

CURE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Fourth Edition

October – December 2025

Dear friends, allies and supporters,

As the year draws to a close, we reflect on a period marked by intensive work, shared efforts and important milestones. The past months have been shaped by numerous activities through which, together with you, we have continued to build space for feminist dialogue, solidarity and social responsibility.

In the final quarter of 2025, we would particularly like to highlight our participation in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, during which, through various initiatives and public messages, we once again emphasised the importance of sustained advocacy for women's rights and gender equality.

We are deeply grateful for your continued support this year; your trust and commitment give strength and purpose to everything we do.

CURE Foundation Team



Implemented Activities (October – December 2025)

A Feminist Perspective on Self-Care and Care for the Community Around You

This period was marked by activities focused on feminist self-care and care for the community, understood as a political act and a collective practice. Through educational programmes, meetings and workshops, we connected personal wellbeing with processes of empowering women and girls, as well as strengthening communities grounded in solidarity, mutual support and resilience.

In cooperation with the Women's Association Zumbul from Vogošća, on **13th October 2025** we organised a panel discussion entitled **'Step by Step Towards Your Economic Freedom'**. This highly inspiring conversation was intended for women and girls who wish to take their first – or next – step towards economic independence and empowerment, regardless of age, education or previous work experience. Through practical advice, exchange of experiences and support, participants gained knowledge and skills necessary for active participation in the labour market.

On **15th October 2025**, in cooperation with the UOMO Association of the City of Cazin, a promotion of the publication **'Fearless Heroines of Peace'** was held. Through the personal testimonies of the heroines, space was opened for women with diverse life experiences who have made significant contributions to their local communities. The publication was designed to motivate women to continue their activism and to pass their

knowledge and experience on to younger generations, emphasising the importance of solidarity among women.

On **16th October 2025**, a meeting was held with representatives of the Women's Association 'Vakat' from Bosanska Krupa, focused on the exchange of ideas and planning of the next steps in cooperation. On the same day, a meeting was also held with representatives of the **Association of Roma Women 'Romska djevojka'** from Prnjavor, with the aim of strengthening mutual cooperation and joint initiatives.

At the Youth Centre in Tinja Gornja, on **28th October 2025**, in cooperation with the Women's Group Tinja, a panel discussion was held on the topic **'How Can We Contribute to Our Local Community'**. The activity was intended for women who wish to participate actively in social change, starting from their own local communities. Through the exchange of experiences and dialogue, **participants were encouraged to initiate actions and strengthen their own capacities, as well as the capacities of their associations.**

On **29th October 2025**, within the framework of the **'Pink October'** campaign, support was provided to women in Srebrenik through the signing of a petition advocating for the appointment of an additional specialist gynaecologist, given that the City of Srebrenik currently has only one gynaecologist at its Health Centre. The activity also included **support for women patients in**

the process of registration and accessing their rights.

On **19th November 2025**, in cooperation with the Rural Development Women's Association 'ZVIJEZDA' from Vareš, a promotion of the publication '**A Feminist Journey Through Time in BiH**' was held. The publication was developed within the project 'A Feminist Journey Through Time – Opening Space for the Intergenerational Transfer of Experience – Transgenerational Feminist Values and the Need for Self-Care'. It presents life testimonies of women from different generations who have made significant contributions to their communities, with the aim of encouraging the continuation of feminist activism, the transfer of knowledge and the strengthening of self-care practices.

On **20th November 2025**, in cooperation with the Association for Support, Education

and Development TRANSFORMATOR from Stolac, another promotion of the publication 'A Feminist Journey Through Time in BiH' was held, accompanied by a discussion on the intergenerational transfer of experience, transgenerational feminist values and the need for self-care. This activity created space for the life testimonies of women who have made important contributions to their local communities and further **encouraged continued activism and mutual support among women.**

From **3rd to 4th December 2025**, a meeting of the Initiative '**Peace with a Woman's Face**' was held in Bijeljina, where future activities were discussed, including initiatives related to naming streets after women in cities across Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Bosanska Krupa, 16.10.2025.



Prnjavor, 16.10.2025.



Binja Gornja, 28.10.2025.



Srebrenik, 29.10.2025.



Vareš, 19.11.2025.



Stolac, 20.11.2025.

Building Up Resilience Against Anti-Gender Movements

As part of the CURE Foundation's ongoing activities aimed at **building up resilience against anti-gender movements in Bosnia and Herzegovina**, in November we organised a three-day workshop entitled **'Growing Together and Building More Resilient Communities'**, held from **20th to 23rd November 2025** in Sarajevo.

Through collective work, we discussed strategies of resistance and solidarity

within the feminist and women's movement, analysed the threats posed by the spread of anti-gender narratives, and, through practical exercises, explored the importance of integrated security and care as the foundation of strong individuals and sustainable movements. Particular focus was placed on the development of security plans, as well as on campaigns, risks and protection mechanisms in the online space.



Sarajevo, 23.10.2025-20.

Green and Gender-Responsive Priorities Ahead of the 2026 General Elections – No Turning Back!

CURE Foundation, on **21st October 2025** in Sarajevo, brought together 20 participants at a conference dedicated to linking gender-responsive and green policies ahead of the 2026 General Elections. The conference was held within the framework of the project **'20 Years Together – Visible – Strong – United* – Holding the Line for Women's Rights – No Turning Back!'**.

During the conference, space was opened for discussion on key issues shaping the contemporary political and social context. Focus was placed on the importance of the visibility of women politicians as a prerequisite for democratic processes, the need for equal access to funding, media and electoral lists, as well as the responsibility of the media for gender-sensitive reporting.



Sarajevo, 21.10.2025.

School of Digital and Creative Activism 'Link the Change'

In partnership with the Jelena Šantić Foundation from Belgrade, Foundation CURE organised the School of Digital and Creative Activism 'Link the Change' from 4 to 7 December 2025 in Zlatibor. The four-day programme brought together **young activists** from civil society organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, aiming to **connect creativity, digital activism and a responsible engagement** with the past and contemporary social challenges.

During the school, participants developed skills in digital advocacy, storytelling and visual communication, explored the legacy of the conflicts of the 1990s and collective memory, and examined the role of art, digital security and countering disinformation in building a culture of peace and solidarity.

Workshop on 8 December – Day of Remembrance for Women Killed in War

In cooperation with the Sahan Association from Vogošća, Selma Hadžihalilović, on behalf of the Foundation CURE team, facilitated an interactive workshop during the **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence**. Through a guided discussion, participants reflected on prejudices and stereotypes concerning the role of women in society, particularly in the context of violence against women. During the workshop, they created an informational display on the prevention of violence against women, writing direct messages of support to women currently experiencing violence. The display is now exhibited in the premises of the Municipality of Vogošća.

On the same day, 8 December 2025, participants were introduced to an **initiative to name streets in small local communities after distinguished women**. As Vogošća does not have a single street named after a woman from the local community, participants agreed that the initiative should be submitted to the Municipal Council as soon as possible. Given that the workshop was held on 8 December, they were also presented with an initiative to officially recognise **8 December as a Day of Remembrance for Women Killed in War**. During the meeting, participants received materials from a joint campaign of women's organisations from across Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Vogošća, 8.12.2025.



Vogošća, 8.12.2025.

FOUNDATION CURE'S ENGAGEMENT THROUGH PUBLIC EVENTS AND COLLABORATIONS

From **10 to 12 October 2025**, representatives of Foundation CURE actively participated in the meeting of the Women in Black Network in Radmilovci, Serbia, contributing to the sessions **'From the Dayton Peace Agreement: Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Grip of Serbia, Croatia and the International Community'** and **'Peace Agreement from Above – A Feminist Critique of the Dayton Agreement'**. These discussions clearly reaffirmed that without the strong and continuous contribution of women's organisations, there can be neither sustainable peace nor full justice for women.

Stop Femicide

Representatives of Foundation CURE participated on **3 and 4 November 2025** in a two-day specialised training in Sarajevo on the prevention of femicide and gender-based violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The training was intended for **police officers, representatives of Centres for Social Work, the Institution of the Ombudsman for Human**

Meeting of Journalists and Activists from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia

On **17 December 2025**, we participated in a meeting with the group **'Journalists Against Violence'** and an informal journalist-activist platform from Bosnia and Herzegovina to discuss reporting practices on violence against women, exchange experiences and provide mutual support. Through these meetings, we build shared understanding and improve the quality of media reporting,

We also actively participated in the round table entitled **'Older Persons as a Force for Inclusive Development'**, held on **20 October 2025** at Europe House in Sarajevo and organised by the Initiative Group of Senior Citizens. The aim of the round table was to bring together, through structured dialogue, older and younger activists, representatives of institutions and organisations working on issues concerning older persons, civil society organisations, decision-makers, media representatives and advocates of inclusive policies, in order to jointly assess the social context regarding the role, potential and challenges faced by older persons.

Rights of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ministries of Interior, city assemblies and non-governmental organisations. Through such a multisectoral approach and continuous dialogue, it is possible to improve responses to gender-based violence and develop more accountable practices for the protection of women.

recognising that professional and sensitive reporting has the power to contribute to the prevention and reduction of violence.

No turning back! We are proud to be members of this group and to have the opportunity for strong cooperation with journalist-activists.



Feminist Forum of Resistance and Solidarity

From **24 to 26 October 2025** in Tuzla, we participated in the Regional Forum of Women Peacebuilders, Feminists and Activists, **'Feminist Forum of Resistance and Solidarity'**, which brought together activists from across the region. We stood alongside our comrades in solidarity. By laying flowers at Kapija in Tuzla and paying tribute to the victims of the massacre, we symbolically opened the programme, emphasising the importance of a culture of remembrance and the struggle against forgetting. The

forum was organised for the first time by the association 'Ženska vizija' in Tuzla with the aim of building a space for regional cooperation and feminist action. **Bringing together women** from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region, we sought through dialogue, exchange of experiences and shared strategies to strengthen women's voices in the struggle for **justice, peace and gender equality**.



E*LC Lesbian Week

From **4 to 7 December 2025**, Lesbian Week was marked in Belgrade. Through a four-day programme of panels, discussions, film screenings, walks, music, parties and shared moments, Selma Hadžihalilović, a member of the Foundation CURE team, attended the celebration marking 30 years of the work of the organisation Labris.

As part of the E*LC programme, Selma spoke on the panel '**A Conversation on Invisible Violence Among Women in Same-Sex Relationships**', sharing her knowledge and experience with a large number of participants.



Beograd, 7.12.2025-4.

Festival of Queer and Feminist Culture Smoqua

Representatives of Foundation CURE, Stela Vuković and Denija Hidić, stayed in Rijeka from **9 to 11 October 2025**, where they participated in the inspiring **Festival of Queer and Feminist Culture Smoqua**, which for nine years has demonstrated how **culture and activism** can intertwine with sustainability, community care and celebration.

Through a rich festival programme filled with workshops, discussions and artistic content, together with our sisters we celebrated 25 years of the Lesbian Organisation LORI in Rijeka.

Foundation CURE at the Congress of Young Europeans in Tirana

The 'Congress of Young Europeans', held from **9 to 12 October** in Tirana, brought together more than **one hundred young people from different parts of the world**, opening the theme of the 'edges of Europe' through reflections on political, cultural and transformative factors shaping contemporary Europe. Foundation CURE volunteer Ajša Kočan

represented our organisation at this important youth event.

The Congress provided a unique opportunity for the exchange of experiences, networking and reflection on the future of Europe from a youth perspective, as well as insight into the history of Albania and the city of Tirana.



MEGAPHONE SARAJEVO 2025

At the international event MEGAPHONE 2025, held in Sarajevo on **19 and 20 November**, Foundation CURE team member Lejla Pleh participated in discussions on how to make activism more relevant through careful listening to communities, the use of technology and aligning work with the **needs of citizens**.

The event gathers around one hundred activists from Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus, providing a space for exchange, networking and strengthening mutual support.

ERA at 10: Building What's Next — Brave, United, Unstoppable!

As a full member of ERA – LGBTI Equal Rights Association for the Western Balkans and Türkiye, the CURE Foundation was represented by Selma Hadžihalilović at the regional conference *ERA at 10: Building What's Next — Brave, United, Unstoppable!*, which took place from 24 to 27 November in Pristina, Kosovo. Selma participated in the panel discussion entitled **Leveraging Power – The LGBTIQ+ Movement in EU Accession and International Arenas**.

She shared her experience and lessons learned from the 69th session of the **Commission on the Status of Women** (New York, March 2026), as well as from various international advocacy initiatives. The event provided an excellent opportunity to network with key actors at the regional level and to gain deeper insight into the challenges faced by equal rights activists.



Sarajevo, 20.11.2025.



Priština, 24-27.12.2025.

Women, Peace and Security

A member of the CURE Foundation team, Selma Hadžihalilović, received a direct invitation from the **Directorate for Gender Equality and Intersectional Analysis (DGEIA)** of the Canadian Ministry of National Defence to participate as a **keynote speaker** at the Women, Peace and Security Conference 2025 (#WPS25), which took place from 27 to 29 October 2025 in **Ottawa, Ontario, Canada**. The conference marked the 25th anniversary of the landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and provided

an opportunity to reflect on 25 years of implementation and operationalisation of the WPS agenda.

As the final speaker at the conference, Selma delivered a presentation entitled ***What Comes Next: Recovery and Resilience***, emphasising the importance of women's participation at all levels and in all stages of peace negotiations, and sharing lessons from feminist and peace activism in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Western Balkans.



Ottawa, 27-29.10.2025.

Women & Peace: In the Footsteps of Bertha von Suttner – What Legacy, What Perspectives?

On International Human Rights Day, 10 December 2025, Denija Hidić, on behalf of Foundation CURE, spent the day at the **Peace Palace in The Hague**, participating in the conference entitled 'Women & Peace: In the Footsteps of Bertha von Suttner – What Legacy, What Perspectives?'. This two-day international event, held on **9 and 10 December 2025**, symbolically highlighted the important role of women in peacebuilding, the advancement of justice and the transformation of global peace processes. The focus of the conference was on promoting women's leadership in conflict resolution, strengthening women's participation in peace negotiations and

advancing gender equality in matters of security and peace. The conference was inspired by the legacy of Bertha von Suttner, **the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize (1905)**, whose ideas and call for disarmament significantly influenced the global peace movement. **The Women & Peace conference** in The Hague also served as a platform for developing concrete peace strategies, international partnerships and global commitments to sustainable and inclusive peace. Peacebuilding must include the voices and experiences of women from all regions and communities in order to effectively respond to the complex challenges of the contemporary world.

Health Caravan 'Your Check-Up, Your Strength'

We are proud that on **30 and 31 October 2025**, in Hastahana Park in Sarajevo, women under the age of 45 had the opportunity to undergo **free breast ultrasound examinations** without prior appointment and without the need for a health insurance booklet. The examinations were organised by the association **'Heroina' from Belgrade, with the support of local partner organisations, Foundation CURE and the Renesansa Association.**

The aim of the caravan is to raise awareness about the importance of

prevention, as breast cancer is curable if detected early. Such initiatives provide women with simple access to early screening examinations and encourage proactive care for their health. In addition, Foundation CURE, in cooperation with the Breast Centre Dr Una Delić, **facilitated 50 free breast examinations** for women in Sarajevo. The examinations were carried out within the framework of the Wings of Hope initiative, with the aim of strengthening access to preventive healthcare services and promoting the early detection of breast cancer.



Haag, 9-10.12.2025.



Sarajevo 30.10.2025

ACTIVISM, CULTURE AND ART

From **17 to 19 October 2025**, we participated in the **Festival of Women's Activism, Creativity and Entrepreneurship FemFest Lukavac 2025**, organised by the Association of Women 'Srce i duša' Prokosovići-Lukavac. On this occasion, we also organised the promotion of the publication 'Feminist Journey Through Time – Opening Space for

Intergenerational Knowledge Transfer – Transgenerational Feminist Values and the Need for Self-Care'. It is important for us to be part of such a festival, as it celebrates women's creativity, encourages innovation and brings together a community that shapes a supportive cultural scene through inclusive activism.



Lukavac, 17-19.10.2025.



Lukavac, 17-19.10.2025.

On **27 October 2025**, Foundation CURE had the opportunity to host participants of the **MENA Fellowship programme**, implemented by the organisation 'Zašto ne'. The programme brings together activists and representatives of civil society organisations from the **Middle East and North Africa**, aiming to **strengthen their capacities and promote the use of technology in monitoring political processes**, combating disinformation, enhancing

media accountability and building democratic values in the region. During the meeting, we discussed the state of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the position of women, discrimination, as well as the challenges and progress of the LGBTI+ community. We presented the work of our Foundation, our projects and partnerships, and exchanged experiences and ideas with guests from the MENA region.



Sarajevo, 27.10.2025.



Sarajevo, 18.12.2025

On **7 November 2025**, we attended the second edition of **SKRIPTA Clothes Swap** – a gathering focused on clothing exchange. In this way, we sought to contribute to sustainability by exchanging our old garments while fostering community connection. The event also had a humanitarian dimension, as part of the donated clothing was distributed to

Safe Houses in Sarajevo and Zenica. In Sarajevo, on **18 December 2025**, we attended the promotion of an artistic performance launching the campaign **'Till Death Do Us Part'**, aimed at **preventing femicide** as one of the most urgent social issues, not only in Bosnia and Herzegovina but across the region. The campaign was initiated by the United Women Foundation Banja Luka.



We marked the **Statehood Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina**, 25 November 2025, in Ilijaš, where we attended the opening of the exhibition **'From Fighter to Creator'**, dedicated to women members of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The inspiring exhibition was organised by the **Association of Women Members of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina**, Municipality of Ilijaš.

twentieth centuries. Through dossiers, photographs, official documents, correspondence, school records and personal notes, the exhibition revealed a lesser known yet highly significant women's history.

We also attended the opening of the exhibition **'Women's Imprints: Archival Records as Witnesses of Time'** at the Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, marking 78 years since the institution's establishment. Officially opened on 12 December, this significant exhibition is the result of several months of research into archival materials documenting the role and **contribution of women in the political, cultural, educational and social life of Bosnia and Herzegovina** during the nineteenth and

The final month of the year concluded with a visit from our friends from the **Association of Women Peščanik** and other organisations gathered within the Women's Network of the Rašina District, who visited our premises in Sarajevo on **22 December 2025**. The Peščanik Association works on women's empowerment and advocacy for gender equality. Through an interactive meeting, we discussed shared values, became better acquainted, exchanged experiences about the work of our organisations and reflected on our long-standing engagement in activism and the challenges we face.

PROMOTION OF KNOWLEDGE AND LITERATURE

On **26 November 2025**, we attended the graduation ceremony of students of the **College for Management and Tourism Konjic**, organised with the support of Foundation CURE under the title 'Education of Disadvantaged Girls and Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina'. This project enabled free education for women from marginalised groups and resulted in their successful graduation.

Throughout the entire educational process, CURE supported the students from their first steps through to the defence of their final theses. Today, we are especially happy and proud that

they have graduated and become competitive in the labour market, empowered with knowledge, confidence and new opportunities.

We are particularly pleased to be partners of the College for Management and Tourism Konjic, which, together with its Dean, Prof. Dr Marijana Semić Šećibović, continuously achieves significant results and contributes to improving educational opportunities for women.



Konjic, 26.11.2025.

16 Days of Activism

One of the most important activities this year was the 16 Days of Activism campaign entitled **'Enforce the Law. Protect Every Woman and Girl.'**, carried out both online and in public spaces. Billboards in Mostar, Tuzla, Sarajevo, Višegrad, Banja Luka, Zenica, Travnik, Kiseljak and East Sarajevo drew attention to violence against girls and cases of femicide in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In this way, we called on institutions at all levels of government to protect all women citizens of our country, especially those most vulnerable among us – children and

young people. United by solidarity and resistance, we emphasise that violence against women is a priority political issue affecting society as a whole and requiring the strictest penalties permitted under the law in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The 16 Days of Activism campaign is our **cry against all structures that relativise violence and our call on institutions** to ensure that every girl and every woman feels safe and free within her community.

**PRIMIJENI ZAKON.
ZAŠTITI SVAKU
DJEVOJČICU,
DJEVOJKU, ŽENU!**



Projekat finansirani pod izjavu: Fondacija Kvinna ili Kvinna | UK International Development



Street Action on 25 November

On 25 November, **the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**, we took to the streets to raise our voices together against all forms of violence against women and girls. During the action, we distributed scarves bearing the message **'Not One More'**, a symbolic reminder of the urgent need to stop the cycle of violence affecting our communities.

Citizens shared their experiences, views and support with us, and the conversations we held once again confirmed how essential it is to continuously invest in awareness-raising, education and solidarity. Our message is clear: violence concerns us all, and real change begins with responsible, collective and determined action.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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

Twenty years of our existence confirm that no progress would have been possible without your support, trust and solidarity. This year, like all those before it, once again demonstrates how essential unity and mutual care are to the feminist struggle.

Thank you for standing with us, for sharing our values and for jointly building a space in which equality, justice and freedom are more than ideals. Thank you for walking this path with us and for continuing forward together.

Foundation CURE Team: Jadranka, Stela, Denija, Selma, Enida, Lana, Sanda, Jasmina and Leja.



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

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