

A group of women, mostly of middle and older age, are participating in a demonstration. They are holding numerous purple flags with white text. In the foreground, several women are holding a large black banner with red horizontal stripes and white text. The background shows a city street with buildings.

# The CURE Foundation Newsletter

January/February/March 2023

## First edition in 2023

Welcome to the new CURE Foundation Newsletter highlighting events and news from our community during the period January - March 2023

Enjoy reading and let's stay in touch!

Ženska solidarnost  
donosi mir,  
patrijarhat  
donosi rat.

www.fondacijacure.org

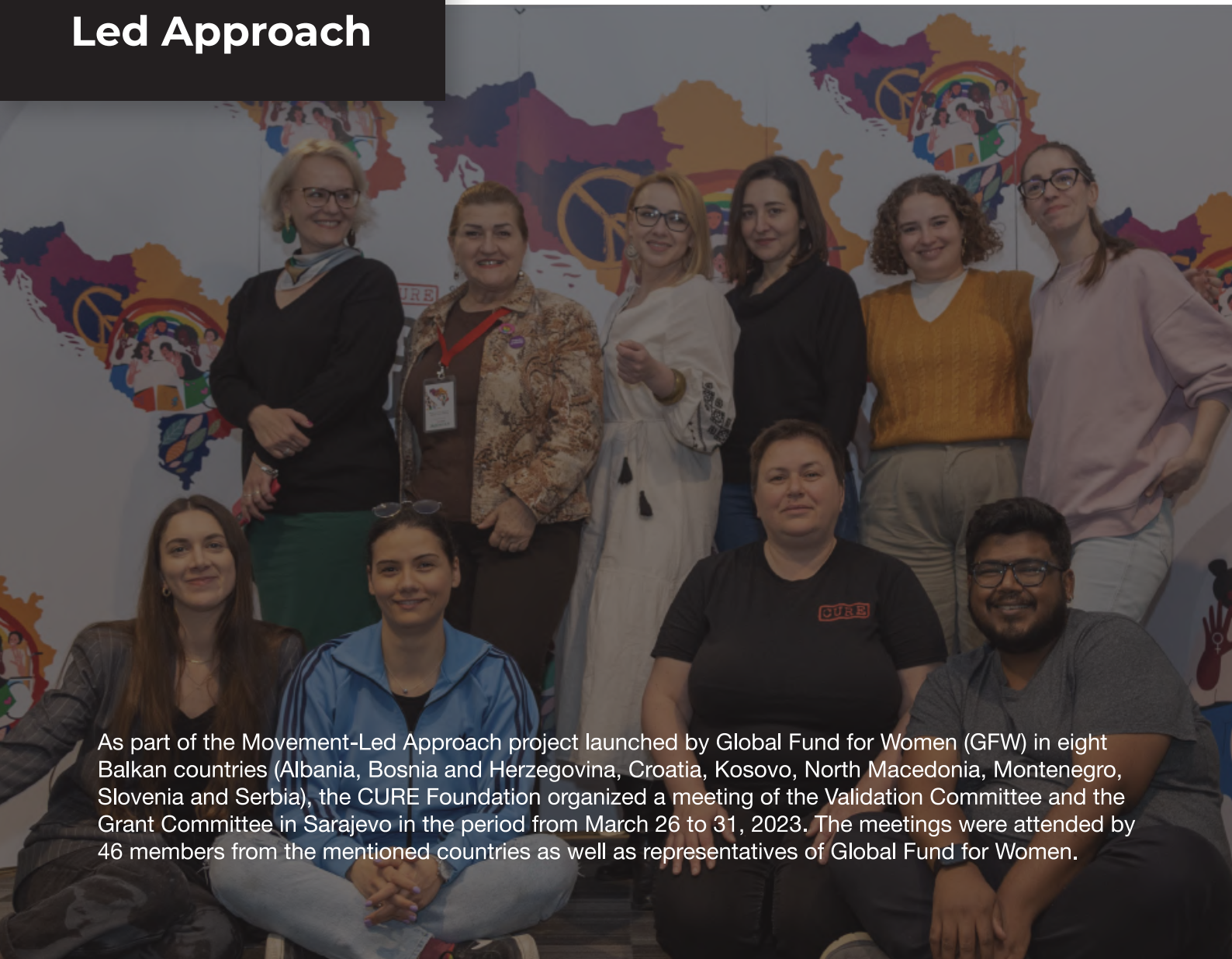


## Capacity Development of the CURE Foundation

It is a long-term project that supports the development of the capacities of the members of the CURE Foundation, but also enables the realization of programs for the prevention of stress and burnout. One such program is the supervision of our team and increasing the visibility of our work, but certainly also the provision of support to strengthen the capacities

of individuals and organizations of the women's movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Thanks to the built capacities of the team, we monitor a court process, and we managed to provide support for a student who comes from an area that suffered a devastating earthquake in Turkey. We also provide support to organizations to realize their activities.

## Movement - Led Approach



As part of the Movement-Led Approach project launched by Global Fund for Women (GFW) in eight Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia and Serbia), the CURE Foundation organized a meeting of the Validation Committee and the Grant Committee in Sarajevo in the period from March 26 to 31, 2023. The meetings were attended by 46 members from the mentioned countries as well as representatives of Global Fund for Women.





Meeting - Movement-led approach - Gender Justice

## Advocacy for Women's Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina



KTK conference in Skopje, March 2023

Since 2021, the CURE Foundation has been implementing the Advocacy for Women's Rights project in Bosnia and Herzegovina. "Feminist advocacy activities for economic empowerment and socio-economic support measures for most marginalized groups of women" form a separate part of this 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.

Ktk organized the Conference on Feminist Peace in the Western Balkans - Feminist Activism in the period from 21 to 23 March 2023. The contribution of the CURE Foundation was active participation in the panel discussion "Remembrance Activism and the Politics of Memory - How can we offer alternative interpretations of the past that oppose the dominant harmful practices?". The special focus was on the necessity of including a gender and feminist perspective in the creation of memory politics.



# The Experienced Transformation of Peace Activism

The project "The Experienced Transformation of Peace Activism" aims to ensure the transgenerational transfer of knowledge and experiences of women's peace activism in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Dealing with the past is a very important part of building peace if we want to build a society of equal rights. The obstacles to building peace are quite numerous and "manly" - from the destructive political system and legislative disparity, low living standards, and

lack of cooperation between the governmental and non-governmental sectors to insufficient active engagement of young people. The goal of understanding the past and improving peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina must be to encourage young people to actively participate in decisions and actions at the local level, which is of great importance if we want to build a democratic, more open and prosperous society.

## 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. The Women's Network of BiH organized the workshop "Building a Movement - Intergenera-

tional Dialogue" on March 8, 2023, which aimed to open a space for discussion on current topics important for strengthening the women's movement in BiH. The workshop was attended by 15 participants who are members of the Women's Network. Also, members of the member organizations of the BiH Women's Network had the opportunity to join the march for the 8 of March in Sarajevo, organized by the CURE Foundation.

Workshop of the Women's Network

# UProot Gender Based Violence



The CURE Foundation, in cooperation with the Alternative Center for Girls from Serbia, the Center for Education, Counseling and Research (CESI) from Croatia and the NGO Prima from Montenegro, is currently implementing the UProot Gender Based Violence project. The project aims to increase capacity and exchange of experiences at the regional level in order to eradicate gender-based violence.

In the coming period, study visits to Belgrade, Zagreb and Podgorica are planned to collect relevant information for the preparation of the manual.

In addition, an online campaign with the aim of sending a message about zero tolerance to violence is under preparation including Viber stickers promoting zero tolerance to violence which are already available.





## Peace with a Woman's Face



Opening of the exhibition in the BiH Parliament

The CURE Foundation is one of thirteen women's activist organizations that are members of the "Peace with a Woman's Face" Initiative led by the "Lara" Bijeljina Foundation and the "HO Horizonti" Association Tuzla. The initiative was formed as a response of women's rights defenders to the exclusion of women from transitional justice policies and the insensitivity of these policies to the damage and suffering that women in BiH endured during the war and in the years of

rehabilitation from the war's consequences. In the previous period, a working meeting of the Initiative was organized. In March, we attended the exhibition "Peace with a Woman's Face", which was installed in the hall of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly. This exhibition was seen by hundreds of citizens, politicians and activists, and caused very positive reactions.

## Women Citizens for Constitutional Reform Initiative

# IZGRADNJE MIRA SOLIDARNOSTI



In the past period, Women Citizens for Constitutional Reform Initiative delivered materials to all parliamentarians at the BiH level and introduced them to the Initiative's priorities. On March 22, 2023, a meeting was held with Anja Ljubojević, Vice President of the National Assembly of the RS. We participated in the TV show "Invisible in language, invisible in life: Why women are cooks, but not ministers?". On the occasion of the 8th of March - International Women's Day and the Week of Women's Solidarity and Peacebuilding, together with the Network for Building Peace, the Women's Network of BiH and the Agency for Gender Equality of BiH, we participated in the collection of information for the Calendar of Events on the occasion of the Week of Women's Solidarity and Peacebuilding, and issued announcement "We fought for our rights, we didn't get them and we won't give them!". On March 2, 2023, the Center for Women's Rights from Zenica presented the Initiative at the International University in Travnik. Journalist Rubina Čengić, in cooperation with the Initiative, wrote the article "Women Citizens for Constitutional Reform Initiative Does Not Give Up", which was published on [discriminacija.ba](http://discriminacija.ba). The representative of the Association "HO Horizonti" Tuzla, which is one of the members of the Initiative, held a meeting on March 28, 2023

with Mirjana Marinković - Lepić, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and with Dilista Bašić, President of the Commission for Gender Equality of the City Tuzla.

At the meeting in Bijeljina, representatives of the Initiative had the opportunity to talk with Johanna Strömquist, Ambassador of Sweden to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Eva Smedberg, head of Sida's development program in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lisa Curman, program manager at the Swedish Embassy, Carin Jämtin, General Director of Sida and Lisa Fredriksson, head of the Euro-Latin Department, and to point out the importance of the existence of the Initiative, which is an example of the joint, persistent and continuous struggle of women, men and women citizens of BiH in the processes of building peace and increasing the visibility and participation of women in all types of negotiations and processes - from negotiations on constitutional changes to building peace and reconciliation.

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



## Initiative for Monitoring the European Integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina



EU Initiative, Vitez, 10 January 2023

The Initiative for monitoring the European integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina held an annual planning event in Vitez from 10 to 11 January 2023, which was attended by about 15 participants. The work and most significant achievements of the members and the Initiative in 2022 in areas that are part of European integration were presented. There was discussion about the activities of the members in order to better

promote those activities and networking with other relevant actors. The importance and implications of the candidacy for EU membership, which was awarded to Bosnia and Herzegovina on December 15, 2022, were also discussed. After the candidacy, the European Commission clearly emphasized that the opening of negotiations on membership depends on the fulfillment of 14 priorities from the Commission Opinion published in 2019.

## Women's Court Regional Organizational Board



In accordance with the agreement between the members of the regional Women's Court (Women in Black, Belgrade, Association of War Victims Foča 92-95, CURE Foundation, Sarajevo, Center for Women War Victims, Zagreb, Center for Women's and Peace Education Anima, Kotor, and Novi Horizonti, Tuzla) the workshop Women's Peace Meeting - Towards the Organization of the Women's Court was held on February 17 and 18, 2023 in Sarajevo as part of the continuation of the Women's Court process.

This meeting was attended by women from Foča/Sarajevo, organizers and therapists of the Women's Court, and witnesses from BiH, Montenegro, the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Serbia, a total of 29 of them. The topics discussed were: Initiatives related to transitional justice – regional and international level, Feminist ethics of care: my sources, Barometer: myths and facts about sexual violence in armed conflicts, and Symbolic reparations with a focus on the war crime of rape - international and regional experiences.



# The Week of Women's Solidarity and Peacebuilding 2023

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2023 and the Week of Women's Solidarity and Peacebuilding, the Network for Building Peace, the Women's Network of BiH, Women Citizens for Constitutional Reform Initiative and the Agency for Gender Equality of BiH joined forces and organized various events throughout BiH.

## March for the 8th of March

More than 200 people, citizens, activists and representatives of various organizations, with whom we share the desire for a state of equal citizens, participated in the peace-activist march on the occasion of March 8 - International Women's Day. The goal was to take to the streets to resist those who stand in the way of women's

rights and freedoms. We are grateful that in this way we have shown our determination to stop all oppressive policies toward women and marginalized groups.

This year's slogan for March 8 was:

**THE GIRL POWER WILL SAVE THE WORLD!**







## "Bread and Roses" bazaar of the Second Gymnasium in Sarajevo

On the occasion of March 8, a larger group of students from the Second Gymnasium in Sarajevo organized an all-day bazaar in the school premises under the slogan "Bread and Roses" and a panel discussion attended by about 15 students. The CURE Foundation supported the aforementioned event by

distributing promotional material and publications containing messages on the strengthening of women's rights, the position of women, the history of the struggle, and the like. All money collected will be used for a scholarship for a gifted student outside of Sarajevo. Congratulations on the initiative! It was an immense pleasure for the CURE Foundation to participate in this action!







### CURE stand at STARfest

CURE at STARfest

In the period from March 31 to April 1, 2023, the CURE Foundation participated in STARfest in Sarajevo. This event promotes the possibility of employment, internships, formal and informal education and scholarships for young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina. STARfest is organized by the Social Innovation Incubator "MUNJA", one of the leading non-governmental organizations in the country with the most visited youth platform

Hocu.ba. Over 2,000 young people gathered at Skenderija to find a job, internship or scholarship for themselves. Our volunteers presented the CURE Foundation, as well as non-formal education programs, the possibility of doing internships and volunteering at the CURE Foundation and interviewed over 50 young people who showed interest in the work of the CURE Foundation and their own participation in our programs. Big praise for our volunteers who did a fantastic job!

### Support for the informal group "KažuTreba" from Sarajevo

The CURE Foundation made it possible for the informal group of young people "KažuTreba" to carry out their activities unhindered by providing them with a place to gather and hold workshops. We are proud to have the opportunity to support their work. In the previous period, five thematic workshops were organized in our premises for about 15 members.

Since the beginning of 2023, the CURE Foundation has been organizing a Bookclub for members, activists, volunteers and all other people who are interested in getting together once a month to discuss different feminist topics. Bookclub is a safe, non-judgmental space with



Bookclub at the CURE Foundation

the goal of sparking interesting discussions. It is an environment where we learn together. Discussions are held in English. In addition to books, once a month we comment and start a discussion about a certain film.

## The Organizing Committee of the Pride March

The Organizing Committee continued with the planned activities in 2023 and several meetings were held at which the date of the Pride Parade was determined - June 24, 2023 in Sarajevo.

### CURE - PRODUCTION

As part of the fifteenth regional meeting of the Women's Court held in Sarajevo, the film Women's Court - Feminist Approach to Justice (Sarajevo, 2022) was created. The witnesses from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia and Serbia participated, as well as organizers,

therapists and associates of the Women's Court. The concept and implementation were designed and realized by Sanel Hadžić and Denija Hidić, and production and post-production by Sanel Hadžić. The film is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38NyfnH5bDM>

### CURE - ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES





In the period from March 1 to March 4, 2023, members of the CURE Foundation were trainers at the workshop "Creating a Feminist Manifesto as One of the Tools for Building a Feminist Movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina" organized by the Sarajevo Foundation for Women's Empowerment for 20 representatives from 10 organizations from 10 local communities throughout BiH

- The members of the CURE Foundation held a meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the OSCE with the aim of continuing cooperation on the topic of integrating the gender perspective in disaster risk reduction and protection and rescue.
- Members of the CURE Foundation are part of the working group participating in the writing of the CEDAW report - chapter "Equality in Education". In February 2023, a meeting of this working group was held to agree on the methodology, way of working, and writing the report. The working group consists of 16 members who are representatives of different organizations.
- UNIGEM Winter School "Gender and Globalization" was held in the period from February 20 to 26, and gathered 50 participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro. The organizers of the Winter School are the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies "Prof. Dr. Zdravko Grebo" of the University of Sarajevo and the TPO Foundation. During the Winter School, the CURE Foundation had the opportunity to present its work and the feminist movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- We contributed to the writing of the 2022 Alternative Report on Bosnia and Herzegovina's Progress on the Road to the European Union Membership: Political Criteria in the Social Policy and Employment Chapter.
- In the premises of the CURE Foundation, the Network for Building Peace Association posthumously awarded a special peace award to Stanojka Cana Tešić for her contribution to the fight for women's rights and reconciliation. The "Goran Bubalo" Peace Award recognizes our local heroes and heroines who live and promote the highest human values.
- On March 15, 2023, we attended the celebration of 10 years of work of our great friends and activists from the Women's Association for Rural Development Zvijezda Vareš. At this event, we received a certificate of appreciation for continuous support of the Association and work with its members. The meeting was attended by about 30 participants, representatives and members of various non-governmental organizations.
- Members of the CURE Foundation attended the training of trainers on the topic of gender equality and discrimination based on gender as part of the "EU for Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination in BiH" project, which is implemented as part of the IPA 2 pre-accession support program of the European Union (EU) in cooperation with the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees BiH, the Gender Center of the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Gender Center of the Government of the Republika Srpska. The topics discussed were: Basic concepts related to discrimination, Gender stereotypes and prejudices, International and domestic legal standards for protection against discrimination and Discrimination based on gender.
- Members of the CURE Foundation team attended the "Montenegro Regional Conference on Supporting Democratic Activism to Achieve Policy Outcomes" in the period from March 19 to 22, 2023, which is jointly organized by the offices of the International Republican Institute (IRI) in Montenegro and in Washington, D.C.

\*Feminist manifesto in Tarčin; Presentation of the posthumous award to Stanojka Tešić Cana, Sarajevo, March 7, 2023.; Vareš, March 15, 2023.; Tivat, 19 - 22 March 2023

In the first three months of 2023, the CURE Foundation organized meetings in its premises, participated in interviews and questionnaires more than 20 times and worked with over 100 people (individuals and representatives of organizations) with the aim of building the women's movement, promoting women's rights, and making agreements regarding future cooperation. We are proud to have collaborated in different ways with different people, organizations, international organizations and institutions, of which we single out the meetings with the Sarajevo Open Center (SOC), the "Renesansa" Association, Network for Building Peace, the Association Women for Women International from Sarajevo regarding the organization of March 8 activities, "Rosa" Association from Zagreb and a group of activists from Ukraine regarding the possibility of organizing a study visit.

We also held a meeting with the SOC and the Safe Abortion Action Fund (SAAF) and on that occasion discussed the right to a safe abortion, and responded to the invitation for an interview on cyber violence from UNDOC and an interview/questionnaire from Oštra Nula from Banja Luka on the topic "We are not cheap labor".

We also highlight meetings with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Heinrich Böll Stiftung (HBS), artists from Sweden, a representative of the Faculty of Political Sciences, representatives of ADENIUM Film from Romania, the Infohouse Association from Sarajevo, and UG "Budućnost" from Modriča...

We held a regional meeting organized by the "Association of Disabled Youth of Montenegro" (the official name of the organization); received a group of peace activists from Italy for a visit with the aim of filming a documentary video on the topic of peace processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina; provided our premises to the INFOHOUSE Association for the organization of a press conference, as well as to the Pride Organizing Committee for the organization of a press conference in Sarajevo on the occasion of the attack in Banja Luka etc. Please see below some of the photos taken at the premises of the CURE Foundation.



\*SOC and SAAF visit

\*Visit from organizations on the occasion of the International Women's Day activities, February 22, 2023

\*Visit from Italian peace activists





In the first three months of 2023, representatives of the CURE Foundation attended more than 15 events organized by other organizations. We had the opportunity to network and connect with over 200 people active in the field of women's rights in BiH and the region. We participated in various events, workshops, conferences, round tables, and discussions, of which we single out a meeting with young people from Azerbaijan, a panel discussion "Facing the past and arriving at the truth through activism and art", the opening of the exhibition "ArchiWar" by Jelena Jaćimović, organized by "Forgotten Children of War", presentation of the project "EU for Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination in BiH", advocacy meetings with the chairman of the Centar Municipality Council with the aim of advocating for the adoption of the GAP of the Municipality of Centar, a workshop of the Office for Auditing the Institutions of BiH, presentation of the program "Culture and Creativity for the Western Balkans", celebration of

the International Day of Women and Girls in Science organized by HUB Homework, conference and presentation of research "Safety of Women in Local Communities" organized by the Center for Security Studies, conference organized by the Association "Forgotten Children of War" from Sarajevo, "Montenegro Regional Conference on Supporting Democratic Activism to Achieve Policy Outcomes" organized by the International Republican Institute IRI in Montenegro; the "Labors of Care" exhibition, and the promotion of the Program Y impact study organized by CARE International. Also, we actively participated in the monitoring of court processes; attended the training "Feminist approach to issues of digital and integrated security and strategies of resistance" in Zlatibor, which was organized by the Alternative Center for Girls from Kruševac, etc.

Below you can see photos from some of the events we attended.

Zlatibor, 27-30 March 2023





FINALLY,



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We would like to thank the donors in 2023!

Global Fund for Women (GFW); Foundation TRAG/Foundation OAK, Mediterranean Women's Fund; Sigrid Rausing Trust, Women's World Day of Prayer (WWDP) - German Committee, Western Balkans Fund (WBF), Julia and Dennis Watkins Foundation USA, Kvinna till Kvinna (KTK)/Helsinki Committee For Human Rights, Heart and Hurt Found