CURE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Second Edition April – June 2025

Dear friends, collaborators and supporters,

We are pleased to share with you the latest updates on our work and collective achievements. During the past period, from April to June 2025, we continued to implement activities aimed at improving the position of women and achieving social equality through a range of initiatives, partnerships and campaigns. One of the highlights of this period is our membership in the WAVE network, which further strengthened our cooperation with regional and European stakeholders in the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

We look back on another period marked by dedicated work, solidarity and joint efforts towards a more just society.

Thank you for following and supporting us – your support gives us the strength to persevere in our pursuit of social change.

CURE Foundation Team



PROJECTS

Implemented Activities – April to June 2025

A Feminist Perspective on Caring for Yourself and Your Community

During this quarter, activities were implemented that promote feminist approaches to care – not only for oneself, but also for the community that surrounds us. Through educational sessions,

gatherings, and workshops, spaces were opened for empowering women and girls, sharing experiences, and building solidarity.

Culture of Remembrance and Transitional Justice

As part of commemorating significant anniversaries and with the aim of strengthening a culture of remembrance, the following activities were implemented:

Resistance to Forgetting: Women Remember and Seek Justice Visit to Ahmići

We visited the site of the Ahmići massacre – 32 years after the crime in which more than one hundred civilians were killed. Through remembrance, we honour the dignity of the victims and demand justice. We condemn war crimes and call for accountability for all perpetrators. Together, we raise our voices against war and strive to ensure that such atrocities never happen again.

Education on Transitional Justice Women's Peace Camp in Sarajevo

A lecture on transitional justice from multiple perspectives was held, with a focus on activities aimed at peacebuilding, strengthening social cohesion, and fostering trust among participants. This was the first Women's Peace Camp organised within the project 'Women's Caravan for Justice and Reconciliation', implemented by the Lara Foundation from Bijeljina.



Women's Court – Ten Years Later Regional Meeting in Sarajevo

A regional meeting of the Women's Court – a feminist approach to justice – was held in Sarajevo, marking two significant anniversaries: ten years since the organisation of the Women's Court – a feminist approach to justice, held in Sarajevo (7th–10th May 2015), and two years since the Women's Court – Foča Case (Belgrade, 26th June 2023). We are immensely proud of the responsible, courageous, and creative contributions, the friendships, warmth, and support of all the women involved in the Women's Court process.

International Exchanges and Feminist Solidarity Conference in Kozarac

We had the honour of attending the international conference 'With the Heart Towards Peace', organised by the association 'With the Heart Towards Peace'. Throughout the conference, women who have fought for justice and reconciliation for decades shared inspiring messages and experiences. Discussions focused on the role of women in peacebuilding processes – both during wartime and in post-conflict societies. We had the opportunity to reconnect with our dear peace activist colleagues, exchange experiences, and remind ourselves of the importance of our shared struggle for peace.



In Defence of Memory and Truth White Armbands in Prijedor

On 31st May, we participated in the commemoration of the White Armband Day in Prijedor, organised by the 'Because It Concerns Me' team. On this day, we remember 102 murdered children of Prijedor, as well as many other victims. On 31st May 1992, the Bosnian Serb authorities ordered the non-Serb population to hang white sheets on their houses and wear white armbands on their sleeves – a symbol of persecution, imprisonment, and death.

We wear white armbands because we refuse to stay silent. We wear them to say: let this never happen again to anyone, anywhere. We wear them because we believe in justice, accountability, and the culture of remembrance.

Feminist Documentation and Knowledge Transfer Book Promotion: 'Feminist Time Travel Through Bosnia and Herzegovina'

In cooperation with the Women's Association NERA Konjic, and within the framework of the ŽENERA Festival, a promotion of the book 'Feminist Time Travel Through Bosnia and Herzegovina' (FemPutovanje_web_eng.pdf) was held. The book was published by the CURE Foundation as part of the project of the same name.

Women shared personal stories about their ability to overcome challenges and prevent retraumatisation, as well as ideas on how to become initiators of change in their local communities. A total of 35 women participated.



Women in Politics

The project Women in Politics, jointly implemented by the CURE Foundation and the Association Budućnost Modriča with the support of IAMA-NEH Switzerland and the financial support of the Government of Switzerland, was completed at the end of May 2025. The activities were carried out in Gračanica, Lukavac, Tuzla, Šamac, Modriča, Vukosavlje, and Doboj, with the aim of strengthening women's political participation at the local level.

The most important result of the project is reflected in a significant increase in the number of elected women. Compared to the 2020 local elections, women's representation rose from 17% to 24%, and after post-election appointments and replacements, a total of 50 mandates were confirmed for women – representing 26.32% of overall participation in the project municipalities.

Through various activity formats – educational workshops, forums, post-election trainings, and an online campaign – more than 400 individuals were directly involved. In addition, the campaigns reached more than 120,000 users, and meetings were organised with 14 members of municipal gender equality commissions to plan the next steps.

Conference in Tuzla: Women's Political Power – Challenges and Opportunities

One of the key events in this project was the conference 'Women's Political Power: Challenges and Opportunities', held from 7th to 9th April 2025 in Tuzla. More than 50 participants from political parties, institutions, civil society, and international organisations jointly mapped obstacles, proposed solutions, and established new forms of cooperation.

During the World Café workshops, three directions for action were defined: building mutual support among women at the local level, strengthening cooperation between women candidates and women politicians at higher levels of government, and partnering with civil society through education and advocacy activities.

A special focus was placed on defining concrete conclusions and recommendations, among which the following stand out:

- economic empowerment of women as the foundation of political independence,
- introduction and implementation of affirmative measures even after the elections not only through quotas but also through the distribution of mandates,
- legal amendments, particularly in the area of the Election Law and criminal laws related to cyber violence,
- balance in media representation of women politicians and the elimination of stereotypes,
- reforms within political parties, including the development of mentoring programmes and the introduction of gender-responsive budgets,
- digital security for women in the public sphere as a prerequisite for free action,
- strengthening solidarity among women politicians at all levels of government,
- and involving men as allies in processes of advocating for gender equality.

Memorandum of Understanding: The First Step Towards Systemic Cooperation

On the final day of the conference, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed, attended by H.E. Gabriele Derighetti, Ambassador of Switzerland to BiH. This document symbolises political and cross-sectoral solidarity, and is aimed at promoting equality, gender balance, and mutual support among women in political life.

The key objectives of the memorandum include:

- the introduction of gender quotas in post-election phases,
- automatic transfer of the mandate to the next women candidate in case of withdrawal.
- improvement of the implementation of the Law on Gender Equality and Gender Action Plans (GAP).

The memorandum represents the foundation for systemic, long-term cooperation among women from different political options and sectors.

Digital Initiatives: Greater Visibility and Knowledge

The project made a strong contribution to the digital visibility of women politicians and the dissemination of knowledge through online tools.

Key activities included:

- A podcast series on women in politics five episodes available on the CURE Foundation's YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNLb ZTf1dMJIBnehw8QVO-JlaLjqnghat)
- An interactive project website: www.wip.fondacijacure.org
- Media reporting analysis on women in politics, available at: https://fondacijacure.org/wp-content/uploads/ 2025/05/AnalizaZUP-1.pdf
- Gender analysis of the electoral process Local Elections 2024, available at: https://wip.fondacijacure.org/objavljena-rodnaanaliza-izbornog-procesa-lokalni-izbori-2024/

Advisory Group: Dialogue and Concrete Recommendations

During May, two meetings of the Advisory Group were held – on 8th May in Tuzla and on 29th May in Sarajevo. The group consists of representatives of political parties from different levels of government, as well as a representative of the Agency for Gender Equality of BiH. The meetings were attended by: Vinka Berjan, Zagorka Grahovac, Zorica Vasiljević, Joško Mandić, Belmin Zukan, Ranko Todorović, Dejan Drinić, Dajana Čolić, and Rejhana Dervišević, together with representatives of the partner organisations – the CURE Foundation, the Association Budućnost, and IAMANEH.

The discussions openly addressed practical challenges – such as:

- inadequate support for women candidates on electoral lists,
- unclear procedures for candidate withdrawal.
- lack of transparency in compensation lists, and
- the need to educate women on electoral mechanisms and rights.

Special emphasis was placed on institutional support for women in sensitive life situations, including childbirth and divorce proceedings, as well as on the protection of women politicians from negative and misogynistic campaigns.

Sustainability and Continuation of Action

The Women in Politics project fully achieved its primary goal – strengthening women's political participation – and exceeded expectations. Thanks to strong cooperation among partner organisations and the high motivation of participants, it was clearly demonstrated that digital literacy, mutual support, and institutional recognition are key factors for long-term change.

The foundations have been laid for the continuation of activities that will further strengthen women's political visibility, representation, and leadership – with a particular focus on local communities, cross-party cooperation, and empowerment through digital tools.



Exploring the Fragmentation of the Feminist Movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Within this project, supported by the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, members of the CURE Foundation team had the opportunity to dedicate valuable time to themselves – for inner reflection, reassessment of their own values and goals of action, as well as positioning within the current social and temporal context. The time devoted to self-care, both at the individual and team level, provided us with new insights into our strategic action plan and further strengthened our

commitment to advocating for the improved position of women and girls in our society.

We are endlessly grateful for the support of our long-standing friends from the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation in Sweden, who continuously provide us with understanding, trust, and strength for our continued work.

Community Response to Gender-Based Violence

From 26th to 28th May, within the project 'Community Response to Gender-Based Violence', funded by the EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community (ELC) and the European Union, a specialised training was held for a group of community helpers, who were empowered and trained to provide direct assistance and support to members of the LGBTIQ community in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the process of accessing the institutional mechanism responsible for protecting victims/survivors of gender-based violence.

The established group will operate under the rules of the institute of trusted persons and in accordance with the legal provisions of the laws on protection against domestic violence. Through

trainings and materials in the form of a Guide for Action, community helpers* gained all the necessary practical knowledge on how to provide support, and the entire idea builds upon the Network of Helpers developed and established by the Center for Women's Rights, with the current focus extended to the protection and rights of LGBTIQ and non-binary persons.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Success of the First Student of the Project in Konjic

In Konjic, we witnessed a special moment – the public defence of the diploma thesis of Larisa Kovačević, the first student of the project 'Education of Marginalised Girls/Women in BiH'. Larisa's success is the success of us all! She is proof that education opens new horizons, and her thesis on 'The Role of Non-Governmental Organisations in Special Forms of Tourism in Bosnia and Herzegovina' represents a significant step forward.

Education is the key to change, and every opportunity for growth is an opportunity for the kind of society we want to build!

Lecture on Violence Prevention

At the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies of the University of Sarajevo, within the EU Peace LL project workshop, we presented the work of the CURE Foundation to the participants. In the discussion with students from different faculties, important topics were addressed, such as violence among young people, with a particular focus on gender-based violence and violence in the online sphere.

During this meeting, students had the opportunity to ask questions and engage in dialogue on issues such as abuse of authority, the role of institutions in violence prevention, the influence of media and social networks, as well as the importance and responsibility of bystanders in situations of violence.

The conversation took place in a relaxed atmosphere, as a joint brainstorming and discussion, which will serve as a basis for the preparation of a manual that the participants will continue to work on together with their professors.

'Why Geoparks in BiH and Why Marginalised Women'

At the beginning of June, we took part in a round table in Sarajevo on the topic 'Why Geoparks in BiH and Why Marginalised Women'. We attended the presentation of the Initiative for the Establishment of a Geopark in Bosnia and Herzegovina. After ten years of work and advocacy, the idea has finally come to life, and the launch of this initiative demonstrates that dreams can be realised – especially when marginalised women are included.



ONLINE CAMPAIGN

Campaign for Free Mediation in the Federation of BiH

During May and June, we partnered with the Centre for Women's Rights from Zenica in a public campaign addressing the obstacles and problems faced by women undergoing mediation during divorce proceedings in the Federation of BiH. We also promoted the signing of the Petition for Free and Accessible Mediation in the Federation of BiH, which can still be signed at the link: https://bit.ly/Peticija_Posredovanje.

Since violence is not recognised as a reason for exempting the mediation process, we are calling for urgent amendments to the Family Law of FBiH, the abolition of fees for mediation in all cantons of FBiH, the introduction of mandatory availability of the service in every municipality, and the guarantee of equal rights to safety for all individuals.

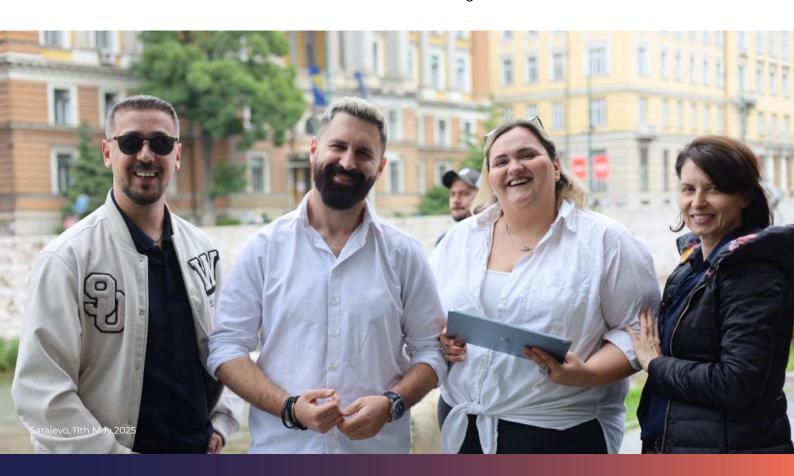
Her Name Deserves a Street

We launched the campaign 'Her Name Deserves a Street' in cooperation with the LARA Foundation.

Through six short videos, professors, journalists, and influencers presented Bosnian and Herzegovinian women whose names are already linked to Sarajevo's streets or who deserve to be recognised. The videos featured women who have streets or murals, those who once had them, as well as those whom Sarajevo has not yet sufficiently valued.

The campaign reminds us of the importance of their role in history and encourages broader social memory. Women are artists, scientists, activists, and peace-builders. Their perspectives are crucial for a more just society, and street names and monuments are ways to preserve them permanently.

We invite you to watch these video stories on Instagram @fondacijacure and explore together with us the rich women's history of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



CURE FOUNDATION'S ENGAGEMENT THROUGH PUBLIC EVENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Between April and June 2025, representatives of the CURE Foundation actively participated in numerous events, conferences, educational activities, and artistic initiatives – at the international, local, and regional levels. Through these activities, cooperation with various partners was strengthened, feminist values were promoted, women and girls were empowered, and visibility was given to key issues in the fields of human rights, gender equality, and social justice. Below we highlight the most significant engagements, divided by thematic areas.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Women in Black Network - Belgrade/Radmilovac

The regional meeting of the Women in Black Network was held from 4th to 6th April 2025 in Radmilovac near Belgrade, with the participation of 68 individuals from different parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Tuzla, Sarajevo, Zvornik), Montenegro (Kotor, Pljevlja), Croatia (Zagreb), Kosovo (Gjakova/Đakovica), Israel (Haifa), Palestine (Bethlehem), Poland (Krakow), Slovenia (Ljubljana), and Serbia (including Priboj na Limu, Belgrade, Kruševac, Zrenjanin, Novi Sad, Sombor, Leskovac, Bajina Bašta, Novi Pazar, Kraljevo, Pančevo, and Vlasotince).

The meeting began with a moment of silence in memory of all those who are no longer with us –

victims of wars, refugees, and those who perished in natural disasters, including Ukraine, Gaza, Israel, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Palestine, Sudan, Congo, Libya, Tigray, Myanmar, Pakistan, Iran, and the victims of the tragedy in Novi Sad on 1st November 2024.

The meeting discussed transitional justice from a feminist perspective, the genesis and evolution of wars, testimonies from conflict zones, as well as student uprisings, blockades, and marches. The exchange of experiences and viewpoints contributed to strengthening regional feminist solidarity and fostering a shared understanding of current socio-political challenges.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

EL*C Conference in Rome

From 23rd to 26th April 2025, the Fourth Conference of the EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community (EL*C) was held in Rome, bringing together more than 750 participants from Europe and Central Asia. Among them were members of the CURE Foundation.

The conference provided a safe space for exchange of experiences, empowerment, and political organising of lesbians and LBTQIA+ persons. Through panels, workshops, and discussions, participants addressed issues such as intersectionality, media representation, economic challenges, mental health, violence in relationships, and the living conditions of lesbians in different contexts.

Ljubljana Pride

We participated in an international seminar within the Ljubljana Pride Festival, where we exchanged knowledge with activists from around the world on human rights, LGBTIQ+ issues, and resistance to oppression. Through workshops, film screenings, and discussions, we connected feminist, anti-war, and queer perspectives.

We concluded the seminar by taking part in the Pride Parade under the clear message: 'No Pride in Genocide'.

Reception at the British Ambassador's Residence – Sarajevo

We attended the celebration of the birthday of King Charles III. We met with many friends and colleagues from the worlds of politics, business, culture, security, cyber security, defence, and the non-governmental sector.



LOCAL AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Conference 'United for Peace and Security' – Bosanska Krupa

From 16th to 18th May, the conference 'United for Peace and Security' was held in Bosanska Krupa, gathering 310 participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the diaspora. During the meeting, stories, dreams, tears, and smiles were shared, building bridges of mutual understanding, trust, and solidarity. A Memorandum of Joint Action within the framework of UN Resolution 1325 was signed, with as many as 62 associations joining.

Meridiano D'Europa - Sarajevo

The CURE Foundation proudly participated in the Meridiano D'Europa project, an extraordinary educational programme that brought together more than 250 high school students from Italy who visited Srebrenica and Sarajevo.

This programme provided young people with the opportunity to become active participants in shaping Europe's future, inspiring them to develop tools through dialogue to confront the challenges that threaten our democratic values and human rights.

'Ramiz's Summer' - Documentary Film

At Meeting Point in Sarajevo, we attended the premiere of the documentary film 'Ramiz's Summer', directed by Dejan Kožul. The film tells a powerful story of activism, human dedication, and an inexhaustible struggle for dignity.

Through the character of Ramiz, the audience had the opportunity to get to know the everyday life of a quiet hero whose life mission was to help others and remain true to the principles of solidarity. 'Ramiz's Summer' is a testimony to a time and to people who never gave up, even when times were the hardest.

GenZ FEST - Sarajevo

The CURE Foundation took part in the first edition of GenZ FEST, a two-day event held on 23rd and 24th May 2025 in Sarajevo, dedicated to youth, innovation, and education.

The festival gathered high school students, university students, and young professionals, providing them with an opportunity for networking, exchanging ideas, and finding inspiration through a series of lectures, workshops, and interactive sessions.

Within the framework of the World Café session, representatives of the CURE Foundation presented the organisation's activities and values, while throughout the day, through informal conversations with visitors – primarily young people – they discussed the importance of feminism, civic activism, and equality.





ACTIVISM, CULTURE AND ART

Kvirhana 2025

We attended the opening of Kvirhana 2025 at the Youth Theatre Tuzla, Kaleidoskop stage, organised by the Tuzla Open Centre (TOC). This year's edition of the festival focuses on labels – rejecting those imposed on us, and choosing those that symbolise love, togetherness, and support.

Under the slogan 'Be part of the liberating movement and a society that leaves behind its limiting moulds', Kvirhana invites us to jointly explore the meanings of labels, build new friendships, and create space for the free expression of identity.

And through it all, let us not forget – love has no label!

PitchWise at Kvirhana – Sarajevo

We participated in the Kvirhana Festival, which this year was held under the powerful slogan 'We Are Not from Yesterday', clearly and loudly affirming the existence, resistance, and contribution of LGBTIQ persons throughout history.

At the panel 'The Cultural Significance of Feminist and Queer Festivals', we presented the PitchWise Festival of Women's Art and Activism, emphasising its importance for connecting art, politics, and the struggle for human rights.



ACTIVISM, CULTURE AND ART

BiH Pride March - Sarajevo

The sixth BiH Pride March was held under the slogan 'Love is the Law', accompanied by whistles, applause, and messages such as "Love is the Law" and "This is a Protest". In addition to rainbow flags, participants carried banners in support of the people of Palestine, including one that stood out with the inscription "Free Palestine", while chants of "Freedom for Gaza" could also be heard.

Participants emphasised that "Sarajevo is a free city" and that it "belongs to Europe once again", but also pointed out that the legal framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina still does not recognise the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community – particularly regarding the possibility of marriage and adoption for same-sex couples.

Festival 'Contemporary Woman' - Tuzla

The 'Contemporary Woman' Festival brought together extraordinary women from around the world, promoting leadership, innovation, and social responsibility. This event developed a platform for knowledge exchange, networking, and inspiration, where participants from different spheres of society shared their stories and visions.

A member of the CURE Foundation shared her views with the participants through a panel discussion. The festival was implemented within the framework of the European Dialogue in BiH '30 Years of Peace & What Next?', as part of the session: 'Monitoring – Do We Know All Our Rights?'



PROMOTION OF KNOWLEDGE AND LITERATURE

Book: 'Birds That Leave and Return to the Cage of Life' (Ptice koje odlaze i vraćaju se u kavez života – Sarajevo

At the Museum of Literature and Theatre Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the promotion of the book Ptice koje odlaze i vraćaju se u kavez života ('Birds That Leave and Return to the Cage of Life', unofficial translation) was held, written by Meliha Sendić and Duška Andrić, long-standing activists and women's rights defenders from the Centre for Women's Rights in Zenica.

The book is the result of more than 20 years of work in the field of human rights and gender

equality, and through it, the authors unite their voices in calling on women to live freely. In addition to the authors, Jadranka Miličević and Jasmina Čaušević from the CURE Foundation also participated, with Jasmina moderating the discussion. The conversation focused on contemporary pressures that impose on women the burden of perfection, feelings of guilt and subordination, as well as on the unwritten social rules that form the bars of the invisible cages in which women live.

HIGHLIGHT

Membership in the WAVE Network

In May this year, the CURE Foundation became a member of the WAVE Network – a network of women's organisations from across Europe advocating for the protection of women and children from violence (WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EUROPE – Feminist Network Promoting Human Rights of Women and Children).

WAVE is a network of more than 180 European women's NGOs working on the prevention and protection of women and children from violence. The CURE Foundation shares common values

with the WAVE Network, and we believe this membership will provide an opportunity to achieve shared goals and visions. The WAVE Network supports women in more than 46 countries, striving to identify shortcomings and obstacles in the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. We look forward to growing together, strengthening cooperation, and persistently advocating for a life free from violence for all women and children.



DONORS:

Kvinna till Kvinna (KTK), Global Fund for Women (GFW), TRAG Foundation / OAK Foundation, Heart and Hand Fund, Sigrid Rausing Trust, Heinrich Böll Stiftung Sarajevo (HBS), Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Bosnia and Herzegovina (FES), Women's World Day of Prayer (WWDP) – German Committee, Government of Switzerland, IAMANEH Switzerland, EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community (EL*C), and the European Union

The CURE Foundation wishes to thank all of you – friends from Bosnia and Herzegovina and around the world – for your continuous attention, support, and friendship that you unreservedly provide. Your solidarity motivates, encourages, and empowers us to persevere in the struggle for equality, justice, and freedom.

Together we are building a society in which the feminist voice is strong, present, and indispensable.

Thank you for standing with us.

CURE Foundation Team: Jadranka, Stela, Denija, Selma, Enida, Lana, Sanda, Jasmina i Lejla



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

Your presence, your voice, your support – make a difference.

FOLLOW US, AND JOIN US!

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