



**YEARS
TOGETHER**

**VISIBLE
STRONG**

UNITED* for a common goal -
Holding the Line for Women's Rights – No Turning Back!

CURE

20 Years of Feminist Activism and Social Change

The CURE Foundation (CURE) is a feminist-activist organisation committed to gender equality and positive social change through educational, artistic and cultural, and research-based programmes. By organising affirmative actions, CURE celebrates the strength and power of women and works to empower individuals to become drivers of positive social transformation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and beyond. Feminist activism has enabled the creation of a **safe space** where women are strong, fearless, capable, and united in all their diversity. CURE is an organisation that blends professionalism with activism – its team members take to the streets in public protest against violence, discrimination, breaches of the law, and fundamental human rights violations. They organise performances against all forms of violence and call on artists, scholars, educators, activists, and citizens to act and contribute personally to building a better and healthier Bosnian and Herzegovinian society.

Over the past two decades, **CURE has become** a recognised centre of feminist activism in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the wider region. Through various initiatives and programmes, we have **empowered thousands of women and girls**, raised dozens of key issues related to social justice, initiated public debates, and continuously created safe spaces for dialogue and social change. We are a driving force in strengthening and educating the women's movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region, and **we are widely recognised** for our strong advocacy for women's rights, the empowerment of socially marginalised groups, women active in politics, and the creation of safe spaces for activism and socially engaged art. Our work is rooted in feminist, anti-militarist, and anti-fascist principles and beliefs, and our engagement includes initiatives that contribute to the physical, economic, and social security of women.

Through our **interactive programmes, workshops and public debates**, we empower women and girls to recognise their rights and become agents of change. We also explore opportunities for improved legal frameworks that will ensure greater protection of women from violence, fairer economic conditions,

200+

Projects

Leading social change across Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region.

67+

Municipalities and cities

In Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region, places where women are empowered and connected.

50+

Donors

who believed in the feminist mission and supported change

Thousands

Of women and girls

empowered through education, art, and activism

and a more inclusive society. **We place particular emphasis on supporting marginalised groups of women, including LBT* women, women with disabilities, single mothers, women from rural areas, survivors of violence, Roma women, migrant women, women who have survived various forms of cancer, and those who are invisible and forgotten.**

In the challenging geopolitical context we face – where women's rights are under threat and the space for activist engagement is shrinking – we continue to act as a bridge between local and regional feminist peace initiatives. We believe that solidarity is essential for strengthening the women's movement, and we actively work to build networks and partnerships with feminists, activists, and organisations across the region and the world.

We are committed to creating and preserving feminist knowledge and culture, cultivating spaces where the voices of women and marginalised groups are heard and mutually empowered. Our response to gender-based violence is **immediate and decisive** – we act swiftly when help, support or concrete solutions are needed. By organising protests and public actions, we raise our voices against injustice, inspire and gather activists to join us in the collective struggle for equality, dignity and a society where justice is real and accessible to all.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our team members, the governing board, volunteers, and all our supporters who have stood with us every step of the way. Together with you, we have successfully implemented over 200 projects that have created positive change and opened up spaces for women to take initiative and drive social transformation in 57 municipalities and cities across Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in more than 20 cities throughout the region. We are proud to have mobilised over eight million convertible marks in grant funding throughout our twenty-year journey!

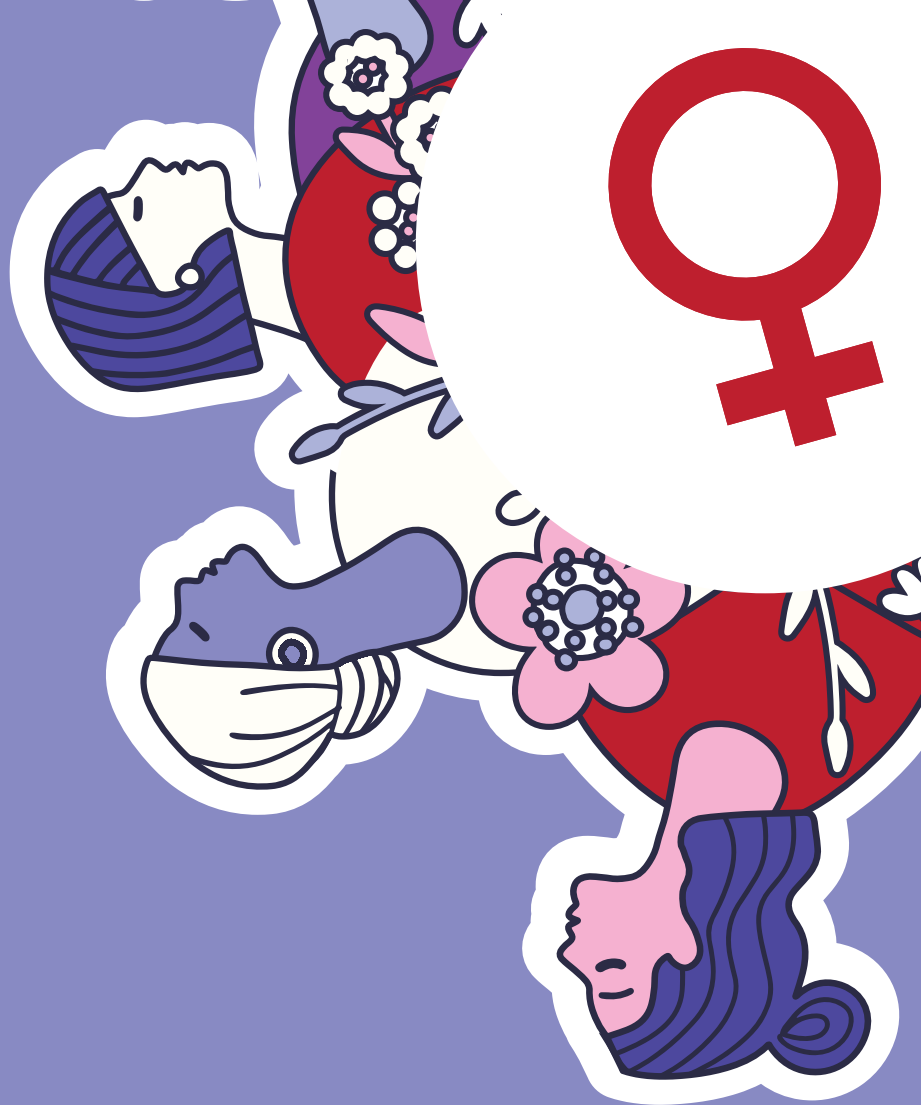
Support That Made Change Possible

This activist engagement would not have been possible without the support of our partners – over 50 donors who recognised our work, believed in our mission, and stood by our side:

The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation (Sweden), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), UK International Development, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Government of Switzerland, the European Union, the Embassy of Austria, the Government of the United States of America (through various programmes), the Embassy of Norway, the Embassy of Canada, Westminster Foundation for Democracy, EUSR, Centre for Civil Initiatives, City of Sarajevo, Municipality of Centar Sarajevo, Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports, Sarajevo Canton Tourist Board, Global Fund for Women (USA), CfD – The Feminist Peace Organisation, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Open Society Foundation, OAK Foundation, As-traea, IAMANEH Switzerland, EuroCentralAsian Lesbian Community*, Heart and Hand Foundation, Women's World Day of Prayer, ISCOS Emilia Romagna, Women in Black, Mozaik Foundation, Foundation for Women's Empowerment, INFOHOUSE, Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka, Mediterranean Women's Fund, Erasmus, Feminist Trust Fund, Western Balkans Fund, ERA, The Sigrid Rausing Trust (UK), TRAG Foundation Serbia, CARE International, Jelena Šantić Foundation Serbia, The Balkan Trust for Democracy, The Denis A. and Julia M. Watkins Foundation, UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women, ODIHR, AMICA.



NETWORKS AND INITIATIVES



The CURE Foundation actively contributes to the work of the following networks and initiatives:

- Global Fund for Women – Movement-Led Approach to Gender Justice in the Western Balkans
- ERA – LGBTI Equal Rights Association
- EuroMed Feminist Initiative
- Anna Lindh Foundation Network BiH – ALF BiH
- Initiative for Monitoring the European Integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Coalition for Combatting Hate Speech and Hate Crimes
- Women's Court – Regional Organisational Committee
- Network for Building Peace
- Women Citizens for Constitutional Reform Initiative
- Cultural Gender Practices Network
- Women in Black Network
- ILGA Europe
- Civil Society Initiative for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- IGLYO – The International LGBTQI Youth & Student Organisation
- College of Tourism and Management Konjic – Education of Marginalised Women
- EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community
- ECA Civil Society Steering Committee for Beijing +30
- Initiative to Reduce Gender Inequality and Discrimination in the Labour Market

70

Various
creative
actions

200+

Public
reactions

3.5k+

Social media
announcements

Direct Actions in Public Spaces

Through **70 diverse and creative actions** carried out on the streets of Sarajevo and other cities across Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the collection of signatures for numerous petitions, we have drawn public attention to key issues such as gender equality, violence against women, the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons, and social justice.

With recognisable symbols and banners, our street actions have not only raised awareness but also inspired the public to reflect and act. We have brought important – but often overlooked – questions to the forefront, expressed solidarity with women in war-affected areas, and amplified the voices of those who are otherwise unheard.

Public Responses and Social Responsibility

Public responses and social responsibility form the foundation of our activist engagement with the broader public. Through more than **200 public statements and over 3,500 posts on social media**, we call for accountability, denounce violence and injustice, and advocate for positive social change. Our responses are a strong expression of solidarity and support.

In this spirit, we speak on behalf of all those who are marginalised, oppressed, and excluded from social processes, because we believe that the rights of every individual and collective cannot be achieved without broader solidarity. **Providing support is our duty** – to be a voice, but also a call for collective action and shared responsibility in building a more just society.





8TH MARCH- MARCH FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

International Women's Day – 8th March – is a day to celebrate women's economic, political, and civil rights, as well as their contributions to society. Through its commemoration, we strive to uphold the legacy of historic resistance against all those who stand in the way of achieving women's rights and peace.

In order to preserve the memory of the origins of the women's movement and to draw public attention to the issues of gender inequality and the everyday struggles of women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, **we traditionally organise and lead the March on 8th March in Sarajevo**. Every year, we invite representatives of marginalised groups, workers, pupils, students, elderly women, representatives of institutions, academia, the media, and all citizens who share the desire for a state of equal rights to join us in the streets – to, once again, demonstrate resistance to injustice and express our determination to stop all forms of oppression against women and marginalised communities.

Our street actions marking 8th March have gathered **more than 3,000 people over the years**. **We have marched for the rights of working women, against femicide, for reproductive rights, against domestic violence and sexual harassment, as well as against warfare and the militarisation of society**, which disproportionately affect women. We have brought attention to burning global issues by connecting the struggle of women in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the broader feminist struggle worldwide, emphasising the importance of peace, security, and women's rights in both wartime and post-conflict contexts.



550

Workshops

where women and youth were empowered to recognize their rights and take action

150

Public debates

focused on social taboos — with experts, activists, and advocates

22+

Conferences

local and regional — for knowledge exchange and strengthening the feminist network.

55k+

Women, girls, and allies

involved in the activities of the CURE Foundation

1.2k+

Visitors

to our space in Sarajevo — in search of knowledge, support, and inspiration

90+

Publications, guides, and manuals

as tools for education, advocacy, and feminist activism

Education and Empowerment

Through **550 unique workshops**, we have provided knowledge and tools to women and young people to help them recognise their rights, develop critical thinking, and actively participate in social processes. Our feminist values are embedded in the methodology and approach to the topics we have addressed:

- Gender equality and feminism
- Economic empowerment of women
- Political participation of women
- Violence prevention
- Self-care and integrated safety
- Art and activism
- Dealing with the past and building peace.

Public Debates and Conferences

We have organised **150 public debates** that brought socially taboo topics into the spotlight. By gathering experts, activists, journalists and institutional representatives, we have initiated dialogue on often neglected issues, creating space for critical analysis and problem-solving.

In addition, through **20 local and regional conferences**, we have created opportunities for exchanging knowledge, experiences, and fostering joint action among feminist initiatives across the region. These events have strengthened networking and solidarity among activists and organisations advocating **for women's rights, the rights of marginalised groups, LGBTIQ+ people, and social justice.**

Contribution to the Feminist Community

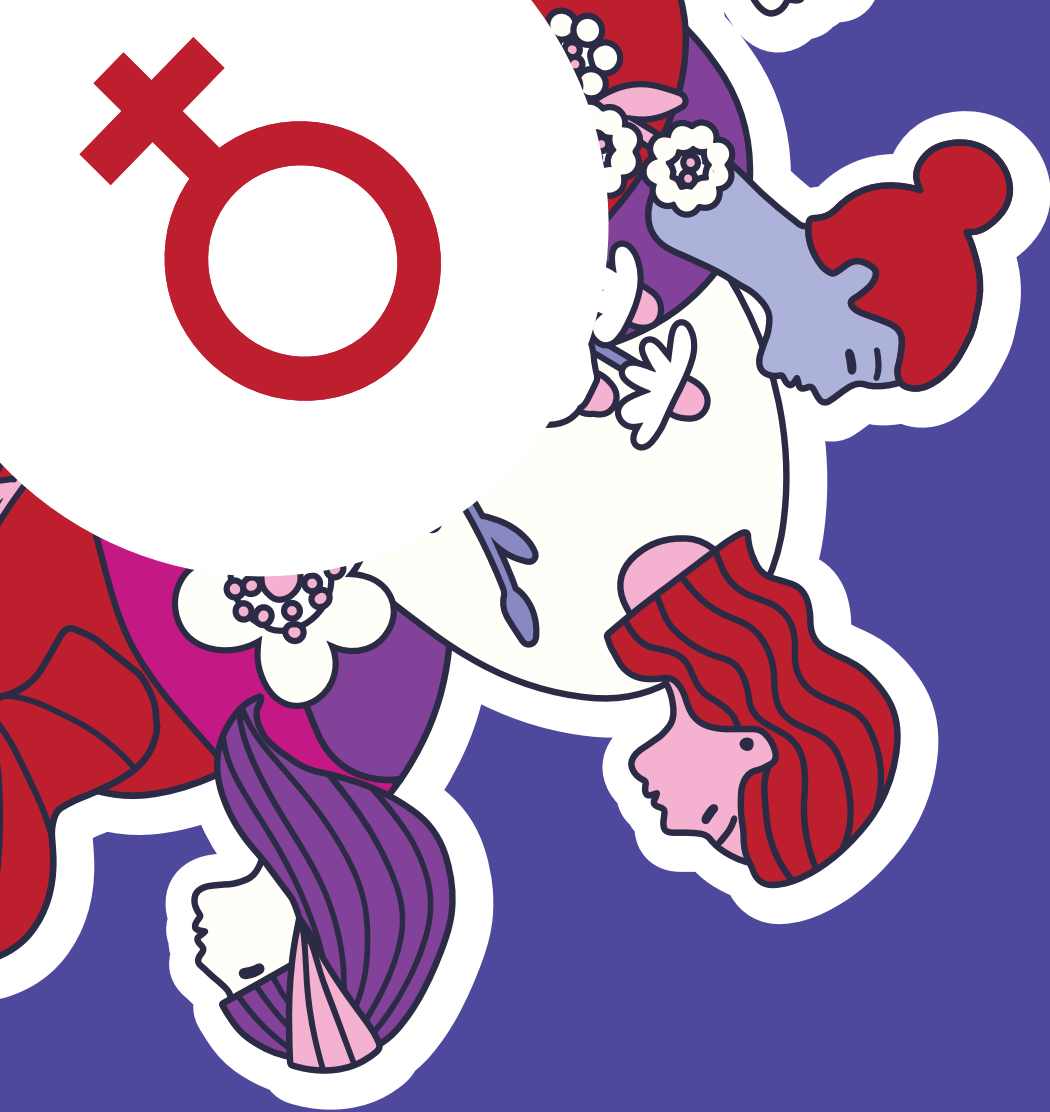
More than **55,000 women, girls and allies** have participated in the activities of the CURE Foundation, contributing through their engagement to the strengthening of the feminist movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina and beyond. Our headquarters in Sarajevo has welcomed over 1,200 individuals seeking information, support, advice, and inspiration for their own activism and work within local communities.

Spreading the Feminist Vision

Year after year, our initiatives contribute to **breaking down prejudices, stereotypes and social taboos, while also raising awareness** of crucial societal issues that directly affect women and gender justice. **We continue to build a feminist future** through informal education, advocacy and direct action, firmly believing that change comes when we raise our voices **together for justice and equality.**

Knowledge as a Tool for Change

Through **90 publications, guides and manuals**, we have provided essential resources for education, research, historical writing and feminist activism. Our publications cover a wide range of topics — **from women's rights and political participation to gender-based violence, economic justice, art and engaged feminism.** These materials not only document the feminist struggle in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the wider region but also serve as tools **to empower new generations of activists, young leaders, and all those committed to building a more just society.**



PITCHWISE FESTIVAL

Since 2006, the PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism has become a **hallmark** of the CURE Foundation – a **unique feminist international event** that fuses activism and engaged art. Over the past 19 years, the festival has hosted more than **10,000 participants, including 1,500 artists** from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the region, and across the globe. From avant-garde to engaged feminist art, numerous **world-renowned** names have become part of our shared feminist cultural legacy.

We launched the festival with a clear mission:

**TO OCCUPY AND TRANSFORM ABANDONED PUBLIC SPACES
INTO SPACES FOR ENCOUNTER AND CREATION,**

**TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND OPEN SPACE FOR A NEW
GENERATION OF WOMEN ARTISTS AND ACTIVISTS,**

**TO BUILD A HISTORY OF RESISTANCE AND CHANGE THROUGH
SOLIDARITY AND CONNECTION WITH SISTERS
AROUND THE WORLD.**

In 2025, we will celebrate our 20th PitchWise Festival!

**– WHERE ART AND
ACTIVISM WALK
HAND IN HAND**

Impact and Achievements of the PitchWise Festival of Women's Engaged Art and Activism:

PitchWise is not just a festival – it
is a space of resistance, a place
of empowerment, and a creative
playground where art and activism
shape a better future for us all.

Workshops
hubs for knowledge and experience
exchange on art, feminism, and social
change

150

35

Performances and plays
theatrical art as a tool
for social critique and
activism

Panel discussions
bringing together researchers, theorists,
activists and artists to address gender
equality and social challenges

80

70

Visual artists
exhibiting works that shaped
a unique visual narrative of
resistance and freedom

Book launches
highlighting
feminist literature
and theory

15

18

Films
screenings of feminist
and socially engaged
cinematic works

Music performances
powerful and bold
messages delivered
through rhythm and sound

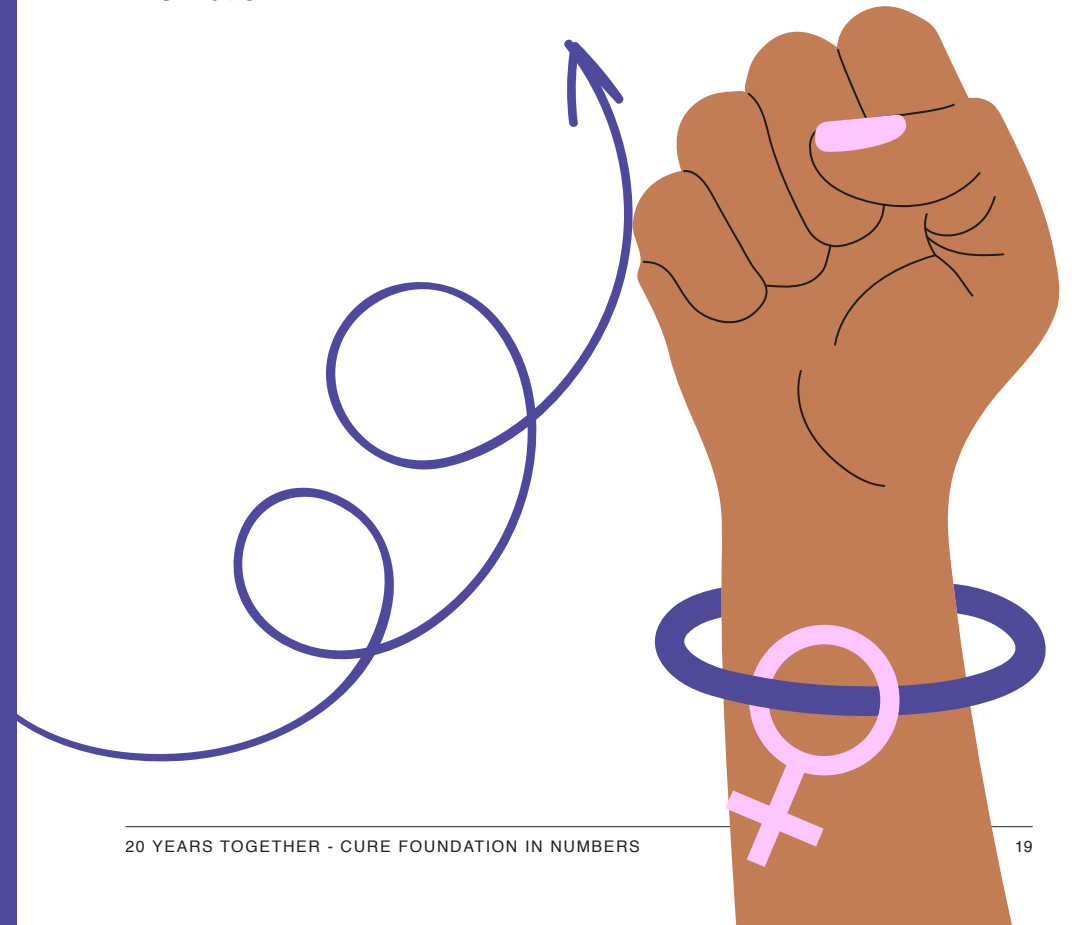
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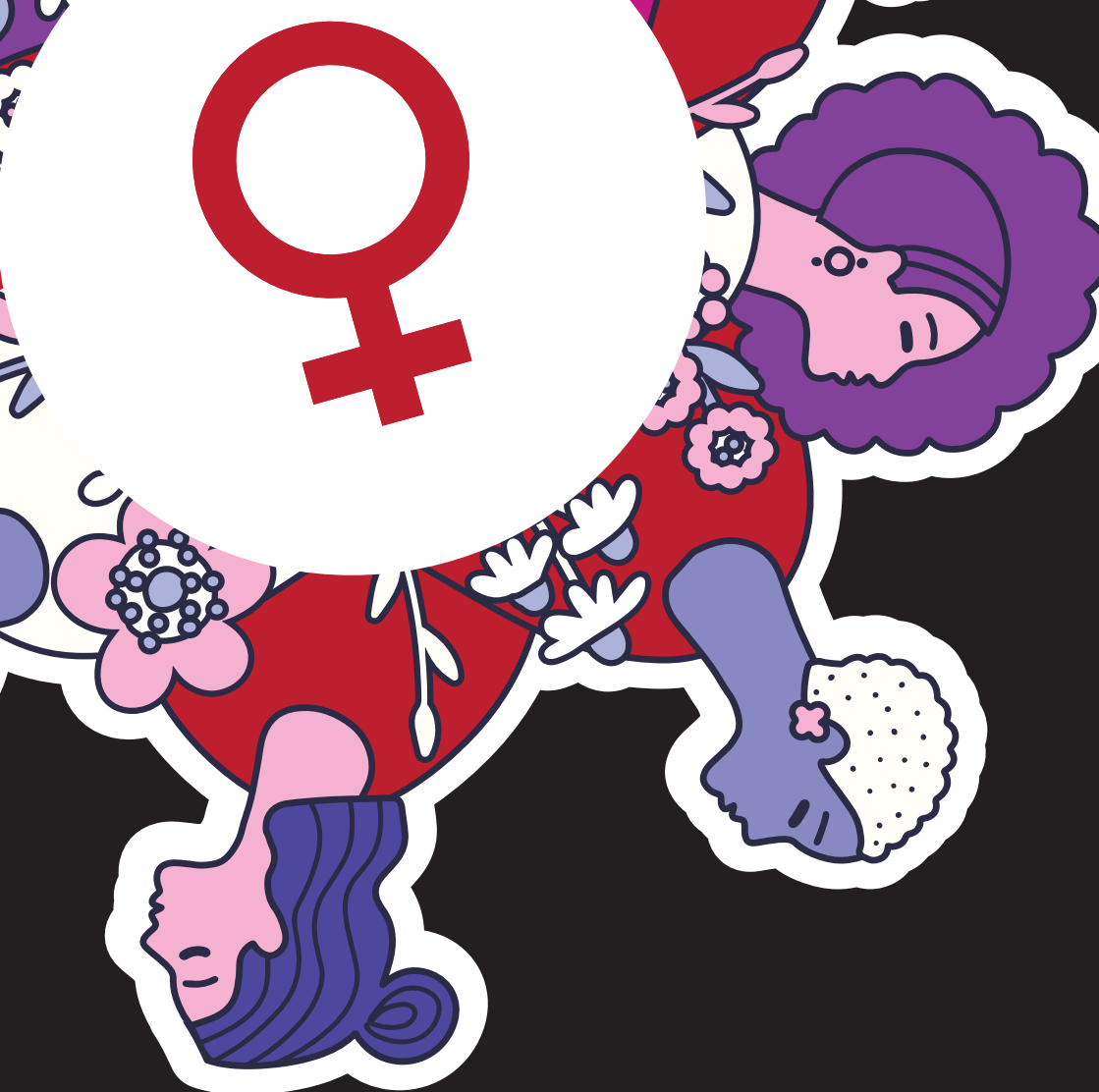


WOMEN'S NETWORK OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The CURE Foundation initiated the establishment of the **Women's Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina**, which was officially founded and began its work on 12th September 2009 at a conference of the same name, held as part of the fourth PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Women's Network of BiH is an informal group that today **brings together more than 55 civil society organisations**, as well as individuals who advocate for and work on women's rights and the advancement of gender equality. The Network promotes **anti-discrimination, freedom of choice, equality, non-violence, and anti-militarism**, embracing feminist values such as **peace, solidarity, trust, community, equality, and diversity**.

The Women's Network of BiH has directed its focus toward strengthening advocacy capacities by technically improving its communication and social platforms. Our website, www.zenskamreza.ba, continues to share the **latest information related to the quality of life of women and girls in Bosnia and Herzegovina**, serving as a valuable resource for anyone seeking further information.





MEDIA VISIBILITY

The CURE Foundation has been working for years to strengthen its media presence and remains open to **communication through a variety of channels**. We are active on **Instagram and Facebook**, where we regularly inform the public about our activities and campaigns.

In addition to social media, we also use our **Viber and YouTube channels** as platforms for **sharing educational materials and promoting our feminist activism**. We are regularly featured in public affairs and current affairs programmes on both local and national television and are a recognisable voice in the media landscape – expressing our views and actively participating in shaping public opinion, whether through smaller local **media outlets or major news platforms and prime-time programmes**.

With **countless hours of dedicated work** – and even more passion – we continue to amplify the voice of feminist struggle for **equality, justice and solidarity**. Every activity and every number is proof that together, we are creating change!

Twenty years is just the beginning.
Together, we can do more, stronger, and more justly.



Join a workshop.
Come to the march.
Share this story.
Support the work of the
CURE Foundation.

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✉ info@fondacijacure.org

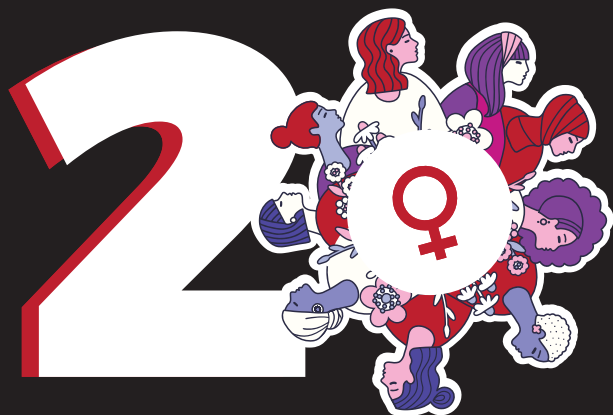
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