



THE CURE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

July/August/September 2023

Third edition in 2023

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

We continue to take steps towards the economic empowerment of women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. As part of our advocacy platform, we want to highlight the contributions of Svetlana Cenić and Jasminka Džumhur, whose reviews have enriched our advocacy material

"Economically Empowered" prepared by our external collaborator Maida Zagorac. Additionally, we actively presented the Guide to Women's Economic Empowerment - a resource providing valuable guidance on economic empowerment and rights realization.

The Experienced Transformation of Peace Activism



In the past period, workshops for youth were conducted, addressing the need for young individuals to take a more active role in peace processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, ensuring their access to all forms of participation in society during the peace-building process. The importance of promoting the role of youth in the development of a democratic society, especially in local and regional public life, was emphasized.

Four workshops were held on the following dates: July 22 in collaboration with the Women's Association Jadar from Konjević Polje, August 4 in collaboration with the Foundation for the Advancement of Education and Culture Izvor Ilidža/Sarajevo, August 8 in collaboration with the Association of Roma Women Bolja budućnost from Tuzla, and September 19 in collaboration with the Center for Integrative Inclusion of Roma Men and Women OTHARIN Bijeljina.

Movement-Led Approach

In the previous phase of the Movement-Led Approach project initiated by the Global Fund for Women (GFW) in eight Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia, and Serbia), we collaborated on crafting documents to establish a grant allocation system with the Grant Committee. This Committee consists of 16

prominent advocates for women's and LGBTI+ rights from eight countries in our region. The CURE Foundation focused its efforts on working with committee members to establish grant allocation procedures for the Gender Justice Fund - Movement in the Western Balkans.

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 line with the aforementioned, one of the activities took place during the PitchWise festival, where we organized a panel on Gender-Based Violence – Changing Rules and Practices – reviewing the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, and Croatia.

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 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.



Capacity Development of the CURE Foundation

It's about a long-term project that supports the capacity development of members of the CURE Foundation, as well as the implementation of stress prevention and burnout prevention programs. One such program aims to enhance the visibility of our work and provide support to

strengthen the capacities of individuals and organizations within the women's movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bonds for Change

In the period of July and August 2023, the CURE Foundation implemented the project Bonds for Change – Addressing the gap between women's activism and political engagement funded by the European Union.

The project aimed to:

- Establish a dialogue and exchange experiences and expertise in advocating for gender equality between civil society organizations and women in political positions in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Reduce the gap between the goals of gender-sensitive policies and political life in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Connect women from media and academic communities with women politicians and civil society organizations by promoting gender-sensitive policies to the broader public.

The project involved the participation of women politicians, women representatives of civil society organizations focusing on public policies related to gender equality, as well as media and academic community representatives (professors, journalists, analysts), who signed a Memorandum of Understanding on future collaboration. Project activities included organizing three conferences and developing three action plans in the areas of women's political participation, combating gender-based violence, and women's economic empowerment. The plans were presented at the final event attended by representatives of relevant institutions and organizations.

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, members of the Citizens for Constitutional Changes Initiative organized:

- Integrated Security Training for women's rights

advocates who are members of the Initiative, aimed at strengthening their capacity and self-care;

- Advocacy meeting with Anida Šabanović, a representative of the Network of Progressive Initiatives, for the exchange of ideas and strategies;

- Presentation of the Initiative to students in Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Brčko, and Mostar to raise awareness, encourage dialogue, and foster collaboration among young people regarding constitutional changes.

The result of presenting the Initiative to students is evident through the analysis "Application of the Gendering the Constitution Concept to the Constitution of Republika Srpska" prepared by student Stefan Ivetić.

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. The activists of the CURE Foundation, as part of the Initiative, participated in the conference "Women, Peace, Security - Gender Aspects of Peacebuilding Policies in Bosnia and Herzegovina" in Sarajevo, attended by approximately 25 participants.



Gender and Leadership Summer School



The CURE Foundation implemented the project of the Southeast Women's Academic Leadership Network in collaboration with the University of Priština, supported by The Dennis A. and Julia Watkins Foundation. The goal was to educate social work students to become critically oriented and to showcase, promote, and discuss various methodologies leading to social change,

democratization, and just citizenship throughout the Southeastern Europe region. The summer school, attended by 41 participants, took place from September 3rd to 7th, 2023, at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Sarajevo. The theme of the summer school was Innovative Social Work Research in Southeast Europe: Integrating Justice, Human Rights, and Civic Engagement.

BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA
БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

LIČNA KARTA
ЛИЧНА КАРТА
OSOBNIA ISKAZNICA
IDENTITY CARD

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

MJESTO RODENJA/MJESTO РОЂЕЊА/
PLACE OF BIRTH
Sarajevo, Historijski muzej BiH

GODINA RODENJA/ГОДИНА РОЂЕЊА/
DATE OF BIRTH
2006

GODINA REALIZACIJE/
ГОДИНА РЕАЛИЗАЦИЈЕ/
YEAR OF EST.
18

POTRIS/POTPIS/
SIGNATURE
PitchWise

CURE

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



PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism

This year, the CURE Foundation marked and celebrated its coming of age by organizing the eighteenth Festival of Women's Art and Activism, PitchWise (PW), held from September 7 to 10, 2023, at the Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina and on the streets of Sarajevo. We are very proud and happy to have hosted more than 300 people (registered during the four days of the Festival, in addition to volunteers and organizers) as well as around 200 people who attended the night program of PW. Participants came from the local community, all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the region (Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Germany). The program featured approximately 70 artists, theorists, activists, and feminists.

This year the PitchWise festival is marked by the central theme:

GIRL POWER OVERTHROWING PATRIARCHY – WE'VE BEEN DOING IT FOR 18 YEARS!

PitchWise EXHIBITIONS

From September 7 to 10, 2023, artworks were displayed at the Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina as part of the Ars Feminae exhibition curated by Elma Hodžić.

Artists who exhibited their works include:

Nermina Alić - Luna; Elma Alić Šobot - She; Elma Čaušević Mujezinović - Extend a Hand!; Edita Gazibara - Altar of Nature; Kasja Jerlagić - Bursting at the Seams; Džejlana Karaman Pašić - Freedom is of the Female Gender; Maja Matašin - Fe; Meliha Teparić - Our Land; Adrijana Todorović Panjeta – Her Own

PitchWise VISIBILITY

In 2023, the CURE Foundation provided the opportunity to document the PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism. Thanks to technology, individuals who couldn't attend PitchWise could still participate in the festival as all panels and most festival events were covered by live streaming.

The CURE Foundation sincerely thanks all organizers, volunteers, visual designers, media, sister organizations, and donors for the support, energy, and enthusiasm invested in this festival. The CURE Foundation therefore stated: Your ideas, strength, knowledge, and dedication have left an indelible mark on PitchWise, and your presence and contribution have made every moment worthwhile. Thank you for being and still being part of this incredible community that has brought light and change into our lives. Thank you, brave women, for 18 incredible years! The eighteenth PitchWise brought us numerous exhibitions, creative workshops, lectures, performances, plays, book promotions, discussions, all to convey a different story, a story of peacebuilding, tolerance, respect, and humanity, and to resist all oppressive policies.

GUERRILLA GIRLS made their debut at this year's PW with a symbolic work: The world needs a new weapon: Estrogen Bomb.

(guerrillagirls.com; [Facebook.com/guerrillagirls](https://www.facebook.com/guerrillagirls) | [Twitter.com/guerrillagirls](https://twitter.com/guerrillagirls) | [Instagram.com/guerrillagirls](https://www.instagram.com/guerrillagirls))

During the festival, the activist history of previous PW festivals was presented through an exhibition featuring PW posters, photographs, and T-shirts.

The analysis of the live stream of the PitchWise festival in 2023 showed that four (4) live streams were viewed by over 500 people, and we had a total of 1700 reaches on September 22, 2023. The analysis of the Facebook page revealed that in the previous period, 11 posts related to the PitchWise had a reach of 20,700.



Internship and Volunteering

We had the privilege of working with an extraordinary group of volunteers who made invaluable contributions to the organization of the PitchWise event. They assisted in setting up the space, preparing equipment and materials, provided technical support, and were the first point of contact for visitors, offering all necessary information.

Our volunteers also support us in organizing protests, standing side by side with us in every

battle. We sincerely thank them all for their selfless contributions. The CURE Foundation has around 20 active volunteers who contribute to the Foundation's work and growth. Regular meetings and communication through the Viber group occur almost daily, and we are here to support all initiatives and suggestions from our volunteers.

American Volunteers

This year, the CURE Foundation hosted two American students from the United States Military Academy at West Point for one month. As part of the program conducted individually by CURE Foundation activists in collaboration with the Women Waging Peace initiative, Elizabeth and Margaret made a direct contribution to the Pride Parade 2023, supported the food and refreshments distribution in Konjević Polje, participated in the final part of the Peace March,



joined activists in commemorating the genocide in Srebrenica, supported our friends PK "SPID" and SFK Sarajevo, and conducted conversational English classes with CURE Foundation team members.



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 inseparable from the building of democracy and citizenship, political solutions to all conflicts, and the right of people to

self-determination. In the previous period, we had several online meetings during which we prepared for the network's strategic planning and agreed on activities related to celebrating the 20th anniversary of the launch of the EFI network. A member of the CURE Foundation currently serves as the president of the network's board.

Network for Building Peace

On September 21, 2023, in observance of the International Day of Peace, we attended the award ceremony for the Goran Bubalo Peace Prize at the Youth Center in Grbavica, Sarajevo.

ERA - LGBTI Equal Rights Association for Western Balkans and Turkey

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

include combating discrimination, violence, and human rights violations against LGBTI individuals, as well as promoting an inclusive society where all individuals have equal rights and opportunities, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression.

Women's Court Regional Organizational Board



The Board's working meeting took place on September 22 and 23 in Sarajevo. Following the historically significant event, the Foča case, we discussed the testimony process, feelings,

whether anything has changed in the lives of those who testified, and further work on finalizing the documentation for the book and film.

ILGA

ILGA (International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association) is a global organization advocating for the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals. Founded in 1978, ILGA is one of the oldest and largest advocacy organizations for LGBTQ+

rights worldwide. ILGA's mission is to promote and protect the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals both at the international and regional levels.

Informal Network for Digital Security and Privacy

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

IGLYO

IGLYO (International LGBTQI+ Youth and Student Organization) is a global network and advocacy organization focused on promoting the rights and well-being of LGBTQI+ youth and students. IGLYO's mission is to empower LGBTQI+ young

people and student activists by providing them with a platform for collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and advocacy for positive change.





The digital advocacy broadcasted on our social profiles is slowly becoming the trademark of the CURE Foundation. Whether the event is broadcasted live or in the form of a podcast, we are delighted to have the opportunity to introduce the

wider public to remarkable women from Bosnia and Herzegovina who are pushing (invisible) boundaries and directly working to improve the lives of women and girls in their local communities. Stay tuned – because new fantastic stories are yet to come!

PitchWise production

The panels that were held during the PW Festival, as well as the book promotion and the festival opening program are now available on our social media.

FESTIVAL OPENING PROGRAM can be viewed on the Facebook page and YouTube channel of the CURE Foundation, at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eS_TpByZdqQ

PANEL "Gender-Based Violence – Changing Rules and Practices – Overview of the Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, and Montenegro" can be viewed on the Facebook page and YouTube channel of the CURE Foundation, at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=va24TdZxg4Y>

PANEL "Outsider Sisters Topple Patriarchy!" can be viewed on the Facebook page and YouTube channel of the CURE Foundation, at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swGY0IWtB28>

PANEL "Spread Your Wings, Little Girl" can be viewed on the Facebook page and YouTube channel of the CURE Foundation, at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygsTU6UdNk>

CURE - PUBLICATIONS

In the past period, as part of the project "Eradicate Gender-Based Violence," we have produced a publication titled "Gender-Based Violence – Changing Rules and Practices – Overview of the Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, and Montenegro."

The publication is available at:

<https://fondacijacure.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Rodno-zasnovano-nasilje-mijenjanje-pravila-i-praksi-pregled-stanja-u-BiH-Srbiji-Hrvatskoj-i-Crnoj-gori.pdf>



RODNO ZASNOVANO NASILJE - MIJENJANJE PRAVILA I PRAKSI - PREGLED STANJA U BIH, SRBIJI, HRVATSKOJ I CRNOJ GORI

Priručnica
Maja Šenk

CURE - ONLINE CAMPAIGNS

CURE Foundation has concluded an online campaign conducted as part of the "UProot Gender-Based Violence" project. The campaign ran from June to September 2023, featuring a total of 27 visuals broadcasted on CURE Foundation's Instagram and Facebook profiles. The Instagram profile garnered a total of 5,417 likes and views, while Facebook received 599.

The online campaign, showcasing inspirational messages promoting solidarity, empathy, and connecting female politicians and activists, was also conducted during the Bonds for Change project (July - August 2023). On the CURE Foundation's Facebook profile, the campaign attracted 104 likes, and on Instagram, it received 548.





Commemorating the 28th Anniversary of the Srebrenica Genocide

As in previous years, activists from the CURE Foundation and our volunteers joined the solidarity action of distributing food and refreshments to the participants of the Nerzuk - Srebrenica March organized by our friends from the Women's Association JADAR Konjević Polje. The physically and emotionally challenging event held on July 9 at Mravinjac doesn't deter voluntary participation in this action. Alongside other peace activists, we distributed over 2,500 sandwiches, thousands of liters of water, fruits, and sweets. In addition to our voluntary work, the action was supported by pomozi.ba, ISCOS Emilia Romagna, Veganer, private entrepreneurs, and others.

Srebrenica

In a gesture of respect for the victims of the genocide and solidarity with the survivors, activists from the CURE Foundation traditionally join the commemoration of the Srebrenica genocide on July 11. Our commitment to building a culture of remembrance, peace-building, and the values of women's solidarity through participation in the Regional Board of the Women's Court is unquestionable.



Promotion of ZERO Tolerance for Violence

Protests against Violence in Jablanica

Members of the CURE Foundation attended a protest in support of Enisa Klepo in Jablanica. We express full support and solidarity with Enisa Klepo and firmly stand by the belief that no woman is alone in her struggle.

Protest Against Femicide

The CURE Foundation strongly condemns any form of violence against women! Members of the CURE Foundation, moved by the murder of a woman in Gradačac, organized a peaceful protest on the same day to pay tribute to the murdered woman and draw public attention to the systemic need for strict punishment for femicide. After this event, members of the CURE Foundation joined various protests, spoke in the media, issued statements, attended meetings

and panels, participated in public speeches, all with the aim of drawing attention to the problem of femicide in Bosnia and Herzegovina and promoting ZERO tolerance for violence.

In solidarity with the citizens of Gradačac, CURE Foundation team member Selma Hadžihalilović, on behalf of the Women's Network BiH, attended a public forum held in Gradačac and expressed our collective solidarity with all those who have been affected in any way by the tragedy that occurred in this small town.

Street Action: Sexual Extortion is Corruption. Let's Break the Silence!

CURE Foundation activists provided full support to the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka during the organization of a street action in Sarajevo as part of the campaign with the same name.



CURE - Other Support and Collaboration Activities with Other Organizations

CURE Foundation activists presented the work of the Foundation to students participating in the Local Coordinator for GMU Study Abroad courses in the Balkans in early July in Sarajevo. Around 30 students attended this event.

A CURE Foundation activist attended the conference of the European Parliament in Serbia as we were selected as a partner civil society organization for the regional implementation of the mentoring program for women Share Your Knowledge.



ACTIVITIES WE ATTENDED

Fondacija CURE participated in several activities organized by other organizations from July to September 2023, providing an opportunity to network and connect with around 50 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, including a conversation on the topic "Reviving the Past: Is There Hope for Us?" organized by the Heinrich Böll Foundation in Sarajevo, a

discussion with the project team of the Council of Europe on the fight against digital and sexual violence against women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and a conference by the Atlantic Initiative conducting a project on Hate Crimes and Hate Speech.

CURE FOUNDATION MEETINGS

CURE Foundation held at least 10 meetings from July to September 2023, participated in interviews and surveys, and worked with over 100 individuals and representatives of organizations with the aim of building the women's movement, promoting women's rights, and negotiating future collaborations. We are proud to have collaborated in various ways with different individuals, organizations, international organizations, and institutions.

Here are some highlights:

CURE Foundation members attended a meeting organized by the organization Zašto ne with the Mayor of Zagreb, Tomislav Tomašević, during his official visit to Sarajevo. We discussed femicide in Bosnia and Herzegovina, efforts from small local communities to overcome trauma, gender-based violence, women's rights, feminism, and other current social issues. We are pleased to have the opportunity to collaborate with the City of Zagreb on improving the quality of life in our communities.

CURE Foundation members attended a meeting with the High Representative in Bosnia and

Herzegovina, Christian Schmidt, and discussed the processes of non-governmental organizations related to amendments to the criminal law and the analysis of textbooks. We presented advocacy documents that were prepared in the previous period concerning femicide in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Other meetings and interviews include a meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Human Rights organized by the Association Snaga žene, meetings with representatives of Front Line Defenders, discussions on the harmonization of requests for amendments to the Criminal Law of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the Sarajevo Open Centre, CPCD, representatives of the Ministry of Human Rights, representatives of the US Embassy, members of the Public Discussions Platform, meetings related to the creation of the Gender Action Plan of the Sarajevo Canton with representatives of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Sarajevo Canton, meetings with members of the Women's Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina, representatives of the academic community, and more.



TO CONCLUDE, WE ANNOUNCE

On the occasion of the start of the Global 16 Days of Activism campaign, the CURE Foundation, as it does every year, is organizing a street action called Girl Power Against Wars, Femicide, and Violence!



GLOBALNA KAMPANJA 16 DANA AKTIVIZMA

PROTIV RODNO ZASNOVANOG NASILJA
www.fondacijacure.org



FOLLOW US AND JOIN US!

+387 33 207 561

info@fondacijacure.org

www.fondacijacure.org

[fondacijacure](https://www.facebook.com/fondacijacure)

[@fondacijacure](https://www.instagram.com/fondacijacure)

[@Fondacija_Cure](https://twitter.com/Fondacija_Cure)

[Fondacija CURE](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFondacija_Cure)

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Global Fund for Women (GFW); Fondacija TRAG/Fondacija OAK; 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 Hurt Found; Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina and European Union Special Representative; Heinrich Böll Stiftung Sarajevo (HBS); Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Bosnia and Herzegovina (FES); ISCOS – Emilia Romagna;