

CURE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Third Edition

July – September 2025

Dear friends, partners, and supporters,

We are delighted to share the latest updates on our work and collective achievements. During the period from July to September 2025, we continued implementing activities aimed at improving the position of women and building a more equal society through diverse programmes, campaigns, and collaborations.

This quarter was also marked by the 20th anniversary edition of the PitchWise Festival, which once again reaffirmed the importance of art, creative expression, and a strong feminist community grounded in solidarity and committed to driving social change.

The past months have been filled with dedicated work, unity, and powerful messages that we continue to shape together.

Thank you for standing with us – your support gives us the strength to keep moving forward.

CURE Foundation Team



Implemented Activities (July – September 2025)

Feminist Perspectives on Self-Care and Care for the Community Around You

At the centre of our activities during this period was feminist care as an approach that connects personal well-being with collective responsibility and support.

Through education, gatherings and workshops, we strengthened the empowerment of women and girls and reinforced the network of solidarity.

Culture of Remembrance and Transitional Justice

In July, the **CURE Foundation participated in activities dedicated to the culture of remembrance**, transitional justice, and preserving the truth about the genocide in Srebrenica.

We took part in the **International Conference ‘Srebrenica 1995–2025: Confronting the Past’**, which brought together representatives of international institutions, academia, civil society organisations, and the diplomatic corps. The conference highlighted the importance of facing the past as a foundation for building a more just future.

We attended the **International Conference ‘Our Story, Our Promise’**, held in Potočari, where the Mothers of Srebrenica once again shared their stories, reminding us of the struggle for truth, the process of exhumations, and the establishment of the Potočari Memorial Centre. This conference further strengthened local and international efforts to preserve memory and to

educate new generations about the importance of truth and solidarity.

Traditionally, on **9th July**, we offered support to participants of the **Peace March**. Together with members of the Association of Returnee Women ‘JADAR’ and the organisation ‘IMECE’ from Türkiye, we distributed food and refreshments to participants at the Mravinjac site – in the spirit of solidarity and respect for survivors. Our joint act of support symbolises the ties that connect women and peace activists across the world in the struggle for truth and justice.

On **11th July**, during the commemoration at the **Srebrenica Memorial Centre**, we **paid tribute to all victims of the genocide** and honoured the strength of the surviving women who, through their testimonies and perseverance, safeguard memory from oblivion. Their voices remind us of the importance of solidarity and the ongoing fight against denial and hatred.

In the same spirit of solidarity, on 21st August, together with **Nihad Suljić** and the organisation **'Djeluj.ba'**, in Bratunac and Loznica, we paid tribute to twelve refugees from Egypt, Iraq, and Syria who lost their lives in 2024 while attempting to cross the Drina River. Marking this tragic anniversary served as a reminder of the **universal struggle for safety, dignity, and the right to life**, as well as an act of support for all those seeking a safe haven in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We marked this initiative together with remarkable activists from small local communities, as well as rescuers from fire brigades, the Red Cross, and medical institutions who carry out exceptionally courageous acts every day.

In solidarity – in remembrance, humanity, and shared responsibility.



Potočari, 11.7.2025.



Potočari, 11.7.2025.



Bratunac/Loznica, 21.8.2025.



Bratunac/Loznica, 21.8.2025.

Seminar 'Together for Peace': Women Building Sustainable Communities

From 22nd to 24th August, the **CURE Foundation** organised the seminar '**Together for Peace**', intended for activists from women's civil society organisations. The seminar brought together **25 women from different parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina**, with the aim of empowerment through a feminist approach to peace policies, knowledge and experience sharing, and joint reflection on sustainable local initiatives.

Special attention was dedicated to **topics of personal empowerment and self-care**. These activities enabled participants to connect with themselves and with other women, strengthen their capacities, and exchange tools, methods, and contacts for future actions in their local communities.

The seminar demonstrated that **solidarity and intergenerational transfer of knowledge** and experience play a crucial role in building sustainable peace – as women of different generations jointly explore ways to strengthen the resilience and sustainability of their communities.

The three-day programme concluded with collective discussions and mapping of needs within local contexts, through which participants identified key topics and spaces for future feminist actions that contribute to improving the quality of women's lives.

Priority areas highlighted were **women's health** and the **availability of psychological support within communities**.



Ilidža / Sarajevo 24.-26-09-2025.



Ilidža / Sarajevo 24.-26-09-2025.

Community Response to Gender-Based Violence

A three-day workshop titled '**Peace Begins Within Me: Burnout Prevention for Those Creating Change**' was held on Bjelašnica from 21st to 23rd July 2025, intended for participants of the Women's Peace Camp.

The workshop brought together 17 participants from different parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the programme focused on maintaining inner peace, emotional regeneration, and mutual exchange of experiences among young activists.

Exploring the Fragmentation of the Feminist Movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina

As part of the CURE Foundation's ongoing activities focused on strengthening women's organisations, supporting activism, and developing women's economic capacities, several important meetings, trainings, and workshops were held in July.

From 3rd to 5th July, a **meeting of the Coordination Board of the Women's Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina** was held in Zlaća, attended by representatives of the **Tuzla Open Centre** and the **4P Network**.

During the meeting, we discussed the working methodology of the Women's Network BiH, with a particular focus on supporting local communities and socially marginalised groups.

In the period from 21st to 23rd July, we took part in the programme **'Peace Begins Within Me: Burnout Prevention for Those Creating Change'**, dedicated to preserving the mental health and wellbeing of activists.

Step by Step to Your Economic Freedom – Women Across Bosnia and Herzegovina Strengthen Their Economic Independence

In cooperation with **Assoc. Prof. Dr Faruk Hadžić**, the CURE Foundation has recently implemented a series of workshops titled **'Step by Step to Your Economic Freedom'**, dedicated to the economic empowerment of women and the development of their potential.

The workshops were held in **Tuzla, Konjic, Velika Kladuša, Bosanska Krupa, Mostar, and Bugojno**, bringing together women who are ready to take their first step towards economic independence.

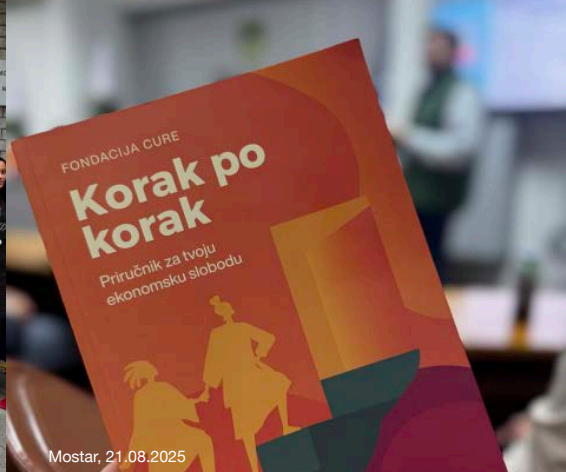
'The idea is to work on empowering women. Although the programme is structured for unemployed women, it is written, developed, and prepared not only for unemployed women but generally for women in every sector of work, society, or activity – how to empower themselves,

encourage themselves, overcome fears, escape the traps that we all face in one way or another, and take the first step towards their own freedom,' stated Assoc. Prof. Dr Faruk Hadžić after the workshop held in Mostar.

Through an interactive approach, participants learned about career planning, emotional preparation, motivation, labour rights, and digital opportunities. Based on these activities, the CURE Foundation strengthens a culture of solidarity, inclusiveness, and equality, creating spaces where women can freely learn, share experiences, and develop their potential.



Mostar, 21.08.2025



Mostar, 21.08.2025

PARTNERSHIPS

At the beginning of August, the CURE Foundation attended the Second Project Board Meeting of the 'Peace with a Woman's Face' Initiative, organised by the LARA Foundation Bijeljina.

A special moment was marked by the ceremonial unveiling of a mural dedicated to women at the city square in Bijeljina – a symbol of women's strength, visibility, and contribution to social change.



Bijeljina, 4.8.2025.



Bijeljina, 4.8.2025.

28 July

As part of the action week organised by **Humanity in Action Bosnia and Herzegovina**, five fellows from different parts of the world visited the CURE Foundation to discuss the connections, development, and transformation of political and social propaganda from the socialist period to the present day. The meeting also included discussions on

the historical and ideological development of the women's movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the participation and underrepresentation of women in electoral processes. Members of the CURE Foundation team presented some of their activities and fieldwork and provided recommendations for further historical research that the group plans to undertake.

31 August

Team KWAK sincerely delighted us with their solidarity and enthusiasm. The duo from team KWAK – Filip Schlosser, IT expert and pilot, and Adrien Vernimmen, Belgian diplomat – set out from Prague on a journey through the Balkans to explore the region and **contribute to gender**

equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They combined their trip with a humanitarian purpose and collected donations, which they presented to the CURE Foundation in support of our work and efforts toward a more equal society.

Lea Kerst - CURE Foundation Visit

During the summer months, the CURE Foundation hosted **Lea Kerst**, a postgraduate student of **International Relations in Historical Perspective at Utrecht University**. We were pleased to provide Lea with space and support for her research work, as well as the opportunity to attend various

seminars, conferences, and study visits. Through her engagement with the CURE Foundation, Lea connected with numerous representatives of the domestic and international civil society scene in BiH, further deepening her understanding of the country's socio-political context.



Sarajevo, 28.7.2025.



Sarajevo, 31.8.2025.

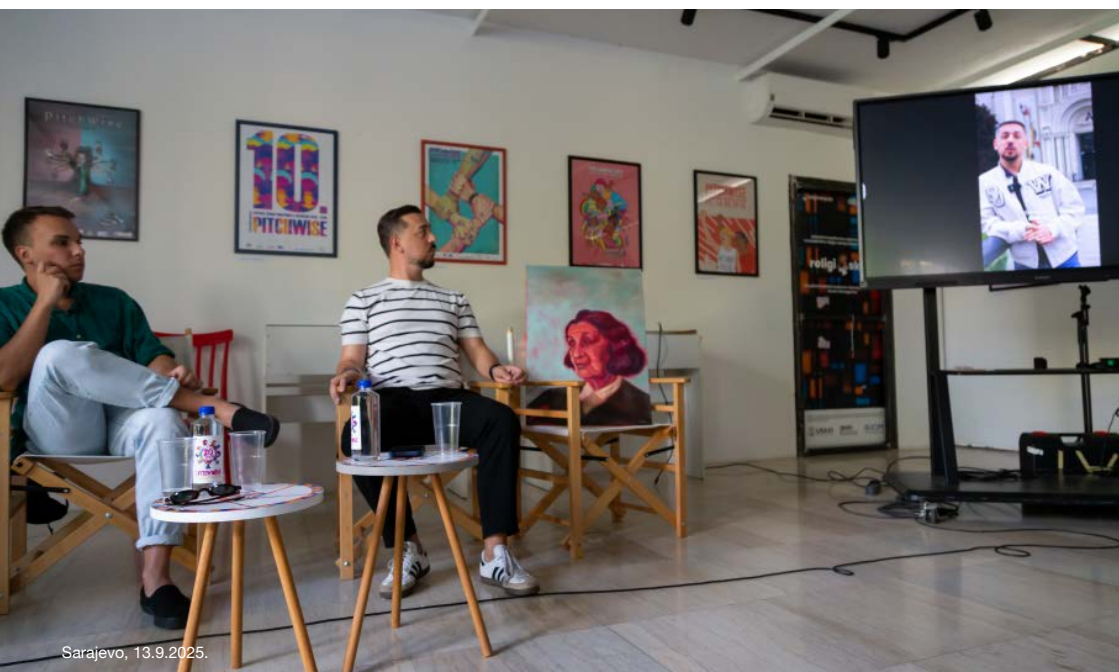
ONLINE CAMPAIGNS

In July, the campaign in which the CURE Foundation was a partner organisation to the Centre of Women's Rights from Zenica was completed. The campaign focused on the obstacles and challenges faced by women going through the mediation process during divorce proceedings in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Throughout the campaign, we promoted the signing of the **Petition for Free and Accessible Mediation in the Federation of BiH**.

We remind the public that violence is still not recognised as a valid reason to exclude mediation, which is why urgent amendments to the Family Law of the Federation of BiH are necessary, including the **abolition of mediation fees in all cantons** and ensuring that the service is

available in every municipality. The right to safety must be equally accessible to all.

In cooperation with the LARA Foundation, we implemented the campaign **'Her Name Deserves a Street'** – a series of six short videos in which well-known public figures presented women from Bosnia and Herzegovina whose work and legacy deserve public recognition. The videos feature women who already have a street or mural dedicated to them, those who once had such recognition, as well as women whom Sarajevo has yet to fully acknowledge. We invite you to watch these inspiring stories on our social media platforms and explore with us the rich women's history of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Sarajevo, 13.9.2025.

CURE FOUNDATION'S ENGAGEMENT THROUGH PUBLIC EVENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

International Conferences and Events

From July to September, the CURE Foundation actively participated in numerous international events, conferences, and forums, promoting messages of feminist solidarity, collective action, and community care.

In Mostar, in cooperation with the **United World College – Summer Youth Program**, we held an interactive workshop on gender-based violence. It was an inspiring opportunity to speak with young people about the causes of gender-based violence, express solidarity, and share essential information on referral mechanisms and protection services.

At the end of July, we took part in the **'Klara and Rosa'** retreat programme in Subotica, supporting an informal network of women from Romania, Greece, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, and Serbia. Throughout the three-day workshop, we worked on capacity-building, mutual connection, and strengthening solidarity, underscoring the importance of regional cooperation in the protection of women's rights. Together, we explored our **identities, shared and processed difficult experiences, and strengthened trust and collective resilience** – the foundation of women's rights advocacy across the Western Balkans.



In September, we attended the 27th **WAVE** Conference, '**Feminist Solidarity and Collective Action: Reclaiming our Power to End Violence Against Women**', held in Bucharest. Through themes of grassroots mobilisation, community building, feminist support, strategic alliances and adaptive organising in challenging times, the conference emphasised the importance of a united struggle for justice, safety and dignity for all women.

We are especially proud that **the CURE Foundation became a member of the WAVE Network**, the largest European network of organisations dedicated to strengthening feminist solidarity and collective action to end violence against women and girls.

In September, **Friedrich Ebert Stiftung** marked its 100th anniversary, and representatives of the CURE Foundation attended the official ceremony held at the European House of Culture and National Minorities in Sarajevo.

During the same month, we also participated in the **Civil Society Forum of the Berlin Process**, which brought together civil society leaders, grassroots actors and independent political voices from across the Western Balkans to jointly develop policy recommendations and shape the regional agenda ahead of the Berlin Process Summit. The Forum remains a key platform for inclusive dialogue on the region's most pressing priorities.



Sarajevo, septembar 2025.



Podgorica, 23.9.2025.



Podgorica, 23.9.2025.

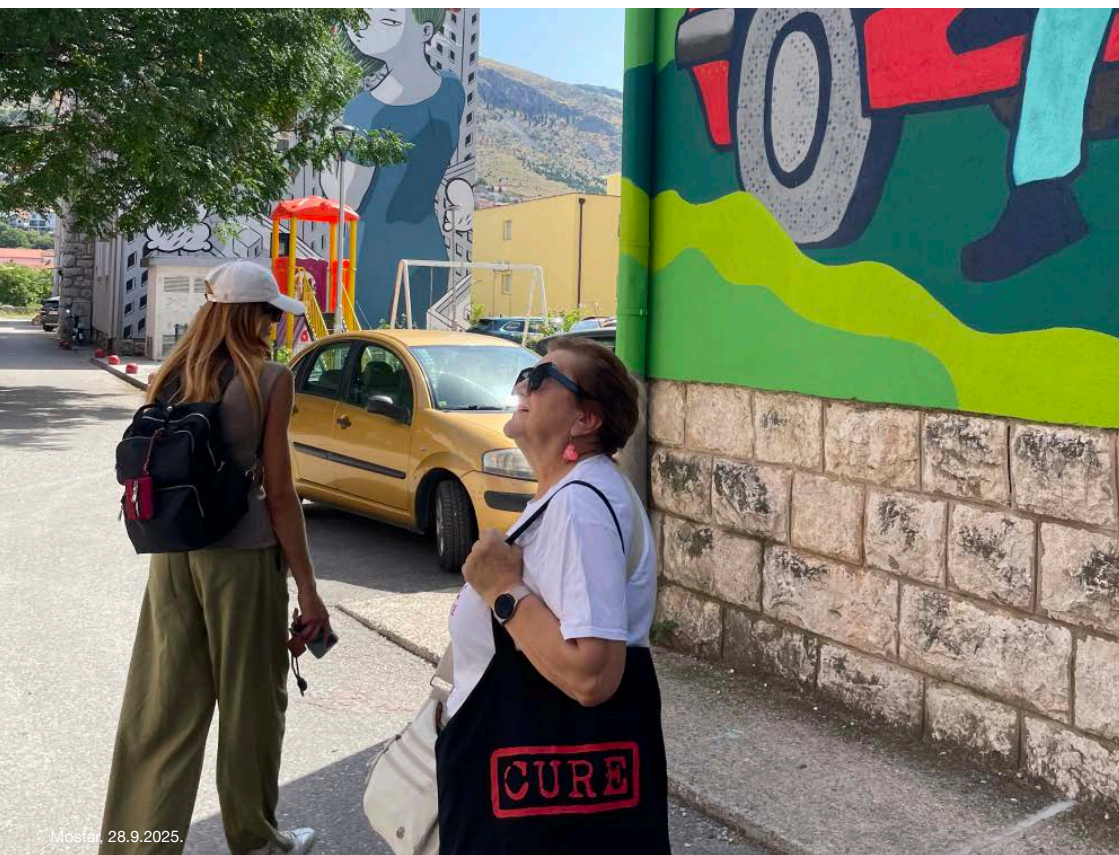
ACTIVISM, CULTURE AND ART

On 20th August, we attended the screening of the film **'Sanjam ih'** in Sarajevo, produced by the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN). The film about Ešef Dženanović, a former detainee from Prijedor who lost his entire family during the war, powerfully reflects **themes of personal loss, remembrance and the search for justice.**

From 27th to 29th August, we were in Mostar where, alongside **the networking meeting of Kvinna till Kvinna partner**

organisations in BiH, the city was alive with the spirit of the Street Art Festival. Over three days of dialogue, exchange and collaboration, we explored the intersection of art, memory culture and social movements.

The gathering served as an opportunity to strengthen networks and jointly reflect on different forms of **activist engagement** – with the aim of creating tools that can revitalise spaces of exchange and unlock the potential for future action.



PROMOTION OF KNOWLEDGE AND LITERATURE

On 9th July, a promotion of the book **‘Ja sam Alen’** was held in Goražde. The autobiographical work of Alen Muhić, a young man born as a result of wartime sexual violence, offers a deeply moving testimony of childhood, trauma and the extraordinary strength with which the author overcame pain, **becoming a symbol of love, courage and humanity.**

As highlighted during the event, this book is not a plea for sympathy but an act of resistance and bravery – a testament to the struggle **for the right to exist, to love and to belong.**



Goražde, 9.7.2025.



Goražde, 9.7.2025.

HIGHLIGHTS

We dedicated the summer months to intensive preparations for the **20th PitchWise festival of women's art and activism**, held from 11th to 14th September at the Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The summer was a busy one, as we aimed to fill the four festival days with a rich programme – workshops on art, dance, feminism and social change; conversations with researchers, theorists, activists and

cultural workers; an exhibition showcasing women's achievements and creativity across decades; as well as high-quality musical performances.

Our efforts paid off – **PitchWise once again highlighted the collective strength, friendship, creativity and courage of women.**



Under the slogan **‘20 Years Together – Visible – Strong – United* – Holding the Line for Women’s Rights – No Turning Back!’**, this year’s theme emphasised the importance of safeguarding and advancing the hard-fought rights of women and marginalised groups. Returning to the past would mean dismantling freedoms and reverting to a time when girls and women were deprived of even the most basic rights.

The festival reminded us that, for **two decades, the struggle for gender justice** and a dignified life has been

carried out – in the streets, through art, in education, research and other public spaces.

Over the course of four days, Sarajevo became a hub of feminist gathering and creation. The daytime programme brought together **around 400 participants**, **while the evening events attracted around 1,000 attendees**, confirming that PitchWise continues to gather a large and diverse audience from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the region and the world.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation (KTK), UK International Development, 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, EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community (EL*C).

The CURE Foundation extends its sincere gratitude to all friends and supporters from Bosnia and Herzegovina and around the world for the solidarity, trust and support you continue to share with us. This collective strength inspires and empowers us to persevere in the fight for equality, justice and freedom.

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

Thank you for standing with us for twenty years!

The CURE Foundation Team:


Jadranka, Stela, Denija, Selma, Enida, Lana, Sanda, Jasmina and Lejla



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

Your presence, your voice, your support — they matter.

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