender perspective with a view to achieving equality and legal 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 Catalog of Fundamental Rights with provisions regarding unique health, social and family care;

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.

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/1753819825007374>

After the education, peer educators held two-day online workshops in their local communities on the topic of violence in youth relationships, and marked the campaign of the 16 Days of Activism in their organizations.

Empowered for Change

The project Empowered for Change was mostly realized in this period through the organization of one seminar, six public discussions, street actions and research. The goal of the project is to support each other in the society of disenfranchised women and to send a message to all those who think they are lonely in their experience of discrimination and violence, that together we can change the situation and support each other. The goal was also to contribute to strengthening the capacity of women - active citizens and future politicians to be active in local communities and on the BiH political scene. From 15 to 17 October 2021,

introduced women's organizations to capacity building in the online sphere in order 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 and energy and to actively act of contribute so fulfilling the initiative objectives.

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, similar to tolerance and 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 a gender perspective with a view to achieving equality and legal participation of women and men in both private and public spheres of life in BiH.

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we met with politicians, activists and women who are active in political and public life in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the seminar / education "Empowered for Change". Six public discussions were held in Tuzla, Mostar, Bihać, Doboj, Bratunac and Pale with the aim of strengthening the capacity of women activists, women active in politics, women from marginalized groups' and young women working at the local level.

We would like to thank Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Sarajevo for their support.

Initiative for Monitoring the European Integration of BiH

An article written by members of the CURE Foundation Sabina Lizde, Vedrana Praško 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/>

4. Affirmation of a higher level of judicial and legal protection of human rights and freedoms;

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.

A step closer to a gender-responsive BiH Constitution

At the invitation of the Agency for Gender Equality of BiH, the Women Citizens for Constitutional Reform Initiative had the opportunity to present the "Platform of Women's Priorities for Constitutional Reform and Amendments to the Constitution of BiH from a Gender Perspective" at a joint thematic session of constitutional commissions of the House of Peoples and the House of Representatives, Joint Committee on Human Rights and Committee on Gender Equality of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH on the topic related to the implementation of the recommendations of the UN CEDAW Committee on the Sixth Periodic Report on the Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, held on December 10, 2021 in Bijeljina.

Women Citizens for Constitutional Reform continue meetings with members of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly

Members of the Initiative Delia Hasanbegović Vukas, Maida Zagorac and Denija Hidić met in October with members of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina Nada Mladina and Alma Colo, and presented the Women Citizens for Constitutional Reform Initiative.

* FEMICIDE DOES NOT HAPPEN SUDDENLY!!!!

On November 23, 2021 in Zenica, another victim of femicide became part of the horrific statistics of a large number of

women killed by their ex-husband... We joined the action in Zenica and also opened the Campaign "16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women" which began on November 25 on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls. We started the action symbolically at 5 minutes to 12 o'clock, and the message is clear: REACT / PREVENT / REPORT!

* On November 11, 2021, Denija Hidić, activist of the CURE Foundation, attended the presentation of the report "Women in the Labor Market in Bosnia and Herzegovina" organized by the Agency for Labor and Employment in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The general finding of the Report is that the female workforce is more affected by crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic in the labor market. Observed at the level of the economy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, women accounted for 37.4% of the total number of newly employed workers, which means that employers employ men more often than women. On the other hand, of the total number of terminations of employment in 2020, 39.7% refers to the female workforce.

* Denija Hidić participated in the Digital Academy in the period from December 17, 2021 to December 20, 2021 in Banja Luka, where she learned the basics of activism on social networks, and tools that will improve the presence of the CURE Foundation in the online sphere.

* From 14 to 16 December 2021, members of the CURE Foundation Team Selma Hadžihalilović, Denija Hidić and Saša Radulović attended an education organized by our donors - the Swedish feminist Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation!

Not only do we have the opportunity to learn about the Theory of Change, but, almost two years later, we saw the dear faces of our friends from the KTK network!

* Jadranka Milčević, activist from the CURE Foundation, was one of the lecturers at the Social Democratic Regional Academy of Women's Leadership held on October 23, 2021 in Sarajevo on "Social Democratic Feminist Response to Growing Right-Wing Extremism".