



# The CURE Foundation Newsletter

April/May/June 2023.

## Second edition in 2023

Welcome to the new CURE Foundation Newsletter highlighting events and news from our community during the period April - June 2023  
Enjoy reading and let's stay in touch!

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

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 have survived domestic violence in the FBiH.

### Economic Empowerment



Potemkin Candidacy

Activists of the CURE Foundation recently met with representatives of the Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Gender Center of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The aim of these meetings was to plan further steps in supporting the economic empowerment of women and to present the document "Economically Empowered: Entity Advocacy Platform for the Five Cantons of the Federation of BiH: Una-Sana Canton, Posavina Canton, Canton 10, West-Herzegovina Canton and Central Bosnia Canton".

We had the opportunity to collaborate while drafting the report titled "Potemkin Candidacy: Alternative Progress Report of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the Path to European Union Membership for the Year 2022 - Political Criteria." Additionally, on April 24, 2023, we attended the presentation of the alternative report, as well as the panel discussion titled "Paradoxes of Progress: Striking Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina After Gaining Candidate Status for EU Membership." These events were organized by the Initiative for Monitoring European Integration in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

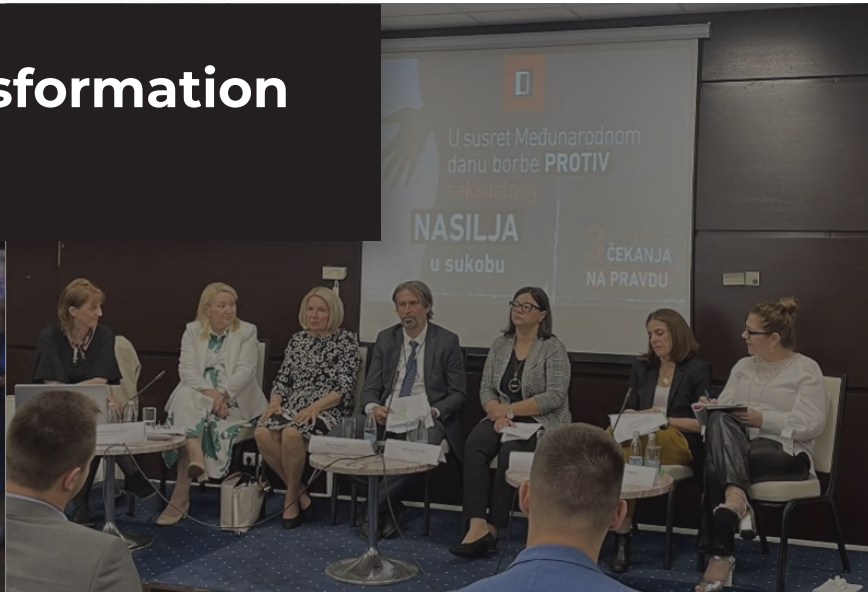
# Movement-Led Approach

As part of the Movement-Led Approach project initiated by the Global Fund for Women (GFW) across eight Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia, and Serbia), we have been engaged in the development of documents for establishing a grant allocation system. This system operates in conjunction with the Grant Allocation Committee, consisting of 16 highly prominent advocates for women's and LGBTI+ rights from the eight countries within our region.

At the invitation of the Global Fund for Women (GFW), one of the activists from the CURE Founda-

tion attended the Global Movement Mapping Meeting from May 13th to 17th in Mexico City. The CURE Foundation had the opportunity to present to fellow activists and members of women's funds from various parts of the world the movement mapping tool and the process initiated in the eight Balkan countries. Additionally, the research process of the "Movement-Led Approach - Gender Justice" was introduced. This research aimed to investigate the organization of feminist and activist collective actions within the Western Balkans region, as well as the current state of the feminist movement with a focus on gender justice in response to the increasing anti-gender movement in the region.

## The Experienced Transformation of Peace Activism



For the equality and the right of all victims to dignity and remembrance, May 31, 2023. / A Future with or without Blindfolds, June 6, 2023

Activists and members of the CURE Foundation participated in the observance of the White Armband Day in Prijedor, organized by the "Because I Care" coalition. The commemoration of White Armband Day serves as a reminder of May 31, 1992, when the Crisis Staff of the Prijedor municipality mandated non-Serb residents to mark their homes and apartments with white flags. Furthermore, those who moved within the city were required to wear a white

armband. The Prijedor white armbands stand as an undeniable fact established in legal proceedings related to war crimes.

On June 6, 2023, an activist from the CURE Foundation participated in panel discussions leading up to the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict: Three Decades of Waiting for Justice, organized by TRIAL in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



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

Transgenerational Knowledge Transfer Workshop, May 10, 2023, Hotel Nomad Bjelašnica

Strategic Planning of the Women's Network, May 12, 2023, Hotel Nomad Bjelašnica

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.

A workshop on transgenerational knowledge transfer was conducted for young activists. Despite the ongoing subjects that require further discussion, we are pleased that young activists are engaging in these conversations. This engagement aims to initiate a process of ques-

tioning and involving new generations not only within the Women's Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina but also within the broader women's movement in the country.

In May, the Strategic Planning of the Women's Network took place, inviting representatives from various organizations, initiatives, and networks working, each in their unique way, to advance women's rights. The intention was to explore how the Women's Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina can best serve women's organizations and how these organizations, in collaboration with the network, can effectively utilize the resources at our disposal.

# Capacity Development of the CURE Foundation

This is a longstanding project that supports the capacity development of CURE Foundation members, contributing to the implementation of programs focused on stress prevention and burnout. From May 22 to 26, the CURE Foundation team members organized a study visit to Zagreb and Ljubljana. During this period, we visited institutions including the Zagorka Foundation at the Center for Women's Studies Zagreb, the ROSA Center for Women Victims of War in Zagreb, VOX Feminae Festival members from

K-Zone Zagreb, CESI Zagreb, Ženska soba Zagreb, Mesto Žensk in Ljubljana, and the organization Society SOS Helpline for Women and Children Victims of Violence in Ljubljana. We engaged in discussions and shared experiences about activist work with 50 activists and champions of women's rights. Additionally, we had the opportunity to attend the public forum "Right to Life" organized in Zagreb.



# 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.



Study Visit to CESI, May 10 - 12, 2023, Zagreb

Study Visit to NGO Prima, May 17 - 19, 2023, Podgorica

Study Visit to the Alternative Center for Girls, May 31 - June 2, 2023, Belgrade.



## Women Citizens for Constitutional Reform Initiative

Women Citizens for Constitutional Reform Initiative advocates for a Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina that ensures greater protection of human rights and freedoms, with a specific emphasis on a gender perspective. The Initiative has been launched by activists and organizations from across Bosnia and Herzegovina, aiming to inspire all citizens to utilize their knowledge, energy, and willingness to collaborate, contributing to the achievement of the initiative's goals. This informal group brings together 35 civil society organizations and activists who consistently work on understanding concepts related to gender, peace, freedom, and human rights.

In the past three months, the members of the Initiative held an assembly, followed by a meeting with the newly elected Coordinating Committee members. Additionally, they conducted meetings with:

- Mirjana Marinković-Lepić, the Chairperson of the House of Representatives of the

Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Dilista Bašić, President of the Gender Equality Commission of the City of Tuzla
- Anja Ljubojević, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Republika Srpska (SNSD)
- Albin Muslić, Member of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the SDP Club, who is also the Chairman of the Constitutional-Legal Committee of this assembly.
- Zagorka Grahovac, Representative in the National Assembly of Republika Srpska and a representative of the Party Za pravdu i red.

In collaboration with "Oslobođenje," we have authored three media articles that you can read at <https://gradjankezaustavnepromjene.wordpress.com/>. You can also access further information about the Initiative on the same website.

## Peace with a Woman's Face

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" Foundation from Bijeljina and the "HO Horizonti" Association from Tuzla. The initiative was formed in response to the exclusion of women from the politics of transitional justice and the insensitivity of these policies to the harm and suffering that women in Bosnia and Herzegovina experienced during the war and in the years of

rehabilitation from its consequences. As part of this initiative, CURE Foundation activists joined the commemoration of White Armband Day in Prijedor on May 31, 2023. Alongside approximately 50 activists, the CURE Foundation participated in a peaceful gathering and protest march to commemorate the killing of Prijedor residents 31 years ago, demanding the construction of a monument in memory of the killed children.

# Innovative Social Work Research in Southeast Europe: Integrating Justice, Human Rights, and Civic Engagement

Social work scholars in SEE are developing new, creative, and imaginative research methodologies. The social work research community is extending existing and developing new epistemologies and pedagogies in social work education for equitable access to welfare, social development, and an actively engaged citizenry.

The second summer school entitled “Innovative Social Work Research in Southeast Europe: Integrating Justice, Human Rights, and Civic Engagement” aims at showcasing, promoting and reflecting on diverse methodologies that lead towards social change, democratization, and just citizenship across the

SEE region. The aim of the summer school is twofold: (i) to educate social work students to become critically minded users of research, and (ii) to educate the next generation of social work researchers to engage critically on epistemologies and methodologies in research and practice for social development, democratization, and social justice. The Summer School, a project of the Southeast Women’s Academic Leadership Network, is organized by the CURE Foundation, the University of Sarajevo, and the University of Pristina.

## CURE - INITIATIVES OF THE VOLUNTEER CLUB

### Feminist Book Club

Since the beginning of 2023, the CURE Foundation has been organizing a Book Club for its members, activists, volunteers, and others interested in coming together once a month to discuss various feminist topics. The Book Club provides a safe, non-judgmental space aimed at sparking engaging discussions. It's an

environment where we learn together. The discussions are conducted in English. In addition to books, we also comment on and initiate discussions about specific films. After the summer break, we will resume the activities of the Book Club.



## Internships and Volunteering

The CURE Foundation has around 15 active volunteers who contribute to the foundation's work and growth. Regular meetings and communication via a Viber group occur almost daily, and we are here to support all initiatives and suggestions from our volunteers.

### CURE NETWORKS

## EuroMed Feminist Initiative

The CURE Foundation is a member of the EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI), an advocacy network that encompasses women's rights organizations from both shores of the Mediterranean. EFI advocates for gender equality and women's rights as integral to the building of democracy and citizenship, political solutions for

all conflicts, and the right of peoples to self-determination. In the recent period, we held a meeting with 10 network members in Paris, where preparations for strategic planning were carried out. A member of the CURE Foundation currently holds the position of Chair of the network's Board.

## Network for Building Peace

The network was established with the long-term goal of enhancing the capacity of Bosnian society to deal constructively and non-violently with the legacy of our recent history, as well as with

diversities and both latent or overt conflicts. Through these endeavours, the network aims to improve the quality of social and economic life in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## ERA - LGBTI Equal Rights Association for Western Balkans and Turkey

ERA - LGBTI Equal Rights Association for Western Balkans and Turkey is a regional network dedicated to advancing the rights of LGBTI individuals (lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender individuals, and individuals with gender-specific identities) in the Western Balkans and Turkey. The organization's main objectives are to combat

discrimination, violence, and human rights violations against LGBTI individuals and to promote an inclusive society in which all individuals have equal rights and opportunities, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression.



### Organizing Committee of the Pride Parade

Pride Parade, June 24, 2023, Sarajevo

An activist from the CURE Foundation attended a workshop attended by 20 students on the topic of Solidarity - BH Pride Parade and exhibition at the Academy of Fine Arts in Sarajevo.



## Women's Court Regional Organizational Board

Women's Court: A Feminist Approach to Justice - The Case of Foča, June 26, 2023, Belgrade

On June 26, 2023, in Belgrade, the Women's Court: A Feminist Approach to Justice - The Case of Foča, was held. The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia marked a historic milestone in the case of Foča by recognizing sexual slavery as a crime against humanity. However, despite this significant ruling,

some of the sexual crimes committed against women and men in Foča have unfortunately remained undisclosed, unacknowledged, silenced, and forgotten. For this reason, we wanted to continue, along with the women and men of Foča, to demand justice for the victims of sexual crimes in Foča and beyond.

## Informal Network for Digital Security and Privacy

The CURE Foundation is a member of the first informal regional network for digital security and privacy.



As part of the project UProot Gender Based Violence, an online campaign is underway with the aim of sending a message about zero tolerance to violence, and Viber stickers are currently available that promote zero tolerance to violence.





## Awards and Certificate of Appreciation

The Certificate of Appreciation from the City of Sarajevo to Jadranka Miličević

On April 11, 2023, the Mayor of Sarajevo, Benjamina Karić, along with city council members Adi Škaljić and Alen Girt, presented the City of Sarajevo's Certificate of Appreciation to Jadranka Miličević and the "Mreža za izgradnju mira" (Network for Building Peace) Association. During the reception at City Hall, it was

emphasized, "We have recognized the selfless contributions of activist Jadranka Miličević in processes aimed at advancing women's rights and making our city a more pleasant place to work and live for all."

In early June, the CURE Foundation received an invitation from the Public Elementary School "Avdo Smajlović" to organize workshops on the topic of "What is Violence?" with seventh-grade students. Five workshops were conducted with five classes, involving over 100 students. We engaged in discussions about the prevalence of violence among young people, how to respond to violent situations, and whom to report violence to.

An activist from the CURE Foundation participated as a panelist on the topic of "Sexual Violence in and out of the Courtroom! Women and Girls Are Not to Blame for Being Beaten, Raped, or Killed! The Culprits Are the Perpetrators and the System!" as part of the Women of the World (WOW) Festival from April 1st to April 3rd, 2023, in Athens, Greece.

An activist from the CURE Foundation was one of the speakers at the workshop "Gender-Based Violence against Romani Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina" organized by the Atlantic Initiative in May 2023. Approximately 50 representatives from institutions and civil society participated in the workshop.

A study visit by the delegation of the Ukrainian Women's Fund took place on May 25th and 26th, 2023. Representatives from the Fund aimed to engage in discussions with key individuals in Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding the theme "Resilient Together: Enhancing Systems for Responding to Sexual Violence in Conflict." They considered it essential to hear about our

experiences in working with women who have survived wartime violence and to familiarize themselves with the legal framework.

An activist from the CURE Foundation participated in a panel discussion titled "Creating a Society Free from Violence Against Women" at the Faculty of Political Sciences. The event was attended by over 20 participants. The panel presented the activities and actions organized and initiated by the CURE Foundation in the previous period, addressing the fight against violence against women and girls and the issue of femicide in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Members of the CURE Foundation team offered their support to young activists Naida Hajro and Merjem Mašić during the organization of the Living Library event in Sarajevo. This event took place in the Cultural Center (DKC) and the Writers' House and attracted over 150 attendees. The Living Library operates like a traditional library, but with a unique twist. Instead of "reading" books, participants engage in conversations with "Books". These "Books" are individuals who willingly share their experiences and challenges, especially those related to being a minority or being different from others. In essence, the focus is on opening up to understand the "Book" rather than judging it by its "cover". Although the "Books" in this library couldn't be borrowed for an extended period like traditional books, the interactions with these "Books" left a profound impact. Some of the "Books" that participants had the opportunity to engage with



included topics like personal identity, freedom, artistic expression, and overcoming life's challenges.

On April 8, 2023, an activist from the CURE Foundation participated as a speaker at the 9th Feminist Spring School 2023, which was held in Vrnjačka Banja. The event was organized by the Alternative Center for Girls from Kruševac and the Center for Art and Community - Artpolis from Priština

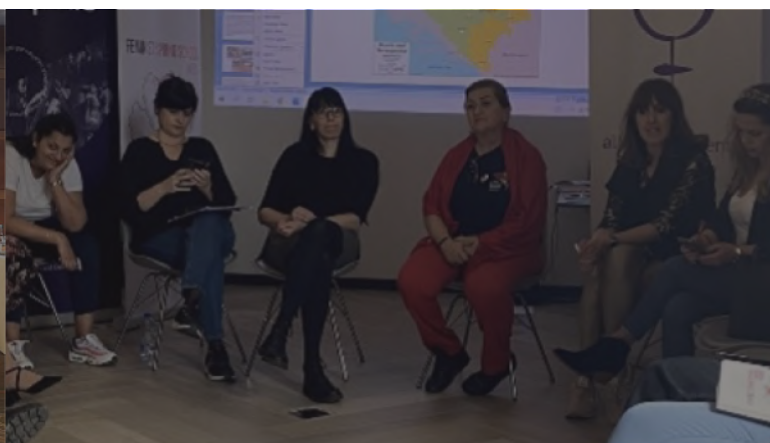
An activist from the CURE Foundation attended a panel discussion titled "From Screen to Street: Cultivating Safe Spaces", organized by the Local Democracy Agency Mostar (LDA Mostar) as part of the project "Mostar – Spaces that Move". The discussion was attended by 150 individuals, and its aim was to encourage young people to contemplate the impact of online hate speech (in the online public sphere) and events in physical public spaces. It also aimed to rekindle the discussion on the advantages and challenges of legal regulation of online hate speech in the context of declaring internet platforms as public spaces.

An activist from the CURE Foundation participated in the Women's Dialogues - Feminist Approach to Justice, a gathering of women's rights activists in Vrnjačka Banja from April 24 to 27, 2023. The event was organized by the Women's Association Peščanik

from Serbia and the Women's Association of Mitrovica for Human Rights from Kosovo. There were 28 participants in attendance.

An activist from the CURE Foundation was appointed to the Gender Action Plan Development Team for the Sarajevo Canton for the period 2023-2026 by the decision of the Sarajevo Canton Government

In Neum, a networking meeting was held that not only focused on the regular strengthening of alliances among platforms supported by Kvinna till Kvinna but also provided a space for the exchange of opinions and experiences related to the domestic women's activist/feminist movement. This included discussions on the movements' possibilities and challenges, contributing to the ongoing dialogue on this important issue. Among other topics, new avenues for joint engagement were explored to increase impact, facilitate discussions, and consider ways to amplify the voices of activists. This included strategies to encourage collective action against the growing ethnonationalistic and anti-gender movements in the country. The meeting was attended by approximately 30 participants



## OUR GUESTS

From April to June 2023, the CURE Foundation organized meetings, participated in interviews and surveys, and collaborated with over 50 individuals and representatives of organizations with the aim of building the women's movement, promoting women's rights, and discussing future collaborations. We take pride in our diverse collaborations with various individuals, organizations, international bodies, and institutions. Here are some notable engagements:

- During a study visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, representatives from the Center for Romani Initiatives in Montenegro visited the CURE Foundation's office.
- We completed a survey for the Municipality of Centar Sarajevo.
- Organized meetings with students regarding their master's, master, and doctoral theses.
- Conducted a meeting with the International

Burch University to enhance collaboration and faculty and student exchanges with higher education institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, focusing on capacity building during the EU integration process.

- Held a meeting with representatives from AIESEC.
- Conducted a meeting with representatives from NDI (National Democratic Institute).
- Hosted a part of the team from the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement), consisting of over 20 individuals. They visited the Association "Forgotten Children of War from Sarajevo," and the CURE Foundation provided its premises and presented its work on peace activism.

These interactions reflect our commitment to fostering partnerships and promoting women's rights and peace activism.

## ACTIVITIES WE ATTENDED

From April to June 2023, the CURE Foundation participated in over 15 activities organized by other organizations, providing opportunities for networking and connecting with over 250 individuals active in the field of women's rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region. We took part in various events, workshops, conferences, roundtable discussions, and debates. Some notable activities include:

- The "Stronger Together" meeting organized by the TRAG Foundation with members of the Advisory Board.
- Mentoring participation in the project mapping women's organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted by the European Movement of Serbia.
- A roundtable discussion on "Gender (In)equalities in the Labor Market in BiH: Women's Perspective or Company's Story?" and the presentation of the project "Intersectoral Partnership for Human Rights and Gender Equality in the Labor Market" organized by the INFOHOUSE Foundation and the LARA Foundation.
- The Council of Europe meeting on "Towards an Equal, Inclusive, and Tolerant Bosnia and

Herzegovina."

- Financial sustainability training.
- An event by the Women's Roma Network SUCCESS titled "Towards International Roma and Romani Women's Day".
- An online conference titled "IT - Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" on the occasion of International Women and Girls in ICT Day with the slogan #weareunITed.
- A film screening of "Reaction: Misogyny in the Digital Age".
- An exhibition dedicated to the culture of remembrance in Bosnia and Herzegovina and a tribute to the work of Jovan Divjak.
- A public event by the EU Info Center on the occasion of the Pride Parade in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Participation in meetings of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) for the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to develop an operational plan.
- Receptions at the Embassies of the Netherlands and Norway.
- Participation in a study visit to the Foundation for Women's Empowerment in Bulgaria.
- Participation in the sister festival "Festival of Women's Friendship" in Tutin, Serbia."

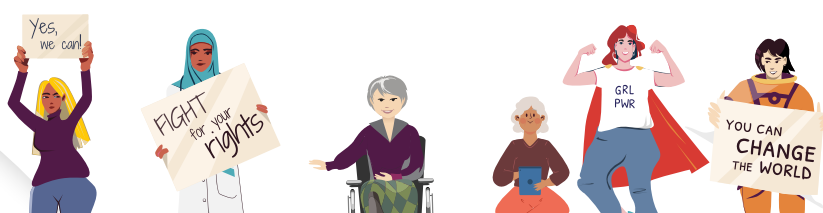


At the end, we announce...

The eighteenth PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism (PW) in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2023.  
**GIRL POWER WILL OVERTHROW THE PATRIARCHY – WE HAVE BEEN DOING IT FOR 18 YEARS!**

This year, the CURE Foundation is marking and celebrating the coming of age of the PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism! Yes, you read it correctly – PW has grown up and is celebrating its 18th birthday! This is a special year for us as the festival has matured into a unique experience that offers unforgettable moments and incredible encounters.

The PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism starts on Thursday, September 7, 2023, at 18:00 at the Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina and concludes on September 10, 2023, in the afternoon. The entire program takes place in Sarajevo.



BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA  
БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

LIČNA KARTA  
ЛИЧНА КАРТА  
OSOBNJA ISKAZNICA  
IDENTITY CARD



Festival ženske umjetnosti i aktivizma  
07. do 10. septembar 2023. | Historijski muzej BiH

IME/ИМЕ/  
NAME  
Pitchwise,  
Festival ženske umjetnosti i aktivizma



MJESTO ROĐENJA/MJESTO РОЂЕЊА/  
PLACE OF BIRTH

Sarajevo, Historijski muzej BiH

GODINA ROĐENJA/ГОДИНА РОЂЕЊА/  
DATE OF BIRTH

2006

GODINA REALIZACIJE/  
ГОДИНА РЕАЛИЗАЦИЈЕ/  
YEAR OF EST.

18

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