



ANNUAL REPORT

2023



**The CURE Foundation
2023 Annual Report**

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THE CURE FOUNDATION
2023 ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The CURE Foundation (CURE) is a feminist-activist organization that works towards gender equality and advocates for positive social change through educational, artistic-cultural, research, and advocacy programs. The Foundation began its work on November 7, 2005.

The CURE Foundation is an anti-militarist and anti-fascist organization striving to contribute to the development of gender equality in society and the empowerment of marginalized groups of women, including Roma women, women with developmental difficulties, lesbian, bisexual, and trans* women, single parents, elderly women, and women survivors of violence. We advocate for their equal inclusion in all social spheres and oppose any form of exclusion of women and girls. Our organization leads numerous initiatives within the women's movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina and strives to destigmatize certain topics, expanding the focus on key societal issues. Through direct work with women and girls and the promotion of a culture of non-violence and anti-discrimination, we aim to create a safe and positive environment for feminism and activism. We encourage the visibility of women in public, street activism, and art, and promote women's perspectives on socio-political issues. Our strength lies in diverse approaches and collaboration with institutions, both in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region. We aim to become even stronger and address all societal challenges.

By contributing to the creation and development of a solidarity and inclusive women's movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina and around the world, CURE is a leader in social change that improves the status of women and girls, as well as marginalized social groups, thus making women equal and actively participating in decision-making and implementation.

The logo for the CURE Foundation, featuring the word "Cure" in a stylized, handwritten pink script.

MISSION



The CURE Foundation, as a recognized feminist organization, works to support, strengthen capacity, and create a safe environment through educational programs, research, analysis and public advocacy, local and regional networking, engaged art and activism for all women, girls, activists and feminists, for their active and responsible participation in positive social change, peace building and building of an inclusive and sustainable women's movement.

VISION



The CURE Foundation advocates for gender equality and equality of women and girls in Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially those from socially marginalized groups, for a society in which violence and discrimination are not tolerated and where women are recognized as responsible agents and promoters of positive social change and as equal decision makers.

The CURE Foundation seeks to contribute to the creation of a sustainable and solidary women's movement that respects generational and all other differences, has the capacity, knowledge and strength to initiate, support and bring out processes that will improve the position of women and other marginalized social groups.



CURE Foundation defines the following key values in the context of its work and functioning, as well as in building and strengthening the women's movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- Solidarity among women
- Intergenerational solidarity and knowledge transfer
- Empowerment of women, especially socially marginalized groups
- Innovation in approaches and practices
- Internal and external transparency while respecting the “do no harm” policy
- Commitment to a multi-layered feminist identity
- Addressing the diverse needs and aspirations of women and girls
- Activism as a means to achieve positive social change
- Creating safe spaces for women and girls
- Consistency in efforts and dedication to achieving social justice
- Anti-fascism, anti-militarism, and non-violence



PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Among the various activities and programs conducted by the CURE Foundation, there are three that are distinctly tied to the identity of the organization and are the cornerstone of future programs and activities. This is due to both their programmatic and symbolic value, and the fact that they are completely open and inclusive, allowing the participation of all who contribute to the development of the women's movement and feminist thought in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



8th of March



The CURE Foundation has traditionally organized and heading the march for the 8th of March in Sarajevo to commemorate the beginnings of the women's movement and to draw public attention to the issue of gender inequality in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Each year, the CURE Foundation invites representatives of marginalized groups, workers, pupils, students, pensioners, representatives of institutions, academia, media representatives, citizens. and all who share the desire for a state of equal citizens to take to the streets. As always, we aim to demonstrate our resistance to those who stand in the way of achieving women's rights and freedoms. We want to show our determination to stop all oppressive policies against women and marginalized groups and invite you to join the march.

The slogan of the March 8th march in 2023 was:

GIRL POWER WILL SAVE THE WORLD!



We are determined to seize power and save the world from retraditionalist policies that undermine global security, freedoms, and rights established by democratic laws, resolutions, conventions, and protocols. We are determined to stop the violence sown by patriarchy, whose fruits of violence and discrimination we bear in the shackles of neoliberal capitalism! We are determined to stop poverty, recession, corruption, and the dismantling of systems that fill lavish tables by taking from the impoverished ones! We are determined to halt the devastation of natural resources, the appropriation of rivers, air pollution, and harmful practices that destroy the Earth and its natural resources! We are determined to stop systems that empower only a few individuals who use their power to divide, destroy, and subjugate!

The PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism



The PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism in Bosnia and Herzegovina, organized since 2006, has become a hallmark of the CURE Foundation as a unique feminist international event that combines activism and engaged art. The festival emerged from the idea of reclaiming "neglected" public spaces and transforming them into venues that bring together artists involved in addressing various social issues, activists, scientists, feminists, and others interested in the status of women in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region. As an important social event in Bosnia and Herzegovina, PitchWise has been recognized by other socio-economic actors and has thus been branded accordingly.

We initiated the Festival:



driven by the need to reclaim abandoned and neglected public spaces and transform them into meeting places that bring together socially engaged artists, activists, theorists, feminists, and all those interested in women's issues both in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region;

to ensure a safe and open space for a new generation of artists and activists;

to never give up, and thanks to solidarity and networking with sisters around the world, create a history of resistance so that all women are treated equally.



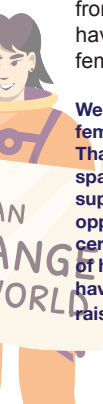
The primary goal of the PitchWise Festival, as an idea and a community of people working towards establishing gender equality, is to promote and enact positive changes in the immediate environment through engaged art and activism.

From September 7th to 10th, 2023, the eighteenth PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism (PW) was held at the Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo. On this occasion, the CURE Foundation celebrated the eighteenth anniversary of the PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism!

We celebrated our coming of age with the central theme:

GIRL POWER WILL SMASH THE PATRIARCHY – WE'VE BEEN DOING IT FOR 18 YEARS!

The eighteenth PitchWise brought us numerous exhibitions, creative workshops, lectures, performances, plays, book promotions, and discussions aimed at conveying a different story—a story of peacebuilding, tolerance, respect, humanity, and what the peacebuilders of this region have survived, experienced, and how they resisted and said NO to war and all oppressive policies. During the eighteen years of organizing PW, we have created a space for the connection and networking of feminist work and culture, gathering artists and activists from women's groups from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the region, and abroad. So far, we have hosted over 1,000 socially engaged artists, activists, theorists, feminists, and defenders of women's rights.



We, the organizers of PitchWise, want to show that the women's and feminist movement exists at a regional level and that we are a part of it. Thanks to networking, breaking down boundaries, and creating a safe space for exchanging experiences, providing support, and receiving support, we have always been and will continue to be resistant to any oppressive policy and patriarchy. This is why we are strong, brave, and certainly determined. Our strength grows from every woman, regardless of how loud or quiet we are, whether we have just raised our voices or have been doing so for years, and regardless of the way in which we raise our voices.

16 Days of Activism (November 25th - December 10th)



16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence” (November 25th - December 10th) is a global campaign observed by 1,700 organizations in over 100 countries worldwide.

The “16 Days” campaign encompasses four important international dates that connect women, violence, and human rights:

November 25th – International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

December 1st – World AIDS Day

December 3rd – International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 6th – Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre

December 10th – International Human Rights Day

During the Campaign in 2023, the central theme that the CURE Foundation focused on was:

FEMINISM DID NOT WAGE WARS – CLEROFASCISM DID!

The beginning of the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign was marked by the CURE Foundation with a street action called “Girl Power Raises Its Voice against Wars, Femicide, and Violence!” on November 25, 2023, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls. With this action, we drew attention to the victims of femicide (the killing of women) and the violence against women that occurs every second on the planet, often ending in murder.

Members of the Women’s Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina joined the street action, as well as individuals who wanted to send a message that we, as peace activists, continue to focus on the importance and urgency of stopping all armed conflicts, as well as all violent practices that result in femicide. This year, we faced alarming cases of femicide, which further emphasized the urgency and necessity of finding systemic solutions to stop gender-based violence.



It is time for all of us to stand up against wars, femicide, and violence! It is time for world leaders to protect the lives, rights, and freedoms of people! It is time for Bosnia and Herzegovina to adopt evidence-based measures to protect women and girls!

**WE RAISE OUR VOICE
AGAINST
WAR
FEMICIDE
VIOLENCE**



PROJECTS

Advocacy for Women's Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina (KTK)

Women's Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Experienced Transformation of Peace Activism (WWDP)

For a Life Without Violence (HBS)

UProot Gender Based Violence (WBF)

Bonds for Change-Addressing the gap between women's activism and political engagement (EU)

Capacity Development of the CURE Foundation



Advocacy for Women's Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina (KTK)

Since 2021, the CURE Foundation has been implementing the project Advocacy for Women's Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Feminist advocacy activities for economic empowerment and socio-economic support measures for marginalized groups of women constitute a separate part of this project. The goal of the project is to develop adequate strategies and institutional measures for the economic empowerment of marginalized groups of women, with a special emphasis on women who have survived domestic violence in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH).

During 2023, our digital advocacy events have been very successful, with 10 inspiring stories broadcasted live and recorded as podcasts. We noticed the importance of involving activists from smaller communities and recording their stories in places where they feel safe. All recordings have been published on our YouTube channel, and the digital collection of essays will be used for future workshops and events.

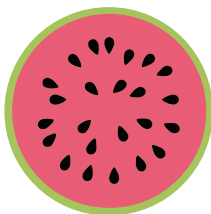
Our annual advocacy conference, held in synergy with the Women's Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina, was entirely dedicated to the issue of femicide in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It brought together representatives of network member organizations, parliamentarians from the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and other organizations supporting women who have survived family violence. Participants heard firsthand experiences from the Croatian Women's Network in the fight against femicide. Our last advocacy workshop was held in Mostar and gathered over 35 participants, including women's rights advocates, representatives of cantonal bodies combating violence against women, parliamentarians, and women in local government. It was organized in collaboration with the Women Citizens Constitutional Reform Initiative, highlighting systematic violations of women's rights.

In continuation of advocating for women's economic empowerment, the CURE Foundation held meetings with the Gender Equality Agency 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 women's economic empowerment and to present the document "Economically Empowered", an advocacy platform in five cantons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Una-Sana, Posavina, Canton 10, West Herzegovina, and Central Bosnia, which the CURE Foundation developed in 2023. Additionally, we participated in the development of the "Potemkin's Candidature" and actively contributed to shaping measures aligned with the Employment Strategy of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2021-2027. The employment strategy was adopted at the proposal of the federal Government in November 2023. It covers the period from 2020 to 2030 and is inclusive. It defines four strategic objectives: increasing personal employability and improving skill alignment with labor market needs; promoting the capacity of private sector enterprises to create formal jobs; ensuring the inclusion of hard-to-employ individuals in the labor market through more effective active labor market policies; and strengthening market management and increasing capacity for policy implementation.

We participated in a thematic session of the Gender Equality Commission of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was organized on November 29, 2023, focused on the "Care and Care Economy". We had the opportunity to present the CURE Foundation, the Women's Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and address the members of the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and discuss topics such as the care economy, feminization of poverty, single-parent family, alimony fund, and economic violence, which are not commonly discussed in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Women's Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina



Women's Network BiH **#solidarity**

The CURE Foundation initiated the establishment of the Women's Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina (WNBiH), which was officially founded and began its work on September 12, 2009, at a conference of the same name held within the framework of the fourth PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Women's Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina is an informal group that currently brings together over 55 civil society organizations, individuals, and activists advocating for women's rights and gender equality, promoting anti-discrimination, freedom of decision-making, equality, non-violence, and anti-militarism, while embracing feminist values of action – peace, solidarity, trust, unity, equality, and diversity.

The Women's Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina has focused its activities on strengthening advocacy capacities through technical improvements to our social platforms. Our website www.zenskamreza.ba continues to provide the latest news regarding the quality of life of women and girls in Bosnia and Herzegovina, serving as a resource for those seeking more information. Our participation in meetings concerning the advancement of women's rights has led to our invitation to propose two candidates for a national level working body that will discuss the perspectives of new generations through the realization of UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Furthermore, the Women's Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina organized a workshop on March 8, 2023, titled "Building the Movement – Intergenerational Dialogue," aimed at providing a space for discussing current topics crucial for strengthening the women's movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The workshop was attended by 15 participants who are members of the Women's Network. Additionally, members of organizations affiliated with the Women's Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina had the opportunity to join the march for the 8th of March in Sarajevo organized by the CURE Foundation, and in May, the Strategic Planning of the Women's Network was held, inviting representatives of organizations and initiatives, as well as networks working, each in their own unique way, on the advancement of women's rights.



The Experienced Transformation of Peace Activism (WWDP)

The project “Experiential Transformation of Peace Activism” aimed to ensure the intergenerational transfer of knowledge and experiences of women’s peace activism in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2023, the project focused on building a different culture of memory that would transmit the voices of women about their personal experiences and stories, with the aim of ensuring that their lives and roles in peacebuilding are not forgotten. This aimed to encourage young people to learn, remember, and think critically, to prevent the forgetting of women’s roles in wartime and post-war events.



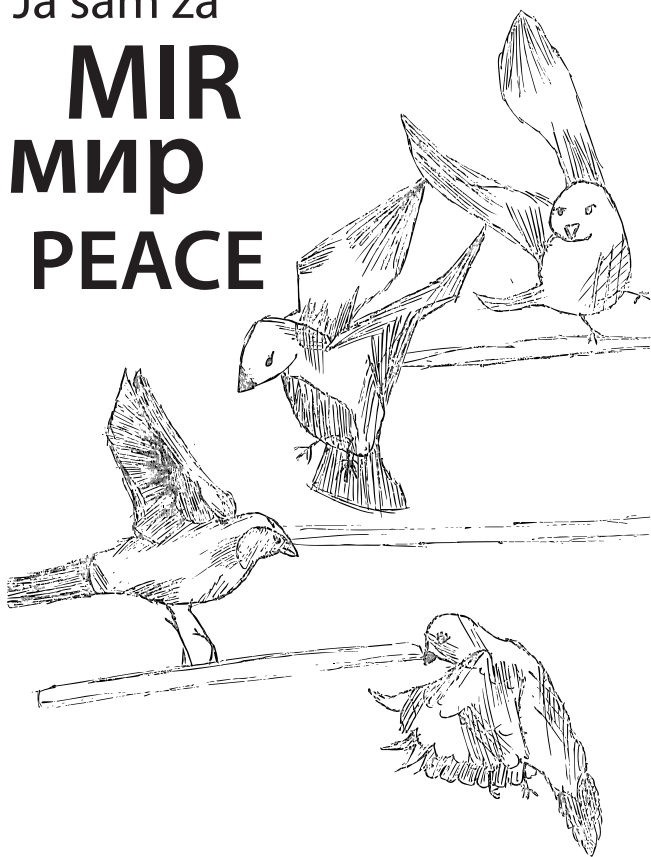
The project activities included a three-day peace feminist camp, five workshops in local communities/schools, five events in local communities on the International Day of Peace (September 21st), visits to war sites from the previous war, participation in the PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism, and the distribution of publications "Fearless Heroines of Peace" and "'Dealing with Restlessness and Peacebuilding from the Perspective of a Post-Dayton Woman". Over 1,000 people participated in these project activities as direct beneficiaries.

The three-day peace feminist camp provided a safe space for sharing stories among women of different generations (young women and experienced women) from various small communities representing minority and socially marginalized groups. Additionally, by organizing the three-day peace feminist camp, we aimed to encourage young girls and boys to actively participate in decision-making and actions at the local level, which is crucial if we want to build a democratic, more open, and prosperous society, as well as to seriously involve young people in the process of facing the past. This could ensure that young people not only hear and learn about democracy, stereotypes and prejudices, rights and duties of citizens, gender discrimination, but also can practice them. The result of holding the camp is a new generation of empowered girls and boys ready to participate in peacebuilding in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As before, as part of peace activism, the CURE Foundation supported and empathized with women's organizations by visiting sites of women's suffering and commemorating significant dates. Youth were involved in the process and encouraged to organize various public events to mark International Peace Day, Children's Week "Let's Keep Friendship, Nurture Love", European Anti-Trafficking Day, Voice of Truth in the Justice Process, and the opening of the Day Center for Children. They connected with their local communities and sought support in this process. By involving young people in the transgenerational transfer of knowledge about peace and reconciliation processes, we collectively build a healthy society free from prejudice.

Ja sam za

MIR
мир
PEACE



For a Life Without Violence (HBS)

The “For a Life Without Violence” project aimed to help and support to women in Bosnia and Herzegovina who are victims of violence, as well as to those who may potentially become victims of violence. Together with representatives of institutions, the academic community, and civil society, we sought to find a way out and a solution for women who decide to leave such situations. We wanted to enable them the right to choose, regardless of the obstacles they face, and provide them with the right to safety. The goal was to ensure that women do not experience violence and do not suffer the consequences of non-compliance and non-application of the laws of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a special focus on the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to connect them with each other for continued or future collaboration in preventing violence and femicide. The aim was to show that the women’s and feminist movement exists at the national and regional levels, and that we are an integral part of it.



One of the project activities to highlight is a three-day meeting whose main theme focused on the legislative framework, with approximately 35 representatives from legislative bodies, institutions, civil society, and international institutions, journalists, and university professors coming to a consensus on recommendations for future action. The specifically formulated recommendations will serve as a framework for the future actions of the informal group of meeting participants. The recommendations emphasized the importance of ensuring transparency in the work on proposals and initiatives for amending laws, including the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, and actively involving relevant stakeholders from the government, non-governmental, and academic sectors. It is necessary to insist that the relevant ministries, such as the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, include representatives of gender mechanisms, institutions such as the Ombudsman, the academic community, and the non-governmental sector in the working groups for law amendments. Regular and widespread education of personnel from judicial, police structures, and social welfare centers on gender-based violence, victim protection, and perpetrator sanctions is also recommended as crucial.

The project actively engaged the broader public through media, podcasts (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQmnS2nzpi8>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sn2JTw77x3Q&t=96s>; https://youtu.be/R5tg95nGx_I), a documentary film about the PitchWise festival, participation in a documentary program on BHT, and street actions, reaching out and educating the community about the seriousness of the problem. A policy paper, which consolidates information and recommendations on the topic of combating violence against women (“Girl Power Raises Its Voice against Wars, Femicide, and Violence!”), includes descriptions of the current situation, media information, descriptions of activities undertaken, initiated initiatives/proposals/conclusions, and a brief overview of institutional responses. The appendix of this document consists of a list containing consolidated and detailed data on femicide cases

in Bosnia and Herzegovina over the past 10 years. This updated list provides concrete information, which will be crucial for prompt action on the issue of violence against women.

Furthermore, the implementation of workshops in schools, campaigns during the 16 Days of Activism, and digital advocacy, particularly through podcasts, have created a platform for dialogue and raised awareness.

Through these activities, involving approximately 1000 individuals, the project has achieved sustainable changes by fostering dialogue, raising awareness, and providing concrete guidance for further steps in combating violence against women in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



UProot Gender Based Violence (WBF)



The CURE Foundation, in collaboration with the Alternative Center for Girls from Serbia, the Center for Education, Counseling, and Research (CESI) from Croatia, and the NGO Prima from Montenegro, implemented the project “UProot Gender Based Violence.” The project aimed to enhance capacities and exchange experiences at the regional level to eradicate gender-based violence.

In the context of shrinking space for civil society activities and the growing influence of far-right organizations and nationalism, we wanted to tell a different story and explore the role of non-governmental organizations in building connections between divided communities in the Western Balkans and Croatia. Therefore, the specific objectives of the project were to expand the space for regional dialogue on gender-based violence and to initiate meetings and exchanges between activists from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, and Croatia. This is particularly important because the participation of women has been excluded

from the normalization of relations between some of these countries in the context of EU integration. This collaboration resulted in the development of a manual on gender-based violence focusing on its prevention and intervention. <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>

The manual presents relevant legal frameworks from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, and Montenegro. The CURE Foundation and partner organizations will use this manual in their work with activists, volunteers, high school students, and others involved in gender-based violence issues. Additionally, the intention is for this manual to be used as supplementary literature for students, and it has been presented for this purpose at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Sarajevo.

In collaboration with partner organizations, a joint online awareness-raising campaign about gender-based violence was launched. The campaign achieved significant success on social media platforms due to high levels of audience engagement. Our Instagram profile received a total of 5,417 likes and views, while Facebook garnered 599 likes. The online campaign, along with accompanying online promotions, generated numerous comments on both Facebook and Instagram, where individuals shared their opinions and personal experiences related to violence, among other topics. Additionally, we established a dedicated Viber channel with a total of 81 subscribers. Through this channel, we share information about our activities, primarily those related to this project, as well as general initiatives of the CURE Foundation.

The logo for CURE, featuring the word "CURE" in a white, serif, all-caps font. The text is enclosed within a white rectangular border that has a slightly distressed or hand-drawn appearance. The logo is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page, overlapping a background of abstract geometric shapes in light blue and orange, along with several blue circles of varying sizes.



**RODNO ZASNOVANO NASILJE –
MIJENJANJE PRAVILA I PRAKSI –
PREGLED STANJA U
BiH, SRBIJI, HRVATSKOJ I CRNOJ GORI**

Priređivačica
Maja Šenk

Bonds for Change-Addressing the gap between women's activism and political engagement (EU)



Bonds For Change **Povezivanje radi promjene**

The CURE Foundation implemented the project “Bonds for Change” in July and August 2023.

The objectives of this project were:

- Establishing dialogue and exchanging experiences and expertise in advocating for gender equality between civil society organizations and women in political positions in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Reducing the gap between the goals of gender-aware policies and political life in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Connecting women from the media and academic communities with women politicians and civil society organizations by promoting gender-aware policies to the wider public.

The project involved approximately 20 women politicians, representatives of civil society organizations dealing with public policies in the field of gender equality, as well as representatives from the media and academic community (professors, journalists, analysts) who signed a Memorandum of Understanding on future cooperation. 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 (https://fb.watch/ng_CDbsgfF/), which was attended by representatives of relevant institutions and organizations (including the Gender Equality Agency of BiH, and the Ombudsman's Office).

The three conferences successfully achieved their goals, which were based on improving understanding, bridging gaps, utilizing academic expertise, advocating through the media, and understanding the provisions of GAP III. Collaborative efforts of civil society organizations (CSOs), women politicians, women from the media and academic community, and other participants advanced the fight for gender equality and women's rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Regarding the Action Plans, they are concise yet comprehensive. They encompass three key interconnected areas related to women's rights: political participation, combating violence, and

economic empowerment (strengthening gender-sensitive social and other policies). They cover all inputs, topics, and measures that require urgent attention to progress in fulfilling Key Priority 9 set by the EU for BiH.

During the project implementation, an online campaign with promotional messages was launched, and a press conference was held where representatives from the Office of the EU Special Representative in BiH, NGOs, CURE Foundation, and a politician currently in a position in the executive government at the BiH level addressed the public.

In conclusion, the project made a positive impact by fostering collaboration and dialogue among female politicians, CSOs, the academic community, and media representatives. By providing a platform for their voices and perspectives, the project contributed to gender equality and political empowerment of women in BiH.



ZAJEDNO SMO JAČE

**Politički angažirane
žene i aktivistice
grade bolje društvo,
most ka inkluzivnosti
i pravdi.**

Capacity Development of the CURE Foundation

Through this long-term project that supports the capacity development of members of the CURE Foundation, the CURE Foundation can focus on empowering young women and girls by strengthening their capacities in the field of women's rights to contribute to stopping gender-based violence. In 2023, we worked on empowering our capacities by preparing necessary documents to facilitate the work of the CURE Foundation and achieve all planned results in accordance with our Strategic Plan.





PARTNERSHIPS

Movement-Led Approach (MLA)

Women Citizens for Constitutional Reform Initiative

Peace with a Women's Face Initiative

Summer School in Sarajevo: Innovative Social Work
Research in Southeast Europe: Integrating Justice,
Human Rights, and Civic Engagement.

Women's Court – Regional Organizing Committee



Movement-Led Approach (MLA)



The CURE foundation implements the Movement-Led Approach (MLA) initiated by Global Fund for Women (GFW) in the Western Balkans in response to the rise of anti-gender movements in the region and to support the Gender Justice Movement. In 2023, CURE organized a Validation Committee and Grants Allocation Committee meetings in Sarajevo from March 26 to 31, 2023. The meetings were attended by 46 members from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Serbia, as well as representatives from Global Fund for Women.

During this period, documents were also prepared to establish a grant allocation system with the Grants Allocation Committee consisting of 16 prominent defenders of women's and LGBTI+ rights from eight mentioned countries.

One of the activists from the CURE Foundation attended the Global Movement Mapping Meeting from May 13 to 17 in Mexico City upon

the invitation of GFW. The CURE Foundation had the opportunity to present to activists and members of women's funds from different parts of the world the mapping tool and the process initiated in eight Balkan countries. The research process "Movement-Led Approach - Gender Justice" was also presented, aimed at determining how feminist and activist collective actions are organized in the Western Balkans and the state of the feminist movement focusing on gender justice in response to the rise of anti-gender movements in the region.

The major regional meeting of the Gender Justice Movement in the Western Balkans was held in Herceg Novi, Montenegro, from October 16 to 20, 2023. The meeting was attended by 44 persons including representatives of the MLA Grants Allocation Committee, organizations supported under the MLA program from eight Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia, and Serbia), as well as consultants of the MLA program for the Western Balkans, and representatives of GFW. This regional meeting was an opportunity for representatives of movements from Balkan countries to network, connect, introduce the MLA program to them, and present the results of the analysis of the context of the gender justice movement in the Western Balkans. Experiential lessons on GFW's grant-making practice were shared, and discussions were held on measuring the impacts we achieve in the communities where we work.



Women Citizens for Constitutional Reform Initiative

The Initiative represents an informal group that gathers 35 civil society organizations and activists from across Bosnia and Herzegovina. Their aim is to ensure greater protection of human rights and freedoms, with an emphasis on a gender perspective in the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the past period, the Initiative has actively participated in promoting women's rights and participated in numerous events and meetings with parliamentarians, government representatives, and international organizations. Their presence has included appearances on broadcasts, presenting the initiative at universities, publishing articles (<https://gradjankezaustavnepromjene.wordpress.com/>), and meetings with ambassadors and representatives of development programs. The Initiative emphasizes the importance of continuous efforts to increase women's participation in peacebuilding and reconciliation processes, as well as in all other spheres of society. An Integrated Security Training for Women's Rights Defenders was organized to strengthen their capacities and self-care, and the Initiative was presented to students in Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Brčko, and Mostar to raise awareness, promote dialogue, and foster collaboration among youth regarding constitutional changes. An online conference "Gender Equality in the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina – Obstacles and Opportunities" was held, and the conclusions were delivered to all members of the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In collaboration with the "Advocacy for Women's Rights in BiH" project of the CURE Foundation, we organized an advocacy workshop in Mostar on the role of local non-governmental organizations in preventing violence against women. Additionally, in 2023, the Women Citizens for Constitutional Reform Initiative welcomed two new organizations as full members: the Banja Luka Center for Human Rights and the Citizens' Initiative Mostar.

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boys

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STOP VOLUNTARY SCIENCE

STOP

STOP

Peace with a Women's Face Initiative

The CURE Foundation CURE is one of the thirteen women's activist organizations that are members of the "Peace with a Women's Face" Initiative led by the Foundation "Lara" Bijeljina and the Association "HO Horizonti" Tuzla. The Initiative was formed in response to the exclusion of women from transitional justice policies and the insensitivity of these policies to the harm and suffering that woman in Bosnia and Herzegovina experienced during the war and in the years of recovery from the war consequences. In March 2023, we attended the exhibition "Peace with a Women's Face," which was displayed in the lobby of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We also participated in the commemoration of White Ribbon Day in Prijedor on May 31, 2023. Activists from the CURE Foundation also took part in the conference "Women, Peace, Security - Gender Aspects of Peacebuilding Policies in Bosnia and Herzegovina" in Sarajevo.

As part of this Initiative, CURE organized a street action on December 8, 2023, to commemorate the Day of Remembrance for Women Victims of War. By marking December 8th, attention is drawn to the unjust treatment of women who are victims of war, who do not have an adequate place in collective memory, without monuments or a day to remember and honor them.

Summer School in Sarajevo: Innovative Social Work Research in Southeast Europe: Integrating Justice, Human Rights, and Civic Engagement.

The CURE Foundation implemented the Southeast Women's Academic Leadership Network project in collaboration with the University of Priština, supported by The Dennis A. and Julia Watkins Foundation. The aim was to educate social work students to become critically oriented and to showcase, promote, and discuss various methodologies leading to social change, democratization, and fair citizenship throughout the Southeast European 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. The aim of the summer school was twofold: (i) to educate social work students to become critically oriented users of research and (ii) to educate the next generation of social work researchers to critically engage with epistemologies and methodologies in research and practice related to social development, democratization, and social justice. Thanks to this summer school, social work scholars in Southeast Europe have joined the development of new, creative, and imaginative research methodologies

Women's Court – Regional Organizing Committee

In accordance with the agreement among the members of the regional Women's Court (Women in Black, Belgrade; Association of War Victims Foča 92-95; The CURE Foundation, Sarajevo; Center for Women Victims of War, Zagreb; Center for Women's and Peace Education Anima, Kotor; New Horizons, Tuzla), a workshop titled "Women's Peace Encounter - Towards Organizing the Women's Court" was held on February 17th and 18th, 2023, in Sarajevo as part of the ongoing Women's Court process. This meeting was attended by women from Foča/Sarajevo, organizers, and therapists from the Women's Court, as well as witnesses at the Women's Court from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, and Serbia, totaling 29 participants. The topics discussed included Initiatives related to transitional justice - regional and international levels, Feminist ethics of care: my sources, Barometer: myths and facts about sexual violence in armed conflicts, and Symbolic reparations focusing on the war crime of rape - international and regional experiences. Working meetings were held in Belgrade on June 26th, 2023, and in Sarajevo on September 22nd and 23rd. After the historically significant event, the Foča case, discussions revolved around the testimony process, feelings, whether anything has changed in the lives of the individuals who testified, and further work on finalizing the documentation for the book and film.



NETWORKS

The CURE Foundation sees its participation in networks and joint initiatives as a fundamental mechanism for the development of a solidarity-based and inclusive women's movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which it strives for. It also views it as an opportunity to integrate its energy, knowledge, and feminist mission into the struggle to improve the position of women, as well as other marginalized social groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Some of the networks in which the CURE Foundation is active and contributes to their work include:

Women's Network BiH (ŽMBiH) – in the capacity of a coordinating organization

ERA – LGBT Equal Rights Association

EuroMed Feminist Initiative

Initiative for Monitoring the European Integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Coalition against hate speech and hate crime

Women's Court - Regional Organizational Committee, involving 10 organizations

Network for Peacebuilding

Women Citizens for Constitutional Reform Initiative

Network of Cultural Gender Practices

Coalition of Romani and non-Romani civil society organizations

Women in Black Network through individual activism

IGLYO

ILGA Europe

Efi Network

ALF Network

AWARDS

On April 11, 2023, the Mayor of Sarajevo, Benjamina Karić, along with city councilors Adi Škaljić and Alen Girt, presented the City of Sarajevo's Appreciation Certificates to Jadranka Miličević and the Association "Network for Peacebuilding." "We have recognized the selfless contribution of activist Jadranka Miličević in processes aimed at advancing women's rights, as well as our city as a pleasant place to work and live for all," was the message conveyed during the reception at the City Hall.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

In March 2023, the CURE Foundation participated in workshops on creating a feminist manifesto and held meetings with representatives from the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the OSCE about integrating a gender perspective into protection and rescue operations. They were also actively involved in writing the CEDAW report on equality in education. The Foundation presented its work at the UNIGEM Winter School "Gender and Globalization" and contributed to writing an alternative report on Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress towards EU integration. Additionally, CURE received a special peace award for their contributions to the fight for women's rights and attended the 10th-anniversary celebration of the Women's Association for Rural Development Zvijezda Vareš.

Members of the CURE Foundation participated in training on gender equality and discrimination as part of the "EU for Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination in BiH" project. They also attended the Montenegro Regional Conference on Supporting Democratic Activism to Achieve Policy Outcomes. In the first quarter of 2023, they attended more than 15 events, including workshops,

conferences, and meetings, involving over 200 individuals active in the field of women's rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region.

The CURE Foundation organized workshops on the topic "What is Violence?" at Avdo Smajlović Elementary School where over 100 seventh-grade students participated. Additionally, a CURE Foundation activist served as a panelist on the topic "Sexual Violence in and out of Courtrooms!" at the Women of the World (WOW) Festival in Athens, Greece. One of the CURE members was also a lecturer at a workshop titled "Gender-Based Violence against Roma Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina," organized by the Atlantic Initiative. The Foundation hosted a study visit by the Ukrainian Women's Fund delegation on the topic "Resilient Together: Improving the Response System to Sexual Violence in War." An activist from the CURE Foundation participated in a panel at the Faculty of Political Sciences titled "Creating a Society without Violence against Women," where she presented the Foundation's activities in combating violence against women and girls in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Members of the CURE Foundation team supported the organization of a Living Library in Sarajevo at the Socio-Cultural Center (DKC) and Dom pisaca venues, with over 150 participants. A CURE Foundation activist was a lecturer at the ninth Feminist Spring School 2023 in Vrnjačka Banja and participated in a panel discussion titled "From Screen to Street: Cultivating Safe Spaces" organized by the Local Democracy Agency Mostar. Additionally, CURE participated in Women's Conversations – Feminist Approach to Justice in Vrnjačka Banja, and one member was appointed to the Gender Action Plan Task Force for Sarajevo Canton.

CURE Foundation activists also attended a networking meeting in Neum and presented the Foundation's work to students from the Local Coordinator for GMU Study Abroad courses in the Balkans. At the European Parliament Conference in Serbia, the CURE

Foundation was chosen as a civil society partner organization for the regional implementation of the mentoring program for women “Share Your Knowledge.”

During 2023, the CURE Foundation actively participated in various meetings, interviews, and events aimed at advancing women's rights and building the women's movement. Foundation members attended a meeting with the Mayor of Zagreb, Tomislav Tomašević, where they discussed femicide, gender-based violence, and other social issues. They also participated in a meeting with the High Representative in BiH, Christian Schmidt, as well as meetings with various organizations and institutions, including the Ministry of Human Rights, the U.S. Embassy, the Women's Network BiH, and the Council of Europe project team.

The Foundation also participated in various activities organized by other organizations, facilitating networking and collaboration with individuals active in the field of women's rights. This includes participation in discussions, conferences, and events such as talks with the Council of Europe project team on combating digital and sexual violence against women, and the Atlantic Initiative conference on hate crimes and hate speech. It is important to mention the “Stronger Together” meeting organized by the TRAG Foundation, mentoring participation in the project mapping women's organizations in BiH, a roundtable discussion on gender (in) equality in the labor market in BiH, and the presentation of the project “Intersectoral Partnership for Human Rights and Gender Equality in the Labor Market,” as well as the Council of Europe meeting “Towards an Equal, Inclusive, and Tolerant Bosnia and Herzegovina.”

Additionally, the Foundation participated in various activities, including workshops on gender-based violence in schools as part of the Movement 1325, supporting the organization of a conference on the future of women's football in BiH organized by Sportex Agency, and attending the HBS conference in Skopje focused on combating

anti-gender movements. They also joined a meeting with Eve Ensler in Niš, received training on inclusive oversight of the security sector, attended the regional conference “United Against Violence - Enough!” in Pristina, and participated in conferences addressing security challenges in FBiH and combating disinformation in the media. Additionally, they received training on financial management as part of USAID’s program. Activists from the CURE Foundation also took part in the inaugural regional festival of women’s activism, entrepreneurship, and ecology in Lukavac, supporting the Association Srce i duša from Prokosovići, and celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Autonomous Women’s Center in Belgrade. Furthermore, they attended a meeting of partner organizations of the Western Balkans Fund in Durrës, Albania, aimed at strengthening regional partnerships and civil society capacities in the Western Balkans.

Furthermore, CURE participated in a series of other activities, including the promotion of research on violence at the Faculty of Political Sciences, the presentation of the Map of Rights and Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly in the Sarajevo Canton, as well as various conferences, roundtable discussions, and public events dedicated to the fight for gender equality and the elimination of violence against women.

Moreover, the CURE Foundation actively engaged in a range of significant events and initiatives throughout 2023. Their presence lent support to various campaigns and jubilee celebrations, such as the tenth anniversary of the Alternative Center for Girls in Kruševac and the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the work of the Women’s Association Jadar in Konjević Polje. Additionally, the Foundation supported the UN Women campaign through the promotion of artistic content, attended a public event marking eighty years since the first session of the Anti-Fascist Council for the National Liberation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and participated in the presentation of the publication “Alternative Report of Civil Society Organizations on the Implementation of the CEDAW

Convention” organized by the Helsinki Citizens’ Parliament Banja Luka. Furthermore, the Foundation participated in and supported a training on inclusive oversight of the security sector organized by NIHOS and the Women’s Access to Justice in the Western Balkans meeting organized by the Council of Europe. They expanded their engagement to support the observance of International Romani Language Day, actively participating in activities organized by Romani women’s associations. We also highlight collaboration with the Center for Roma Initiatives from Montenegro, as well as meetings with student organizations, the International University Burch Sarajevo, AISEC, and NDI. Additionally, we are proud to have hosted a team from the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement.

Through these activities, the CURE Foundation reaffirms its commitment to promoting women’s rights and building an inclusive society.

Foundation CURE in Numbers

Foundation CURE actively works on improving its media presence and communication through various information channels. In 2023, we focused on redesigning our website www.fondacijacure.org, which was enriched with new video and photo content to meet modern trends. Additionally, we maintain an active presence on social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, where we regularly share information about the activities and campaigns we conduct. Our Instagram profile recorded significant growth in 2023, and we currently have 4471 followers. The post with the highest number of likes in 2023 counts over 88500 likes, 1093 comments, and 62000 shares, which is part of the campaign against violence

against women and femicide. The story with the most reactions counts 418893 reached profiles, 123086 engaged accounts, and 54774 activities – note that this is organic reach. On Facebook, we have an active fan page with 6233 people who have liked it and over 7000 followers. Foundation CURE, as the coordinating organization of the Women's Network of BiH, also manages the website www.zenskamreza.ba and the Facebook fan page of the Women's Network of BiH, which has over 5600 followers. The PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism is present on Facebook and has over 2300 followers. Additionally, we have established a Viber channel as an additional means of communication with our followers, providing them with the opportunity to directly receive information about our activities. In addition to focusing on online channels, we continue to carefully monitor media reports related to women's human rights. In 2023, we made significant progress in our efforts to be as accessible as possible to our followers, and we meticulously tracked our appearances in the media through Press clipping. We recorded 8 articles in print media/newspapers, 165 online articles, and 110 appearances on TV and radio channels with a total duration of over 28 hours. We drank over 8000 cups of coffee with our colleagues, volunteers, decision-makers, and women in small local communities across Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region.

**4471**

Followers

**> 7000**

Followers

8

Printed Articles

165

Online Articles

110

Appearances

> 28 h

Appearances

> 8000**Cups of Coffee**

with our colleagues, volunteers, decision-makers, and women in small local communities across Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region.

DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

Kvinna till Kvinna (KTK); Global Fund for Women (GFW); Fondacija TRAG/Fondacija OAK; Mediterranean Women's Fund; Heart and Hand Fund; Sigrid Rausing Trust; Heinrich Böll Stiftung Sarajevo (HBS); Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Bosnia and Herzegovina (FES); ISCOS – Emilia Romagna; Women's World Day of Prayer (WWDP) - German Committee; Delegation of the European Union to BiH and the Office of the EU Special Representative.

The CURE Foundation would like to express gratitude to all of you – friends from Bosnia and Herzegovina and around the world – for your continuous attention, support, and friendship that you have generously provided us with over the years.

Foundation CURE Team in 2023: Jadranka, Vedrana, Stela, Denija, Selma, Medina, Saša, Enida, Lana, and Sanda.

Members of the Administrative Board: Ranka, Hana, Nadža, Saša, and Joško.

Foundation CURE media:

Web: **www.fondacijacure.org**

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

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

YouTube: **Fondacija CURE**

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ZAUSTAVIMO
NASILJE NAD ŽENAMA



SADA!



*Time is up, let's stop violence against women NOW!